

**Minutes for State Board for Career and Technical Education
April 27, 2026 Meeting**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the State Board for Career and Technical Education was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, in the Hughes Educational Center Board Rooms and via Microsoft Teams. It was called to order by Chair Sonia Meehl at 10:09 am CT. Voting members present include:

Superintendent Levi Bachmeier
Board Member Patrick Bertagnolli
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom
Board Member Morgan Forness
Vice-Chair Mike McHugh
Chair Sonia Meehl
Board Member Eric Nelson
Board Member Jason Rohr
Deputy Commissioner Lisa Johnson proxy for Commissioner Brent Sanford

Also present: Wayde Sick, Mark Openshaw, Daniel Driessen, Kenzie Brown, Lyle Krueger, Laurie Elliott, Marcia McMahon, Mike Hanson, Pat Phillips, Randal Brockman, Wayne Heckamen, Kelly Pierce, Dawn Ulmer and Lorie Ruff.

Meeting chat information for this meeting does not exist.

Be Legendary Governance – Input from Local CTE Director

Mike Hanson, CTE Director at the North Valley Career and Technology Center in Grafton, was invited by Director Sick to provide a brief overview of North Valley CTE, followed by remarks from students regarding their programs and how travel distance influences their participation and overall educational experience.

Mr. Hanson shared a video highlighting the Center and its programs. They currently have over 600 students attending the Center from 12 school districts, which is doubling their enrollment over the last 10 years.

Kristen Huhta and Matthew Hamilton, seniors at Valley-Edinburg High School who have the longest commute to the Center, described their daily experience at the Center and emphasized the importance of the summer internship program and job-shadow opportunities.

Director's Action Plan

Director Sick referenced the Action Plan included in the material packet and informed members that this plan was developed in collaboration with E&M and aligns with the board's three student outcome goals. Many initiatives carried over from the previous strategic plan remain relevant and are embedded within the new action plan.

Upon acceptance of the plan, the Director anticipates several next steps, including developing procedures and guidance for each action item, providing training for NDCTE staff, publishing plan with CTE Field and monitoring the action items.

It was agreed that this plan will become an annual review agenda item during the fall retreat.

Morgan Forness moved to receive the Director's Action Plan as presented and it was seconded by Jason Rohr.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Superintendent Levi Bachmeier – Yes
Board Member Pat Bertagnolli – Yes
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom - Yes
Board Member Morgan Forness - Yes
Vice-Chair Mike McHugh – Yes
Board Member Eric Nelson – Yes
Board Member Jason Rohr - Yes
Deputy Commissioner Lisa Johnson - Yes
Chair Sonia Meehl - Yes
9-0-0 Absent

Board Self Evaluation

Chair Meehl and Board Members completed their Quarterly Board Progress Tracker together. Their current evaluation rating is 70 with a goal of 98 for next evaluation. Mike McHugh moved to approve the Board's Self Evaluation Tracker and it was seconded by Jason Rohr. The motion passed unanimously.

The completed form will be signed and placed on the teams channel.

Ad hoc Committee Updates – Community Engagement

Chair Meehl decided to table the Community Engagement Presentation until later in the meeting due to time restraint.

Board Guardrail 2 Review

Chair Meehl referenced Guardrail 2, which states that the Board shall not operate without outcome goals that challenge the organization. In reviewing Workforce Ready Student Outcome Goal 2, the target is set at 93% Workforce Readiness by the 2027–2028 school year. Current data already reflects a 95% rate, exceeding the long-term target. This prompted the question of whether the current goal still challenges the organization. It was noted that upcoming data, expected by October, will help determine whether the trend continues upward or fluctuates. If the rate increases significantly the goal may no longer be appropriately challenging. However, if the rate declines, the existing goal will still represent a meaningful challenge. The group agreed that it is not reasonable to assume continuous annual increases and further evaluation will occur when the next report is available.

Consent Agenda:

Mike McHugh moved to approve and accept the items listed on the consent agenda and it was seconded by Morgan Forness. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion and Possible Action:

Funding Policy Progress

Chair Meehl asked Director Sick to highlight and update members on the portion of his Director's Report referencing the Secondary Funding Policy. Director Sick reported the first action item involves launching a supplemental funding opportunity in January for high-cost programs. This represents the initial implementation step of the new funding policy.

To determine what qualifies as a high-cost program, we are focusing on identifying high-cost courses rather than entire programs. Some programs include only foundational, lower-cost courses, while advanced courses typically carry significantly higher costs. The next step is to share this analysis with staff and directors to gather feedback.

Another important item to consider is the needs of individual students particularly regarding rural versus urban classifications. The existing 20-mile radius used in Progress Measures for Goal 3 may provide a more practical framework. Director Sick suggested exploring whether the multiplier could be used to offset costs or incentive enrollment for students traveling longer distances.

The Director also noted that the Progress Measures for Goal 3 were adopted with the understanding that the targets may need refinement once stronger enrollment data becomes available. Accurate information on center enrollments and program ownership will be necessary before determining whether adjustments to the measures or targets are warranted.

Information Only:

Chair Meehl reported that the March 2026 Board Time Tracker was included in the material packet and is also on the teams channel.

Board Comments:

Chair Meehl informed members that they will be receiving a survey regarding Director Sick's Job Performance and to complete and return by Tuesday, May 5.

Ad hoc Committee Updates – Community Engagement

Mike McHugh and Jason Rohr presented the Community Engagement Presentation that was developed by the Subcommittee. Any changes or suggestions that members have regarding PowerPoint should be sent to Director Sick.

-There being no other business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.