

# STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022

Members of the State Board for Career and Technical Education met at 9:00 am CT in the CTE Conference Room and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Chair. The following members were present:

- Ms. Kirsten Baesler
- Mr. Patrick Bertagnolli
- Ms. Lyndsi Engstrom
- Dr. Mark Hagerott
- Dr. Steven Holen
- Mr. Burdell Johnson
- Mr. Josh Johnson
- Ms. Sonia Meehl

Also present were Wayde Sick, Mark Wagner, Allyson Hicks, Lorie Ruff, and several attendees both in person and online.

**Discussion and Consideration of CTE Capital Projects Grant Review Committee Recommendations** – Dr. Fastnacht gave a history and timeline for those in attendance. In January 2021 there was the introduction of House Bill 1431 that in Section 11 appropriated state funds for buildings and equipment of CTE programs at Bismarck State College, Dickinson State College and Dickinson Public School, Fargo, Watford City, Minot, Lake Region State College, and other smaller projects. Due to the influx of Federal COVID funds and support from schools to create a granting opportunity instead of a single identified organization within statute it was changed to House Bill 1015. On April 29, 2021, during the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the appropriation bill for the federal coronavirus capital projects fund Section 6 allocated \$70 million to CTE for a granting program and was signed by the Governor on May 10, 2021. On May 17, 2021, the State Board for CTE met and Mr. Sick presented the first draft of the Request for Proposals for the CTE Capital Projects Grant Application. Revisions were requested by the Board for the creation of a point matrix. At a State Board for CTE Special Meeting on June 3, 2021, the Board reviewed the revised application and ranking sheet. The documents were continued to be refined with recommendations from this Board and OMB. At the Regular State Board Meeting on June 21, 2021, Mr. Sick presented the next revision of the application and ranking sheet. At this meeting discussion was held on having

separate rounds of applications, legislative intent of the funds and deadline dates. Points on the ranking sheet was increased for Workforce Partners section and decreased in the budget section. The Board set October 1, 2021, and November 1, 2021, as deadline dates with \$35 million allocated for each application group.

In September 2021, federal guidance was received from the US Treasury with a focus on the building of multi-purpose community facilities designed to jointly or directly enable work, education, and health monitoring. There was an emphasis on full-service community schools, access to internet and libraries and to improve community health centers. These guidelines by the US Treasury required a restart of the application process. At the October 25, 2021, State Board for CTE Regular Meeting, this Board reviewed application revisions based on US Treasury guidance and revised application deadlines due to the changes in health monitoring and the upcoming Special Session.

During the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly Special 2021 Session, House Bill 1505 was introduced. This changed the projects funding allocation from \$70 million to \$68,276,228 and added Federal State Fiscal Recovery Funds of \$20 million for a total of \$88,276,228.

At the November 22, 2021, State Board for CTE Meeting, funding changes were discussed along with the emphasis on 'shovel ready' applications. At that time new application, re-application deadlines were set to allow consideration of the added health monitoring guidelines. Application approval dates were set for January 31, 2022, for the first round and March 31, 2022, for the second round.

On January 14, 2022, the Review Committee held their first meeting to review applications and rankings for shovel ready programs. The Review Committee made recommendations for grant awards for the first \$20 million.

At the January 24, 2022, State Board for CTE Regular Meeting the Board received the first recommendations for shovel ready projects and their recommendation for the awards for the initial \$20 million. This Board approved funding of \$6,666,666 to each the Southwest Area CTE Academy, Minot Public Schools and Bakken Area Skills Center. No requests for additional documentation were made at this time. The Board discussed non-compliant projects as determined by the Review Committee. Those applications were Dunseith and Belcourt and no other applications were identified as not meeting guidelines.

On February 14, 2022, the Review Committee met again. These meeting minutes and recording link were provided to the Board in the March 14, 2022, meeting material packet. The application rankings and funding

recommendations were motioned and approved unanimously by the Review Committee. On February 25, 2022, the Review Committee met again to reconsider their February 14, 2022, recommendations for this Board. Those meeting minutes and recording link was also provided in the March 14, 2022, meeting material packet. The Review Committee revised its point ranking and funding allocation from February 14, 2022, and the recommendations were approved unanimously by the Committee.

