

**Minutes for State Board for Career and Technical Education
April 24, 2023**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the State Board for Career and Technical Education was held on Monday, April 24, 2023, in the CTE Conference Room and via Microsoft Teams. It began at 9:00 am CT and was presided over by Chairperson Ms. Sonia Meehl.

Voting Members Present:

Ms. Kirsten Baesler
Mr. Pat Bertagnolli
Ms. Lyndsi Engstrom
Dr. Mark Hagerott
Mr. Josh Johnson
Mr. Mike McHugh
Mr. Eric Nelson

Also present: Wayde Sick, Mark Wagner, Gwen Ferderer, Alyssa Martin, Jessica Enderson, Daniel Spellerberg, Eric Ripley, Wanda Meyer, Randal Brockman, Lyle Krueger, Maren Furuseth, Kelly Pierce, Annie Dukart and Lorie Ruff.

Meeting chat information for this meeting does not exist.

Consideration of March 27, 2023, Minutes:

It was moved by Ms. Engstrom and seconded by Mr. McHugh to approve the minutes as presented. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports:

Ms. Gwen Ferderer reviewed the Appropriation Status Report notifying members that for the Secondary Grants line item we anticipate that a small cut at the end of the year may be needed. The CTE Administrative Budget Report discloses that our percent of budget expended is currently 89.06% with 87.50 percent of time elapsed. We have gained back nicely.

Dr. Alyssa Martin reviewed the CDE Administrative Budget Report stating that they remain well below on the percentage of expended budget compared to the percent of time elapsed. As anticipated, enrollments have slowed down and they have adjusted their operational expenditures to reflect this revenue decline.

Dr. Hagerott moved to approve the financial reports as presented and it was seconded by Mr. Nelson. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Mr. Sick reported that the Legislative Assembly is anticipating finishing later this week and reminded members that appropriation bills take effect July 1, policy bills start August 1 and emergency clauses take effect immediately once signed by the Governor. As of this meeting, NDCTE Appropriation Bill came out of Conference Committee as follows:

- The agency was granted two additional FTEs
- Cost to Continue was reduced from \$4M to \$3.5M
- New and Expanding Programs was reduced from \$12M to \$10M. \$9.5M is General Fund, \$500,000 is funded through the Strategic Investments and Improvements Fund
- The \$500,000 to fund Career Advisors was removed
- Work-Based Learning Coordinators was reduced from \$2M to \$1.5M
- \$200,000 added to Emerging Technology remains
- The CDE budget was zeroed out because SB2269 passed, it will now move over DPI
- The Senate provided \$26.5M in inflationary funds, from the Coronavirus Capital Projects fund. These are unused dollars from the broadband allocation. This would provide approximately a 30% increase per grant award. Discussions continue to raise this to a 40% increase for each, to match the Higher Education Inflationary Impact.
- \$500,000 for TrainND to provide dollars to support the state employee pay increase. This brings this appropriation to \$2.5M
- Operating budget was increased by \$168,000

Mr. Sick informed members that some of the following bills will require policy changes that will be brought before them in the upcoming months:

HB 1178 – This bill would allow Higher Education, Private/Parochial School, and/or Private Sector to be represented on a CTE Center Board. This passed the House and was amended by the Senate to include up to three industry representatives. This has passed.

HB 1232 – A bill that would appropriate \$500,000 to NDCTE to add a virtual reality career exploration resource to our RUPReadyND platform. This has passed. We are already working with the OMB Procurement Office and NDIT to determine our procurement process.

HB 1348 – A bill that amends CTE Center Governance to address large CTE Center Boards and allow for a representative Board structure. This has passed.

HB 1398 – Requires computer science and cyber security to be taught in public schools. This was amended to clarify the integration plan can serve as the High School graduation requirement. This was signed by the Governor on March 24. Currently, NDCTE staff are working with DPI on how CTE can contribute to this requirement, whether it is identifying CTE Courses that meet the graduation requirement or how CTE programming can be a part of the middle school and high school integration plans.

HB 1519 – This bill would appropriate \$1,000,000 to NDCTE to grant out for UAS workforce training to a workforce training center serving NW North Dakota. House Appropriations amended this down to \$250,000 and passed it out on 2/16. It passed on the House Floor, as amended on 2/21. The Senate removed all areas except the workforce training portion and increased it to \$750,000. This is now in conference committee.

SB 2009 – This is the Agriculture Department budget. This has been added to a list as there has been an amendment proposed to study the transfer of Agricultural Education, FFA and Farm Management Education to the Ag Department. This is a shall consider study and would need to be selected by Legislative Management.

SB 2122 – This bill would codify how TrainND funds are allocated to the four regions - 50% would be allocated equally, 10% would be allocated by covered employment, 40% would be allocated based on enrollment of the previous biennium. This was amended to be a study, was passed by both sides and signed by the Governor on March 15.

