

**Minutes for State Board for Career and Technical Education
February 23, 2026 Meeting**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the State Board for Career and Technical Education was held on Monday, February 23, 2026, in the Hughes Educational Center Boardroom 2 and via Microsoft Teams. It was called to order by Chair Sonia Meehl at 10:00 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, John Gruenberg, Marcia McMahon, Mark Openshaw, Lyle Krueger, Mike Hanson, Dan Spellerberg, Kelly Pierce, Pat Phillips, Pam Stroklund, Kenzie Brown, Eric Ripley, Dawn Ulmer and Lorie Ruff.

Meeting chat information for this meeting does not exist.

Be Legendary Governance

Goal Progress Measure 1.1 – Economically Disadvantaged Concentrator: Director Sick provided an overview of Goal 1 and Progress Measure 1.1 for attendees. He noted that the target for 2024–25 was 29% and current data indicates we are at 27.8%, reflecting progress toward the goal but slightly below the established benchmark. Next steps to achieve this measure include identifying consortiums where economically disadvantaged individual concentrator rates are low and determining opportunities to increase concentrator rates, reviewing Special Population Grant guidance to determine opportunities to focus on and encouraging consortiums whose economically disadvantaged individual concentrator rates are low to apply for the Special Population Grant.

Goal Progress Measure 1.2 – Minority Concentrator: After reviewing the measurer, Director Sick reported that our target for 2024-25 was 18% but we only achieved 15.6%. We did not achieve this measure. Next steps to enhance our percentages include further analyzing the Opportunity Gap Analysis and communicating gaps to CTE Directors to determine how they can engage and support, and continue working with the ND Indian Education Advisory Committee on the value of CTE for Native American students and reporting data.

Goal Progress Measure 1.3 – Individuals with a Disability Concentrator: Director Sick described the measure and reported that the 2024-25 target was 19%. We met the measure by completing 21.4%. We will continue efforts to improve by identifying consortiums where individuals with disabilities concentrator rates are low to identify opportunities to increase rate, reviewing Special Populations Grant guidance to determine opportunities to focus on this specific population and encouraging consortiums where individuals with disabilities concentrator rates are low to apply for the Special Populations Grant.

Discussion was held on the fact that the goal is based on grades 10-12 and the progress measures are grades 9-12. Chair Meehl, Director Sick and the trainers will review this during their post-meeting discussion and report back to Board members at the next meeting.

Morgan Forness moved to accept the Goal Progress Measurers as reported by Director Sick and it was seconded by Mike McHugh. The motion passed unanimously.

Ad hoc Committee Updates:

Community Engagement Subcommittee: Chair Meehl reported that the presentation was included in the packet for member feedback. If you have not had the opportunity to review, please do so and contact Chair Meehl with any comments. The Subcommittee will reconvene Thursday to review feedback that they have received.

Procedural Manual: Lyndsi Engstrom informed members that the manual was submitted to Mr. Openshaw for his legal input and that the subcommittee will meet again on March 6. Their intention is to bring the final manual to the full Board at the March meeting.

Board Policies: Director Sick updated members that the subcommittee consists of Morgan Forness, Lisa Johnson and himself and that they met last week to review five policies. They determined if the policies were the responsibility of this Board or if it was to be delegated to Director Sick. The policies were then forward to the Procedural Manual Subcommittee to be included in the final document.

Consent Agenda:

Levi Bachmeier moved to approve and accept the items listed on the consent agenda and it was seconded by Lyndsi Engstrom. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion and Possible Action:

There are no items for discussion and possible action.

Information Only:

Chair Meehl reported that an error was discovered on the January Time Tracker that was included in the material packet. Mike McHugh will meet with E&M, LLC and update the tracker which will be included with the March material packet.

Deputy Commissioner Lisa Johnson presented a comprehensive overview of NDUS and their agency's alignment with CTE goals and priorities. Members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and the insights they gained.

Board Comments:

Chair Meehl commented on the favorable attention she is seeing in news articles regarding CTE in various parts of the state.

There being no other business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.