During the State Board for CTE Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022, the CTE Capital Project Application Review was an agenda item. Discussion was held on the recommendation of the Committee, the process and document retention. This Board asked Mr. Sick to go back to the committee and retrieve supporting documentation including point ranking rubrics and notes. These documents were also in the March 14, 2022, material packet.

Dr. Fastnacht commended the Review Committee and Mr. Sick for all their hard work on these applications. He then reminded Board members that it had discussed how challenging this process was going to be and that the Board knew when this started that some projects would be funded and some would not. This Board has a great responsibility and privilege to distribute funds to programs in our state that will create workforce training opportunities to benefit North Dakota students for many years to come. The Board can also carry the message during the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that these funds were greatly appreciated but that additional funding is needed.

Dr. Fastnacht asked Ms. Allyson Hicks from Office of Attorney General for any guidance for this Board as the Board proceeds. Ms. Hicks stated she was not at the last State Board for CTE Regular meeting but has watched the recording and wanted to clarify that grant procedures are not governed by Procurement laws and rules and are not run through the OMB State Procurement Office. There is no mandatory procedure, no required process and no required protest or appeal period. The only guidelines are those in 2021 House Bill 1015 Section 6, the federal guidelines from the US Treasury, and the guidelines set by this Board. As long as the recommendations from the Review Committee follow these guidelines that is all that is required in regard to legality of the process. These are only recommendations and the Board can either agree or disagree with them. It is ultimately this Board's decision.

Ms. Baesler then moved to approve \$3,333,334 for the Southwest Area CTE Academy because they have met all of the federal expectations and statutory requirements. Ms. Engstrom seconded the motion. Discussion was held

on which applications have met all the requirements and Ms. Baesler listed in no particular order Southwest Area CTE Academy, Career Impact Academy, Bakken Skills Center, Minot Public Schools, Cass County Career and Technical Education Center and Williston Basin. Ms. Meehl agreed that these six mentioned had no specific concerns raised and nothing was suggested to be pulled out of them by the Review Committee. She went on to explain that she had reviewed the individual scores that were provided and found that Williston's project was one step below North Valley. She supports the motion but reserves the right to question the top six when discussing the lower ranked projects.

Ms. Meehl stated she supports this motion because of the strength of the Southwest Area project. They formed a new center and is shovel ready. Program offerings include Ag, Auto Tech, Construction Management, Culinary, Diesel, Health Careers, IT, Tech & Engineering and Welding. It was highly scored not just in the consensus scoring but in all the individual scores the Board was provided. An extensive needs assessment was completed. In her opinion, this is a strong application. A roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli - Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen - Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson - Aye  
Dr. Hagerott – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed unanimously 9-0

Ms. Baesler then moved to approve the Career Impact Academy Grand Forks for \$10,000,000. It was seconded by Ms. Meehl. Ms. Meehl highlighted the application and that it's governance will be the existing virtual CTE Board. It includes some new construction and the program offerings are very robust with Aerospace, Automotive, Building Trades, Culinary, Electronics/Manufacturing, Engineering/Robotics, IT, Medial, Precision Ag and Welding. Very highly needed programs. Multiple member schools with needs assessment completed. She supports the motion.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli - Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Hagerott – Aye  
Dr. Holen - Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed unanimously 9-0

Ms. Meehl moved to approve the recommended funding of the additional \$3,333,334 for the Bakken Area Skills Center in Watford City and seconded by Ms. Baesler. Dr. Holen abstained from discussion and voting as he is the Superintendent of McKenzie County Public School District No. 1 in Watford City. Ms. Meehl reported that this is a strong application with a number of schools on board to partner, focus on workforce solutions and has excellent postsecondary and workforce partnerships. Programs are Health Careers, Automation, Building Trades, Energy and Agriculture all important to that region. Ms. Meehl did state a concern for her that this application did not include any other schools. Mr. Sick clarified that six schools were listed to be partners of this project – Ray, Trenton, Tioga, Grenora, Crosby and Alexandria. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Mr. Bertagnolli - Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Hagerott – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Abstain  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed 8-0-1 Abstain

