

## CTE CORONAVIRUS CAPITAL PROJECT GRANT REVIEW TEAM

Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2022

Members of the CTE Capital Project Grant Review Team met at 1:00 pm CT in the CTE CTSO Conference Room, State Capitol, Bismarck and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wayde Sick, CTE State Director. Roll call was conducted and the following members were present:

- Ms. Alexis Baxley, ND Schools Boards Association
- Senator Brad Bekkedahl, North Dakota State Senate
- Dr. Aimee Copas, ND Council of Educational Leaders
- Mr. Phillip Davis, ND Job Service
- Mr. David Farnsworth, Workforce Development Council
- Ms. Alison Orgaard, ND Association of Career & Technology Educators
- Ms. Katie Ralston, ND Department of Commerce
- Mr. Adam Tescher, ND Department of Public Instruction
- Mr. Wayde Sick, Department of Career & Technical Education State Director

Allyson Hicks, Mark Wagner, Gwen Ferderer, Dawn Ulmer, Denise Jonas, Jane Vangsness Frisch, Tony Grindberg and Lorie Ruff were also present.

**Status Update on Federal Grant Plan and Funds** – Mr. Sick reminded members that at their January meeting they allocated \$20 million of ARPA funds out to three projects. These projects were Bakken Area Skills Center in Watford City, Minot Public Schools in Minot, and Southwest Area CTE Academy in Dickinson and each received \$6,666,666.00. Grant Agreements have been signed between the recipients and CTE.

The Federal Grant Plan was submitted by the Office of Management and Budget to the US Department of Treasury on February 1, 2022, and to date they have not heard anything back. We were informed that grants will be reviewed upon receipt. Mr. Sick will continue to monitor the status of the plan with OMB.

Mr. Sick reported that the State Board for Career & Technical Education would like the Review Team to review all the applications and determine the remaining \$68.3 million so they can approve grant applications at their next meeting on February 28, 2022. The goal is to have applications approved at the state level with the caveat that funds are not available until we hear from the federal government. At that time changes may be needed to applications if our grant plan does not meet the federal guidelines.

**Continue Review of Capital Projects Applications** – Mr. Sick proved slides from a presentation he will be doing this week with the Interim Higher Education Committee to help the Review Team with guidance to move

forward. These slides summarized the OMB Appropriation Bill and Federal Guidance giving bullet points the Team should consider when reviewing the applications. The first order of business was for the Review Team to make the decision to fully fund some applications or partially fund all applications. Mr. Sick conveyed that the legislative intent is to fully fund projects versus partially funding all. It was stated that we need to not smear the funding across all the projects to give everyone a little but not enough to make it a good program. Other discussion revealed that it was felt if we partially fund a project that it could transform what that project ended up being and what they build might not be the exact proposal that we are basing funding on. We need to fund projects that serve the greatest number of students for the long term. We abide by the point system that has been created in the ranking sheet as well as adhering to the federal and legislative intent.

Discussion was held on if projects are partially funded, does the Committee cut out the portions of the projects they feel are not meeting guidelines. It was also felt if projects do not have matching dollars secured or the source of those matching dollars will be reflected in their rankings.

It was then decided to review the scoring of all applications to determine funding requests versus available funds. Mr. Sick presented his rankings of the projects, which is the spreadsheet entitled Ranking Spreadsheet 1. The application ranking was as follows:

1. Southwest Area CTE Academy – 90
2. Bakken Area Skills Center – 89
3. Career Impact Academy – Grand Forks - 89
4. North Valley Career and Technology Center - 88
5. Minot Public Schools - 86
6. Cass County Career and Technical Education Center – 85
7. Heart River Career and Technical Education Center – 85
8. Southeast Regional Career and Technology Center - 85
9. Williston Basin – 85
10. Turtle Mountain CTE Center – 84 (non-compliant with guidelines)
11. Bismarck Public Schools - 83
12. Lake Area Career and Technology Center - 76
13. James Valley Career and Technology Center – 75
14. Sheyenne Valley Career and Technology Center - 73
15. Warwick Public Schools – 69
16. Powers Lake - 41
17. Dunseith Public Schools – 40 (non-compliant with guidelines)

Discussion was held on how these rankings aligned with everyone's and it was agreed that the top scores aligned and that with full funding projects they could go down the ranking as far as Bismarck. Devils Lake and James

Valley scores were only different by one point on Mr. Sick's ranking and others expressed that these are both small amount requests and they would like to see them funded.

