

**Minutes for State Board for Career and Technical Education  
January 26, 2026 Meeting**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the State Board for Career and Technical Education was held on Monday, January 26, 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:

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, Gwen Ferderer, Laurie Elliott, Marcia McMahon, Mark Openshaw, Randal Brockman, Scott Wisness, Becky Ulberg, Daniel Driessen, Knut Gjovik, Pam Stroklund, Kenzie Brown, Wayne Heckamen, Eric Ripley, Dawn Ulmer and Lorie Ruff.

Meeting chat information for this meeting does not exist.

Chair Meehl introduced and welcomed newest Board member Mr. Morgan Forness. Morgan gave a brief self-introduction.

**Be Legendary Governance**

Board Self Evaluation: Chair Meehl directed members through their Quarterly Progress Tracker that is completed four times per year. The total for the current quarter is 57 and the target total for April is 74. Mike McHugh moved to approve the Board's Quarterly Progress Tracker and Lisa Johnson seconded. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

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  
8-0-1 Absent

Director Guardrail Progress Measure 1.1 – Opportunity Gap Analysis and Progress Measure 3.3 – Public/Private Partnerships: Director Sick reminded members that this will be the second time that the analysis has been completed and reported to the Board. He then reviewed the process of the analysis as well as the narrative, statewide and regional summaries, and statewide and regional enrollment data. Discussion was held on solutions to teacher shortages.

Director Sick reported that the target for Public/Private Partnerships for 2025-26 was 1,045 and our current progress is 669. However, the Spring CTSO Conference Events need to be added to this number so we should surpass our target number. Next steps include monitoring CTSO sponsorship and partnership numbers, continuing conversations with employers and industry groups regarding partnership opportunities and continue with Greater North Dakota Chamber API grant and Small Business Development Centers entrepreneur opportunities. Lyndsi Engstrom moved to accept Director's Guardrail Reports for Progress Measure Reports 1.1 and 3.3 and it was seconded by Eric Nelson. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

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  
8-0-1 Absent

**Ad hoc Committee Updates:**

Community Engagement Subcommittee: Chair Meehl reported that the presentation was sent to the Department's PR team for formatting and addition of logos and photos. They feel they will complete their review by February 1. The Subcommittee will reconvene next week to review for any additional changes. The desire of the Subcommittee is to bring the Presentation to the February Board meeting.

Procedural Manual: Lyndsi Engstrom referenced the manual that was included in the material packet and reported that extensive feedback was submitted to Director Sick. Discussion was held on the Board's wishes for Section 4.5 as to the verbiage of committee procedures. It was felt that the statement referencing "former chair from the failed committee is not eligible to serve on a new committee formed for a similar purpose" should be removed. Due to time restraints, the subcommittee was granted permission to proceed with legal review of manual with Mr. Openshaw and then reconvene to assess feedback that was submitted. Lyndsi reported that the appendix has not been addressed. Trainer Laurie Elliott gave an overview of the management of policies, and it was agreed that a Policy Subcommittee should be appointed. Members appointed by Chair Meehl included Morgan Forness, Lisa Johnson, Wayde Sick and Laurie Elliott. They will review the existing policies to be included in the Procedural Manual. This committee will meet prior to the February meeting.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

**Items for Discussion and Possible Action:**

2024-25 Consolidated Annual Report: Director Sick informed those present that this report denotes data from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and must be submitted in the Perkins portal by 5:00 pm on January 31. Mr. John Gruenberg reviewed the report, highlighting enrollment data, performance summaries, secondary and postsecondary indicators and steps in the improvement plan for areas needing performance enhancement.

Jason Rohr left the meeting at 11:30 am.

Mike McHugh moved to approve the 2024-25 Consolidated Annual Report as presented but allowing the Director the flexibility to edit the report as necessary with the Director reporting back to the Board at a future meeting with any necessary edits that are needed. It was seconded by Morgan Forness. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

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  
Deputy Commissioner Lisa Johnson - Yes  
Chair Sonia Meehl - Yes  
7-0-2 Absent

**Information Only:**

Chair Meehl referred to the information in the material packet regarding upcoming CTSO State Events. Board members are invited to all the events. Please inform us if you plan to join for planning purposes. The Department will also send out meeting invites so that this information is on your calendar.

Per the Board’s Monitoring Calendar, Mr. Patrick Bertagnolli, Executive Director at Job Service North Dakota, presented an overview of their agency’s functions and activities.

Chair Meehl gave a reminder regarding annual Statement of Interest filings for board members. Filings are required only for the Public School Education Board, not for CTE and you should have received an email. The deadline is January 31 and failure to file may result in a \$25 penalty. If you need any assistance, contact Shauna.

Chair Meehl also referenced the December Board Time Tracker that was included in the material packet for review.

There being no other business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.