

**Minutes for State Board for Career and Technical Education
June 22, 2026 Meeting**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the State Board for Career and Technical Education was held on Monday, June 22, 2026, in the Hughes Educational Center Board Rooms and via Microsoft Teams. It was called to order by Chair Sonia Meehl at 10:01 am CT. Voting members present include:

Board Member Phillip Davis
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom
Board Member Morgan Forness
Deputy Commissioner Lisa Johnson
Vice-Chair Mike McHugh
Chair Sonia Meehl
Board Member Eric Nelson
Board Member Jason Rohr

Also present: Wayde Sick, Gwen Ferderer, John Gruenberg, Mark Openshaw, Nicole Kessler, Daniel Driessen, Lyle Krueger, Becky Ulberg, Pam Stroklund, Dan Spellerberg, Benjamin Schafer, Nikki Fideldy-Doll, Wayne Heckaman and Lorie Ruff. Meeting chat information for this meeting does not exist.

Chair Meehl welcomed member Phillip Davis to the Board. Mr. Davis gave a short biographical summary and then each Board member proceeded to introduce themselves.

Consent Agenda:

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

Chair Meehl acknowledged Gwen Ferderer as this will be her last meeting. She thanked Gwen for her dedication and wished her well in her retirement. Director Sick then introduced Nicole Kessler, who will be serving as Gwen's replacement.

Items for Discussion and Possible Action:

Review and Approve State Director's Evaluation: Director Sick reviewed the Director Data Outcomes Evaluation that was included in the material packet. This evaluation is comprised of the Board's and Director's Outcome Goals and Guardrails. Director Sick observed that the target numbers included were inaccurate and will send out a revised evaluation to members.

Superintendent Levi Bachmeier arrived at 10:16.

Chair Meehl then reviewed the Director Summative Evaluation Data and referenced the comments submitted by Members that were included in the material packet. If any Member has ideas to improve this process, contact Chair Meehl. Mike McHugh moved to approve the State Director's Evaluation as presented and it was seconded by Levi Bachmeier. Members commended Director Sick for being an excellent advocate for CTE. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Superintendent Levi Bachmeier – Yes
Board Member Phillip Davis – Yes
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom - Yes
Board Member Morgan Forness – Yes
Deputy Commissioner Lisa Johnson – Yes
Vice-Chair Mike McHugh – Yes
Board Member Eric Nelson – Yes
Board Member Jason Rohr – Absent for Vote
Chair Sonia Meehl - Yes
8-0-1 Absent

Approve State Director Salary Increase: Chair Meehl referenced the recommendation memo and endorsed for Director Sick to receive a 3% salary increase as this will be consistent with the increase for other employees with an Achieves rating. Levi Bachmeier moved to approve the 3% salary increase as recommended and it was seconded by Phillip Davis. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

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

Discuss Department Budget Request: Director Sick presented the Department's 2027-29 Budget Request. Discussion was held on the six ideas that are currently being considered. No action is needed on this agenda item.

Information Only – May 2026 Board Time Tracker: Chair Meehl referenced the tracker in the material packet and reported that upon review, it was discovered that the non-calculated time had not been properly accounted for in the totals. Chair Meehl and Vice-Chair McHugh will review previous Board Self-Evaluations and correct any percentages.

Board Comments:

Chair Meehl reminded Members that there will not be a meeting in July and that the Planning Retreat in August will be held in Bismarck at the Hughes Educational Center.

Morgan Forness shared that a student from the Fargo Career Innovation Center, who completed the emergency medicine/EMT coursework, successfully saved a life during a medical emergency at a public event. The committee noted this as a strong example of the value of youth training programs in CTE.

There being no other business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.