It was moved by Alexis Baxley to adopt Wayde's scoring rubric as the official scores of the committee and seconded by Dr. Aimee Copas. A roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Baxley - Aye  
Senator Bekkedahl – Aye  
Dr. Copas – Aye  
Mr. Davis – Aye  
Mr. Farnsworth – Aye  
Ms. Orgaard – Aye  
Ms. Ralston – Aye  
Mr. Tescher – Aye  
Mr. Sick – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sick reviewed the funding requests of the 17 applications requesting \$117,670,314.03 million. Two of those applications totaling \$14 million were deemed non-compliant with the Federal Guidelines leaving \$103,670,314.00 in requests. With our total grant being \$88,276,228.00 minus the \$19,999,998.00 ARPA funds already distributed leaves \$68,276,230.00 to award out.

Discussion was then held on awarding funds for portions of applications that are single-district oriented or may not follow the legislative intent and that such application's scores would be lowered to reflect this. Portions of applications that were considered for non-funding by the Review Team were from the Heart River application the New Salem, Glen Ullin and Beulah portions, North Valley CTC the Minto and Park River portions, Southeast Region the Lisbon and Hankinson portions and Bismarck Public Schools removing the middle school portion. Partially funding these would allow funding for Lake Area CTC, James Valley CTC and the renovate and expand request from Sheyenne Valley CTC. It was felt that with the Sheyenne Valley CTC application we should not tie any money to the bond referendum as that is not guaranteed match and still needs to pass .

Powers Lake and Warwick Public Schools did not receive funding due to low scores and depletion of funds. Dunseith Public Schools and Turtle Mountain CTE Center did not receive funding due to non-compliance with guidelines.

This left \$2,726,658 of unobligated funds that the Review Team needed to allocate and it was decided to add that into the Bismarck Public Schools.

It was moved by David Farnsworth and seconded by Adam Tescher to fund projects at the following total levels and if any projects are unable to move forward that the Review Committee would review any remaining dollars and determine any other fundings:

Southwest Area CTE Academy – Additional \$3,333,334.00 for total of \$10,000,000.00  
Bakken Area Skills Center – Additional \$3,333,334.00 for total of \$10,000,000.00  
Cass County Career and Technical Education Center – \$10,000,000.00  
Heart River Career and Technical Education Center – \$8,508,740.00  
Minot Public Schools - Additional \$3,333,334.00 for total of \$10,000,000.00  
Career Impact Academy – Grand Forks - \$10,000,000.00  
North Valley Career and Technology Center - \$3,034,153.00  
Southeast Regional Career and Technology Center - \$1,752,375.00  
Williston Basin – \$10,000,000.00  
Bismarck Public Schools - \$8,098,858.00  
Lake Area Career and Technology Center - \$1,241,074.00  
James Valley Career and Technology Center – \$798,700.00  
Sheyenne Valley Career and Technology Center - \$4,842,328.00

This is documented in Ranking Spreadsheet 2.

A roll call vote was administered:

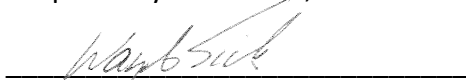
Mr. Davis – Aye  
Mr. Farnsworth – Aye  
Ms. Orgaard – Aye  
Ms. Ralston – Aye  
Mr. Tescher – Aye  
Ms. Baxley - Aye  
Senator Bekkedahl – Aye  
Dr. Copas – Aye  
Mr. Sick – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

**Further Action** – Mr. Sick will prepare documents explaining the Review Committees scoring and award funding recommendations and present them to the State Board for CTE at their meeting on February 28. He will also contact Allyson Hicks to create the grant agreements for each award recipient. Mr. Sick will keep the Review Team updated with the State Board’s decision of our recommendations and on the status of the Grant Plan at the US Department of Treasury.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayde Sick  
Chairperson