SB 2145 – Allows the Emerging Digital Academy to operate without national accreditation. We worked with the prime sponsor and have provided amendments to the bill. First the exemption from national accreditation would sunset on January 1, 2026. Secondly, a study would be conducted in the interim to determine if changes to century code are necessary for the approval of Postsecondary Career Schools. It passed the Senate Floor and was amended to move up the expiration date to August 1, 2025, and eliminated the in operation before 2020 clause, which would open the opportunity for other full stack engineer programs to emerge. This has passed.

SB 2170 – This bill would allow a minor under the age of 18 to be on a construction site, with parental approval. This can already happen through a registered apprenticeship or student learner agreement. This was amended on the Senate Floor into a study of how to employ 16 and 17-year-old individuals and amended to reference apprentices and student learners, as defined by the USDOL. It also includes a study to review the advantages and disadvantages of transitioning to a State Apprenticeship Agency. This will now go to Conference Committee.

SB 2269 – A bill that would move the authority over the Center for Distance Education from NDCTE to NDDPI. This was amended to ensure governance was adequate. This has passed.

SB 2284 – This bill addresses the State Board for Public Education. It would align appointments to Legislative Districts, not counties. It would also require at least two members of the Board are employed by school districts and are active members of the ND Association of School Administrators. This portion has turned into a Legislative Management Study and now goes to conference committee and be included in the DPI budget.

Due to other commitments, Ms. Baesler left meeting at 9:37 am.

New Funding Model Committee Volunteers:

Mr. Sick informed members that when he inquired on volunteers for this committee, he received interest from 2-4 CTE directors, one business manager and one superintendent. Discussion was held on the role that a member of this Board would contribute to the committee. It was deemed that this role would serve to observe the committee and make sure all voices are heard. Mr. McHugh volunteered to represent the Board as well as Ms. Meehl will attend when able to stay updated with the progress.

Career Development vs. Career Advisors:

Ms. Kelly Pierce gave a background of how these positions were created for schools during the 2009 legislative session and the duties they performed. When Career Development was added to NDCTE, one counselor served multiple schools and focused on career exploration for students. The current ratio is 1 counselor per 300 students in grades K-12 to cover the career domains based on the national standards as well as added responsibilities such as test coordinator. These additional duties take time away from actual counseling of students. Ms. Pierce presented recommended policy updates for career development programs that she would like to see moving forward. The final policy change will come soon for the Board's approval.

Center for Distance Education Update:

Dr. Alyssa Martin informed members that they have hired Ms. Jessica Enderson as the new Assistant Superintendent to focus on curriculum and data. Ms. Enderson was available to introduce herself to the Board. Other staffing items include the new IT Director starting today with a 60-day job shadowing with the existing IT Director, two retirements within the learning management system and hiring for the assistant principal position.

CDE's enrollments are currently around 7,800 but this will slow as we move into the summer months. During this slower time, they will change their focus to developing and updating curriculum. Other areas they are working on include the virtual catalog with CTE, finalizing their cognitive strategy map and preparing for the transition to DPI.

State Director's Report:

Mr. Sick reviewed his goal progress and general updates that include discussions on the new funding model, working on new biennium budget and changes due to legislative session and State Perkins Plan revisions that are due Spring of 2024. Mr. Sick presented the statewide and regional heatmap spreadsheets from the Opportunity Gap Analysis. Overall, our primary discrepancy is gender based. The next step regarding this data is to train staff so they can assist answering questions in the field. Our end goal is to train CTE directors and administrators to review and use data at the local level. Mr. Sick suggested that during the Board's strategic planning this training could be an agenda topic.

Due to other commitments, Dr. Hagerott left meeting at 10:28 am.

State Director Evaluation Report:

Ms. Meehl reviewed the evaluation process and the reports that were included in the packet. It was agreed that the goals the Board had set for Mr. Sick seemed to be too aggressive regarding a timeline that included the legislative session. Members thanked Mr. Sick for his advocacy during the session. Mr. Josh Johnson moved to approve the State Director's Satisfactory Summative Evaluation and it was seconded by Mr. McHugh. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye
Ms. Engstrom – Aye
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye
Mr. McHugh – Aye
Mr. Nelson – Aye
Ms. Meehl – Aye
6-0-3 Absent

The next step for the evaluation process is to develop a survey for directors and agency employees to complete and those results to be utilized during the Board's strategic planning session to set goals for next year. The sub-committee will reconvene and meet with HRMS to develop this survey. Sub-committee members include Ms. Meehl who replaced Mr. Fastnacht, Ms. Engstrom and Ms. Baesler.

Career and Technical Student Organization 2023 State Conferences:

FFA – June 5-8, Fargo

Future Meetings:

The next regular meetings will be held Monday, May 22, 2023; Monday, June 26, 2023 and July 24, 2023. Discussion was held if a July meeting was necessary and when to have the strategic planning session. It was determined to poll members for 1½ days in July and August and set the planning session.

Ms. Meehl mentioned that the next Combined Board Meeting will be September 2023 and will be hosted by the State Board of Public School Education.

There being no other business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.