Next Ms. Baesler moved to approve the Minot Public Schools additional \$3,333,334 project and was seconded by Mr. Josh Johnson. Ms. Meehl reported that she was very impressed with the Minot application, easy to read and well put together. They have robust offerings and the courses they will offering are very important program areas so she supports the motion. Dr. Fastnacht asked for clarification on why Board is approving the Minot Public Schools application before the North Valley CTC, which is ranked higher in the recommendations from the Review Committee. Ms. Engstrom reported that the consistency between the two recommendations from the February

14 meeting to the February 25 meeting and the presence of remaining questions after the Review Committee discussions is her justification.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Hagerott – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli - Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed unanimously 9-0

Ms. Baesler then moved to approve the other project that didn't have discussion about projects or elements of it and that would be the Cass County Career and Technical Education Center in the Fargo-West Fargo area. The motion was seconded by Ms. Engstrom. Dr. Fastnacht asked if Board members are awarding grants to these top six applications based on the Review Committee not having dialogue about them during their meetings. Ms. Engstrom stated she is referring to not only where some applications were debated, but where the recommendation changed from the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and that this left questions for this Board to answer through its own review process.

Discussion was then held on the ranking process that the Review Committee used. This Board did not ask the Review Committee to collect their individual rankings or average their rankings. The Committee unanimously voted twice to adopt the ranking they presented to the Board. It was asked by Dr. Holen if the Review Committee brought any formal actions back to the Board that they could not have consensus on and ask the Board to weigh in. Dr. Fastnacht replied that they did not. Dr. Holen clarified that this is more of the interpretation of individual Board members who listened to the recordings than what the Review Committee recommendations were. Dr. Holen asked for clarification from Mr. Sick what did the Committee have the most difficulty deciding on that they thought this board might have to weigh in on?

Ms. Hicks voiced that the Review Committee toiled in great length to fully fund projects versus partially funding projects. The Committee really grappled with whether to partially fund many applications as results of the February 14 meeting versus fully funding as much as they can which was from the February 25 meeting which Ms.

Hicks feels is legally the difference between the two meetings. The first meeting was focusing on picking apart the applications and giving dollars with the mindset that some of the projects towards the lower end of the spectrum were smaller dollar amounts, whereas the second meeting was giving more weight to the ranking process and fully funding schools that ranked higher.

Dr. Holen stated he feels the Review Committee acted in good faith, this Board formed the Committee, they decided to unilaterally agree to a scoring rubric as their committee's own and he does not believe that they infringed on any of the legality or the intent of the scoring process.

Ms. Meehl reported that the Cass County CTE Center application includes very good and robust offerings in Health & Allied Health, Construction, IT and Communication Tech, Liberal Arts, Business Management and General Education, Manufacturing and Engineering, Ag and Transportation. It has rural school support, involves new construction and is in an area of high population growth. Ms. Meehl's concern is the liberal arts and general education portion, to what extent is funding supporting something other than CTE. Mr. Sick reported that there is a move nationwide to not be CTE versus general education but to merge efforts to strengthen the skills that students will gain.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Hagerott – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed unanimously 9-0

Dr. Fastnacht questioned if Board members wanted discussion on how they truly feel about fully funding versus partially funding projects. Ms. Engstrom referred to the grant guidance that specifically states partial grant approval may be made based on amount of secured match, unallowable expenses or available funds. Additionally in the Review Committee meetings it is stated that the request does not equal the amount that the Board has available, therefore, partial funding will be required at some point. She feels that the guidelines that the Board

has laid out should be followed.

Dr. Holen stated that he believed the intent of the Legislative Assembly and during the first meeting of the Review Committee, that fully funding projects was going to be a priority. He supports fully funding projects.

Ms. Baesler stated that she wants to be in contact with Joe Morrisette from OMB and the Office of Attorney General to seek guidance on what options the Board has to move forward with the remaining money.

Mr. Josh Johnson requested summarization of those application portion in question. Ms. Hicks referred the members to page 10 of meeting packet in the Committee Meeting minutes which specifically delineates the portions of the application that the Review Committee had questions on. 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. The minutes also stated that 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 have been lowered to reflect this.

Dr. Holen asked for clarification on which applications that were funded by the Review Committee that were not multi district in nature of which this Board wants to question their recommendation other than Williston. Ms. Engstrom stated that in review of the committee meetings, Bismarck Public Schools was questioned in terms of multi district. Ms. Meehl also stated concern that in the Bismarck application a large portion of the request is relating to the middle school renovation project and how that fits into long-term career and technical funding in North Dakota.

Warwick and Powers Lake applications also indicate that they were single districts and scored low because of that.

Mr. Sick was asked as Review Committee Chairperson to explain the committee's rational to their ranking. He explained that Warwick and Powers Lake both were truly a single district project according to their applications and lacked postsecondary workforce engagement. It isn't that this is not allowable but they lost preference points so it lowered them. Bismarck Public Schools application mentioned multiple schools but not school districts. The application states that the renovation is middle school and creating labs based on need but it does state that high school students would have access to those facilities and therefore the committee felt that it was allowable. Dr.



Holen questioned if the multi district component of the Bismarck application reflected in the ranking. Mr. Sick reported that they were docked to 25 points out of a possible 30 for facility and governance. Dr. Holen asked for clarification as to what the Review Committee received that changed their minds on the middle school portion. Mr. Sick stated that the Review Committee took another look at their application and determined that high school students indeed had access to these facilities and voted to fully fund the project. Dr. Fastnacht reminded Board members that the ranking sheets are in the materials packet.

Discussion was held on what the next steps were that the Board wished to do. Ms. Hicks reminded Board members that they were appointed to this Board to make these hard decisions and that there is no century code about grant processes. Whatever process is decided the Board needs to agree on.

Dr. Fastnacht called for a 5-minute recess. With meeting going longer than scheduled, Ms. Hicks verified that Board members were staying so that the Board would have a quorum. Dr. Hagerott stated that he needed to leave for another meeting.

Dr. Fastnacht reconvened the meeting at 11:17 am

Dr. Fastnacht asked Board members how they would like to move forward.

Dr. Holen motioned to accept the grant review committee's recommendations for the grant awards as provided to us in this meeting information in the amounts of which they were recommended from February 25. The motion failed for lack of second. Ms. Meehl stated that she would like the Board to move forward and act on as much of this as the Board feels comfortable with today.

Ms. Meehl moved to approve the committee's recommendation to grant \$4,752,290 to the North Valley Career Tech Center project and was seconded by Ms. Baesler. Ms. Meehl highlighted the application stating that the programs offered will be Welding, Ag, Construction and Renovation, Precision Ag, Automation/Manufacturing and Food Processing. They are also adding some relatively modest dollar amounts to projects in outlying communities.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed 8-0-1 absent

Ms. Meehl then moved to approve the Williston Basin application from the Review Committee’s recommendation of a grant of \$10,000,000 and seconded by Ms. Engstrom.

Discussion was held about their eventual possible plans to merge with the Bakken Area Skills Center. Mr. Holen clarified that to avoid redundancy that Williston would provide services as a satellite site to help support regional school districts more in their immediate proximity but also be part of the regional larger center due to the large geographics in the northwest and growing population. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Nay  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed 7-1-1 absent

Ms. Baesler moved to fund the Heart River Career and Technical Education Center at \$8,508,740 aligned with the recommendations from the February 14 meeting. Ms. Hicks directed that since Dr. Fastnacht is involved with this application and will be abstained, that Ms. Meehl as Vice Chair of the Board will need to take over conducting the meeting at this point. Ms. Engstrom then seconded the motion. Dr. Holen questioned why the motion reduced the funding amount from the Review Committee recommendation. Ms. Baesler explained that she is using the amount provided from the February 14 committee meeting based on the meeting recordings and minutes that there was significant discussion among committee members and she feels more confident in the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting versus the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Meehl stated that the Beulah expansion of an ag program, New Salem/Almont renovation of the ag program and ag program at a new Hebron facility as she understands that the Review Committee had originally removed them from the recommendation and they restored them on the 25<sup>th</sup>. She views this application as a center and supports fully funding the programs. Ms. Engstrom stated her rationale for partial funding support is to potentially take some additional time to look at those pieces that were indeed in question throughout the Review Committee meetings. So, it may not be the final amount at this time but a minimal amount at this point in time.

Dr. Holen asked for clarification on whether the conflicts out of the committee with this grant application were identified as having any issues that were specific to compliance or was it just to get money to those smaller lower ranked projects. Mr. Sick reported that those portions were felt to be like the North Valley portions and that they were more of a single district. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Nay  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Nay  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Nay  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Abstain

Motion passed 4-3-1 absent-1 abstain

Ms. Meehl returned the meeting to Dr. Fastnacht.

Mr. Josh Johnson moved to approve the funding for the Southeast Wahpeton Center following the recommendation from February 25 in the amount of \$2,979,975 and the basis for the recommendation fully funding that project regarding single versus multi district on the same basis that this Board is acted upon the application of North Valley. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meehl. Ms. Meehl stated that she is not on the board of the SERCTC but is on the board of a member school and asked Ms. Hicks if she should abstain from this vote. Ms. Hicks did recommend that since a school she is a board of will directly benefit from this she should abstain under 44-04-08. Ms. Meehl then withdrew her second motion and stated she will abstain from this vote.

Ms. Baesler then seconded the motion.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Abstain

Motion passed 7-0-1 absent-1 abstain

Ms. Meehl then motioned to reconsider the Heart River application. She apologized that she was trying to count votes and thought she was casting her vote that would allow the Board to maybe come back to the Heart River.

Ms. Hicks reminded members that Dr. Fastnacht needs to abstain from any discussion with Heart River so Ms. Meehl needs to take over as Chairperson.

Ms. Meehl moved to reconsider the action by which the Board approved \$8,508,740 for Heart River and seconded by Ms. Baesler. Dr. Fastnacht handed the gavel to Ms. Meehl and stepped out of the room by choice.

Mr. Josh Johnson stated the reasoning for his Nay was that this project is similar to Wahpeton and North Valley which were originally reduced in funding on the basis of singular versus multi district. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Abstain

Motion passed 7-0-1 absent-1 abstain

Ms. Meehl turned the Chair back to Dr. Fastnacht. Ms. Meehl then moved to accept the recommendation of our committee to fund the Heart River CTE Center project at \$10,000,000 and was seconded by Dr. Holen. Chair was turned over to Ms. Meehl.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Abstain

Motion passed 7-0-1 absent-1 abstain

Ms. Meehl turned the Chair back to Dr. Fastnacht. Ms. Engstrom asked for clarification for the amount of funds remaining. Mr. Sick reported that starting originally with \$88,276,228 and decided so far is \$77,732,265, which left \$10,543,963 to allocate. Dr. Fastnacht continued to clarify that according to the ranking spreadsheet that leaves Bismarck, Devils Lake, James Valley, Valley City, Warwick, Powers Lake, Belcourt and Dunseith to address.

Ms. Meehl moved to approve the two portions of the Bismarck project, the Bismarck Career Academy expansion and the Skills Trades Facility-East Bismarck and not include the middle school portion. Ms. Meehl asked for clarity as to the correct funding amounts for each. Dr. Fastnacht referred to page 4 and 5 in the material packet as to the breakout of the funding – Bismarck Career Academy Expansion – Medical Careers - \$460,610, Skills Trades Facility - \$4,911,593, and middle school and high school CTE Academy renovation at Hughes - \$4,515,315.

Ms. Meehl stated that the two components of the proposal that she proposes to approve are the Bismarck Career Academy expansion at \$460,610 and the skills trades facility in East Bismarck for \$4,911,593 for a total of \$5,372,203. Ms. Baesler seconded the motion.

Ms. Hicks questioned the Board if they feel that Mr. Josh Johnson should abstain from this discussion and vote since he is a member of the Valley City application and that any detraction of money from Bismarck will impact the application he is involved with. It was felt by members that Mr. Johnson would act as an unbiased State CTE Board member at this point just as he was when the Board was approving the first applications.

Discussion was held on the Bismarck application. Dr. Holen asked for clarification that the middle school portion of this project is being stricken based on principle and non-compliance with the guidelines that the Board set for the grant. Ms. Baesler stated that she felt the application did not meet the expectations of the preference point as set forth by the legislature of postsecondary secondary workforce. She commended the Bismarck application

and their ideas but that this is not within the scope of what this allocation of funds was to do.

Dr. Holen then asked Mr. Sick to clarify the committee's rationale as to why they viewed that project to be in compliance. Mr. Sick explained that in looking at the application it does state that valuable space would be available for middle school and high school students. Ms. Meehl reported that she reviewed the application and was impressed with it, but in the narrative, she senses that this is a middle school facility that high schoolers may have access to at times. It does not appear to be designed for high school and community programs such as the Board is accustomed to funding.

Ms. Engstrom questioned if the committee used the right of rejection clause to go back to Bismarck Public School to gain clarification on utilization of the facility. Ms. Hicks reminded the Board that they do have that option that if the Board has a question that is unable to be answered by either the materials given or by anyone's review of the packet. Mr. Sick reported that he did visit with administration from Bismarck and they directed him to page 8 of the application that it does include middle school and high school with access to the space and labs and therefore the committee's recommendation reflected that.

Dr. Holen stated that it is hard to put money towards middle school when the state does not reimburse middle school programming so why would this grant. Ms. Meehl asked Mr. Sick if any of the Review Committee felt that if this component was not funded would the other two parts of the grant request fall apart due to the pipeline to high school programs. Mr. Sick stated he didn't know if the committee discussed the project to that specific level.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Nay  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Nay

Motion passed 6-2-1 absent

Dr. Fastnacht reported that this leaves \$5,171,760. Ms. Baesler moved to approve the next on the list Lake Area Career and Technical Center for \$1,241,074 and seconded by Mr. Josh Johnson.

Dr. Holen asked for clarification as the scores drop dramatically after the top applications whether that is due to

quality of the application or were there concerns with those applications. Mr. Sick reported that the Lake Area project primarily impacts only one program and, therefore, scored lower. Dr. Fastnacht referred to the minutes from the February 25 meeting that this was discussed.

Ms. Meehl reiterated that although this is only an ag program they can be broadly based and a lot of skills that students need for life so she is in support of this motion. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed 8-0-1 absent

Dr. Fastnacht asked for the next order of business. Mr. Josh Johnson moved to approve the James Valley application for \$798,700 and seconded by Ms. Meehl. Ms. Meehl stated that the James Valley project was good, it fit the needs assessment in the community and includes Building Trades and Health Careers including EMS which are very needed. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Aye  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed 8-0-1 absent

Dr. Fastnacht reported that there is \$3,131,986 left. Ms. Baesler moved to provide \$3,131,986 to the Sheyenne Valley Career and Technical Center and seconded by Mr. Burdell Johnson. Ms. Meehl stated that Sheyenne Valley offers programs for secondary students and their application demonstrated that they are partnering with area schools. Ms. Hicks clarified whether Mr. Josh Johnson will abstain from voting due to application involvement, and Mr. Josh Johnson confirmed that he would be abstaining. With no further discussion a roll call vote was administered:

Ms. Engstrom – Aye  
Dr. Holen – Aye  
Mr. Burdell Johnson - Aye  
Mr. Josh Johnson – Abstain  
Ms. Meehl – Aye  
Ms. Baesler – Aye  
Mr. Bertagnolli – Aye  
Dr. Fastnacht – Aye

Motion passed 7-0-1 absent-1-abstain

Ms. Baesler stated that the Board has learned a lot from this process and that the state has learned what a tremendous asset career and technical education is, how important it is and how many community members value the work of CTE.

Dr. Fastnacht concurred with Ms. Baesler's comments and reiterated that the Board has a responsibility to be at the next legislative session and advocate for funds for CTE programs. He thanked everyone for their dedication and professionalism during this process.

It was asked what the next steps will be and Mr. Sick stated that emails will be sent out and our agency will work with Ms. Hicks to create grant agreements for everyone. The Department will also develop a press release that will be send out soon.

There being no other business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 pm.