

Career and Technical Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education

Minutes of the April 30, 2026, Meeting 10:04 AM – 11:08 AM

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2026 virtually via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair Edmond Morin, Committee Member Wendy Ault, Committee Member Paulette Bonneau, along with Craig Flowers, Office Specialist II.

Guests: Dwight Littlefield, State Director for CTE, MDOE; Shawn Lagasse, Data Program Approval Manager, CTE, MDOE; Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access and Secondary Partnerships, Maine Community College System (MCCS); Jeanne MacDonald-Johnson, Academic Program Coordinator, MCCS; Bill Tracy, MACTE President and Director of Hancock County Technical Center; Bobby Deetjen, Director of Mid-Coast School of Technology; Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technologies Center; Kevin Lavoie, Director of St. John Valley Technical Center

I. Call to Order: (*Chair Ed Morin*) Ed called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM under the State Board's remote meeting policy (all votes by roll call).

II. Committee Chair Overview (*Edmond Morin*) Ed welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. Adjustments to the Agenda: (*Edmond Morin*) Ed noted that several attendees had to leave early and announced a minor adjustment to the agenda: the two Perkins documents – The Third Quarterly Perkins Grant Report and the FY Perkins State Budget-would be taken up immediately after the approval of minutes, followed by the Perkins indicators workshop and then standing reports.

Before proceeding, Paulette shared that she was leaving early to attend an award presentation for one of her CTE's CNA students who had been awarded a full \$250,000 scholarship to St. Joseph's College to pursue a nursing degree. The ceremony was being held at Thornton Academy, where the student also studies. The committee acknowledged the accomplishment.

IV. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion made by Paulette Bonneau and seconded by [Edmond Morin](#) and unanimously voted by those present to accept the minutes of March 26, 2026.

V. Public Comment: No Public Comment

VI. New Business: The CTE Committee considered the Third Quarterly Perkins Grant Report and the FY27 Perkins annual state budget. CTE Director Dwight Littlefield noted that the state has received the same amount of Perkins funding this year as last. Dwight indicated that doesn't mean each CTE will receive the same amount of money as last year because of changes in census data. He also noted that the table included with the FY27 exhibit shows estimates because the state and federal fiscal years are different. He says the state gets a portion of its funding in June and the rest in October. The CTE Committee approved both Exhibits and sent them to the full State Board of Education. Dwight also reported that there was \$267,716 in the Briggs Trust with one invoice that came through for last summer's MACTE training.

VI. Workshop – Secondary Perkins Indicators: (*Shawn Lagasse*) Shawn says the indicators include Four-Year Graduation Rate, Academic Proficiency in Reading/Language Arts, Academic Proficiency in Mathematics, Academic Proficiency in Science, Post-Program Placement, Non-Traditional Program Concentration and Program Quality-Attained Post Secondary Credit. Shawn explained that in an earlier iterations of Perkins, Maine DOE controlled Performance Indicators and that there were six for all 27 CTE's which put smaller CTE's at a disadvantage in that they had be judged against the state performance even though they might lack resources. In addition, schools that exceeded state targets were still required to increase their targets year over year due to a mandatory growth factor applied by the federal government.

With Perkins V DOE started from scratch and now CTE's control their targets with the CTE's being measured against themselves. Each school now sets and negotiates its own targets based on its own historical performance, rather than competing against a single statewide number.

In addition, the growth factor rule was also revised: if a school is already at or above the statewide performance level, it is no longer asked to increase further. It simply maintains. There has also been a shift on how many courses a student takes to be considered a CTE student.

The shift has had direct effect on improvement plans. Previously, some directors were working on four or five improvement plans simultaneously, making it impossible to focus on any one of them. Under Perkins V, that same school might have one or two, allowing for more targeted and effective action.

Bill Tracy raised a concern about the academic proficiency indicators noting that the underlying test data comes from sending schools and reflects conditions over which CTE programs have no control. Shawn acknowledged the concern and noted that the federal government required these indicators as a condition of Perkins V funding and that state feedback during the federal working groups process did not result in a change. Shawn suggested the directors work with sending school department chairs to identify specific skill gaps in the academic areas where their students struggle and request that those areas receive more attention before students take part in CTE programs.

B. Updates

1) State Director's Update (*Dwight Littlefield*): Dwight noted the Advanced CTE conference and their shared vision of opportunity and empowerment, called The Connected Path. He stated that there would be 6 aligned principles within the Connected Path framework. Dwight then spoke of the following week's school review for Region 10, which is the final review of the year. He also spoke about the FFA state convention expected for May 14th and May 15th in Presque Isle. And, Dwight said they are also finishing up establishing Regional Advisory Groups across the state with the support of Educate Maine and the MELMAC Foundations.

2) MACTE President's Update: (*Bill Tracy*): Bill Tracy mentioned the Student of the Year Banquet that was coming at EMCC. Twenty-seven students would be recognized and receiving \$1,500 scholarships after their first semester of post-secondary training. Bill thanked Amanda Peterson for coordinating the event and sponsors for their support. Bill spoke of the endowment campaign and that it would lead to an even bigger organization that can better support the directors, assistant directors, counselors, and instructors across the state. Bill also reported on efforts regarding Chapter 115, specifically about portfolio-based certification pathways for career-changers considering teaching in CTE's. The discussion centers on how to make certification more accessible without compromising standards.

3) Community College Update (*Mercedes Pour and Jeanne MacDonald-Johnson*): Mercedes noted that Maine Free College passed which she says was the result of a grassroots effort. She also shared that, while MCCS did not receive a grant

from the national organization Education Design Lab, they were runner-up which comes with access to the Lab's support from developing career pathway frameworks.

Jeanne, who works with Perkins, noted that they were in grant-writing season and that the colleges were working on their narratives. She says MCCS has its allocations and is ready to send those out. She says it's been kind of need to see what the colleges have been doing over the last year and all the plans they have for the upcoming year.

4). Reports from the Field:

Bobby Deetjen, MCST: Bobby noted that end-of year events are underway. Among these are the Student of the Year banquet coming up on Saturday, and the NTHS induction on the 14th of May followed with the student recognition ceremony on 28 May. Books close on June 1st. Students are actively earning certifications and making final decisions as to where they are headed the following year.

Amanda Peterson, UTC: UTC would be finalizing enrollment Friday. The school would be sending out 842 acceptance letters and 131 waitlist letters. They are managing budget season and superintendent transitions. The school sees demand exceeding seats in plumbing, electrical, and automotive. The school is also dealing with significant space issues. She also noted developments in their plumbing program collaboration with Eastern Maine Community College. will find other ways to honor the students.

Kevin Lavoie, SJVTC: Kevin says there are student ceremonies on the 29th of May, and preparations for Skills USA Nationals, where they have seven students competing. Enrollments are being finalized. The school has educators arriving and onboarding. Summer construction projects are being planned.

Bill Tracy, HCTC: Bill says they have an accepted student night coming up in two weeks. They have a program celebration day on the 21st and awards night on the 26th. Eighth grade visits upcoming as well. Staff and students are traveling to the Skills USA nationals. There's a CNA pinning on June 8th. Certification testing is ongoing. In addition, they are adding firefighting this year at the Ellsworth fire department.

5. Educate Maine Update (*Katie Howell*) Kate confirmed that the final regional advisory committee meetings, in southern and western Maine, were coming up the following week and that the Southern Maine externship is on track. Katie also announced that the announcement for the next Maine Spark ten-year goal would be made the following Tuesday. She also shared that she recently joined the Bridge Academy Board of Directors.

VII. Other Business and Announcements: (*Ed Morin*) Ed announced that the next CTE Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday May 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM