

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
HELD AT THE HODGE EDUCATION BUILDING, 2500 NORTH LINCOLN
BOULEVARD, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

August 17, 2023

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:01 a.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the Hodge Education Building, Room 1-20, Oklahoma City, OK and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice was properly given, and the final Agenda was posted at 2:47p.m. on August 15, 2023, in accordance with 25 O.S. 2011, § 311(9).

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education present and all appeared in person:

- Mr. Ryan Walters, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Chair of the Board
- Mr. Brent Haken, State Director, ex-officio nonvoting member
- Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh (Appeared at approximately 9:03 a.m.)
- Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa
- Mr. Edward Hilliary, Elgin
- Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris
- Ms. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education not present:

- Mr. Michael Brown, Lawton
- Mr. Peter Dillingham, Enid
- Ms. Suzanne Reynolds, Nichols Hills

Attendees from the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and other guests:
See Attachment A.

1.01 CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Mr. Haken called the meeting to order at 9:01 p.m. Ms. Ashley Zemp called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG AND
A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Led by Mr. Ryan Walters.

1.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Superintendent Walters said I am very excited about the work going on in our CareerTech centers. Since the last board meeting Kendra Wesson and I have visited a couple Technology Centers. I have appreciated CareerTech letting us know about new programs, we are very excited about the

new school year getting to see the students at the Technology Center. I do appreciate the work that has been done over the summer in the Technology Centers and at CareerTech with so much activity around new programs. I am constantly impressed with the flexibility and agility of our CareerTech System to make changes inside existing programs to be more aligned with where industry is and then the ability to start up new programs in such a quick manner. I want to tell the CareerTech System and the board how impressed I am with the programs that we are going to see launch this fall.

1.04 DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS –MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR

Director Haken said good morning and thank you for being here. We are like superintendent said, ready to get the school year started! A lot of our schools are starting today so kind of a big day across the state in our schools and in our tech centers. One of the things that I wanted to let you know, like superintendent said, we have pushed hard on technology centers to engage in growth to make sure that we are serving more students, whether it is adults or secondary students.

Green Country reported to me yesterday they are at 112 percent capacity! They are expanding and doing everything that they can. They are up 100 students, which is huge in in their little Tech Center District.

Central Technology added three new programs this year, and like superintendent said, that is happening across the state.

One of the goals that we have put forth to our Technology Centers is full-time program enrollments. Over the next five years, need to increase by 10,000 students. That is more than they have increased since the early 70's. We need growth, people are craving technical training. We are working hard to make that goal happen.

Within the agency we need to lead, and as you know, we have hired several new people to make sure that happens. We are currently still in search of an Academic Affairs director.

The Agency recently completed a director survey. This is one of the initiatives that I have wanted to launch in the agency. This helps to be reflective of the work that we do and to see if the people within our agency feel that it is meaningful. I started that off by giving everyone on staff an opportunity to review me. We just got those results back yesterday, and our Human Relations Department is reviewing the information. I will present it to you soon to show what the staff feels the direction of the agency is and we can make adjustments as needed.

Many of us at the Agency and in Technology Centers recently attended Summit, which is a partnership activity with our membership organization, OkACTE. This is a great event that took place in Tulsa and hosted over four thousand educators. This event allowed them to get professional development and encouragement to get the year started. You will hear a full presentation on that here in just a moment.

We are going to be talking today about the initiatives in the first reading of our budget request. It will be really good time for you to engage and ask questions. We look forward to that dialogue, and I thank you for being here today.

1.05 MINUTES OF THE July 24, 2023, SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Edward Hilliary moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2023, special meeting. Ms. Shaelynn Haning seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Randy Gilbert, abstain
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Edward Hilliary, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Ms. Kendra Wesson, yes
Mr. Ryan Walters, abstain

Motion Carried. A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

2. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2.01 Summit Overview – Ms. Kylie Moulton, Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Ms. Moulton said, Before I give you a recap of 2023, I want to give you a little bit of background on the event. This is the 56th year that CareerTech Educators have met before the new school year for the event once called Summer Conference, August conference, and now Summit. For many of us that attend, we think of it as a CareerTech family reunion. I grew up going to this conference with my mom who was a Family and Consumer Science teacher for 25 years. Our family would come with her, and we would enjoy the hotel pool while she was in meetings. I was in Ag in school, interned at the state department, then I worked at Autry Tech in Enid, and now I am back at the state department. My sister works at High Plains Technology Center in Woodward, and I grew up with half the staff there. When I go to Summit, I get to see my high school Ag teacher, my childhood best friends, my favorite former workers, and my biological family. My story is not unique, and I will show you that later. To a lot of us, it really is a family reunion, where our CareerTech family gets to reconnect and recharge, but we also get to learn from each other.

There are 30 breakout sessions throughout conference with topics ranging from creating a syllabus to personal finance to work-based learning. Summit is an opportunity to network and learn from each other. We also get to celebrate and cheer on our family and friends as they cross the stage to receive their well-deserved recognition.

Now, let's talk about who we celebrated this year. More than 4,000 educational professionals from across the state join together at Summit 2023. July 31st, we had a small awards banquet

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with our keynote speaker, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond. During the banquet, Drummond gave CareerTech support and encouragement to continue the important work we do for Oklahoma.

During the banquet, Oklahoma senator Dwayne Pemberton and Oklahoma representative Brian Hill were awarded with the Distinguished Service Award, and we thank them for their support at the Capitol.

We honored six outstanding new professionals; we awarded Carrie Bailey with the Kaleidoscope award and Brooke Brown for the communications and marketing award.

Twenty Technology Centers were named gold star schools; this is an honor that recognizes districts that have gone above and beyond their accreditation standards and met rigorous and demanding criteria.

On August 1st, at 2 p.m., we kicked off General Session.

We began the award recognition with those sponsored by Express Employment. Express donated twenty-seven thousand dollars to our winners!

First, was a familiar face, State Board member Mr. Randy Gilbert, who received the OkACTE Bob Funk Advocate of Excellence Award.

Amber Sutton, one of my former co-workers from Autry Technology Center, received the well-deserved Support Staff Member of the Year award.

We had the Teacher of the Year, Jonathan Walden from Hinton High School, the Post-secondary Professional of the Year, Jonna K. Squires from Mid-America Technology Center, new Teacher of the Year, Wyatt Girth from Tri-County Technology Center.

Our Administrator of the Year was Blake Thomas from Great Plains Technology Center.

Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year was Taylor Odle from Northeast Technology Center.

The Carl Perkins Community Service Award winner was Jody Keith from Northeast Technology Center.

The Dennis Portis Rising Star Award was presented to those who demonstrate leadership, devotion, and a strong commitment to the success of Oklahoma CareerTech.

We also presented the PK-12 Award of Excellence to North Rock Creek Public Schools for their excellent partnership with their CareerTech System and the public school system.

Our Teacher Educator of the year is April Blackwell from Northeast Technology Center.

The Arch Alexander Award, this award is for someone who demonstrates the core qualities of Arch Alexander, who was Francis Tuttle's secondhand man, was given to Jeremy Cowley from Metro Technology Center.

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The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Kathy Corning at Western Technology Center. She has served our system for 40 years.

The Francis Tuttle Award, which is the highest award that we present, was given to Clarence Fortney. Fortney is the superintendent at Great Plains Technology Center.

At the conclusion of the awards portion, we had a great keynote speaker, Kevin Brown. My favorite quote of his presentation was, "Can you look in the mirror and see the faces of the people who made you better, who poured into your life? Who looks in the mirror and sees your face? Who is better because you showed up?"

The breakout sessions continued August 2nd. At this time, each of the 20 divisions went their separate ways around Tulsa to focus on their specific goals and prepare for the year ahead.

During Summit, more than 112,000 people saw our social media posts on at least one of our four platforms. 17,000 people engaged, and this is in just two days. That is a 1,124% increase from the week prior. Our followers grew 137% after seeing our 141 posts.

Those were the highlights of our 2023 CareerTech family reunion.

Randy Gilbert said thank you very much. I was very honored and very humbled to be recognized. Our CareerTech System truly is the best in the nation.

In your presentation, I see a picture of the Attorney General (Gentner Drummond). He comes from the CareerTech System, his grandfather was a previous Ag teacher.

CareerTech affects so many people, in so many different ways.

Kylie Moulton said- I will say you (Randy Gilbert) really do deserve to be recognized for the work that you do. I see you every year at the FFA convention and other CareerTech events. The work that we do is a team effort, so thank you.

Edward Hilliary said, I want to say, you (Kylie Moulton) did a great job on social media. I was not able to attend, but it seems like every 10 minutes I was getting an update of what was going on. You did a good job of making sure everybody was aware of what was going on.

Superintendent Ryan Walters said, there were two things that I heard a lot from Summit; I heard a lot of folks loved the keynote speaker (Kevin Brown), so he must have been something, I heard it from a couple dozen different folk. Also, I kept hearing from people how much they were glad that Randy Gilbert received the (OkACTE Bob Funk Advocate of Excellence) award. Randy is very deserving of that award; he is a great advocate for the CareerTech System.

You all did a great job with your social media of getting the information out. Not everybody can attend Summit, but everybody knew this went on and they knew who the speakers were. Great job of getting that out around the state.

3. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

3.01 Discussion on First Reading of the FY25 Appropriations Request – Mr. Brent Haken, State Director

Director Haken said- you all should have a copy of the first reading or draft of what our appropriations request will look like for this year. You may recognize some of it from last year's, but we have changed the format a little, and I will walk you through that. Our current general appropriation is listed at the top. The next item listed is the statutory requirement for legislation to provide for flex benefit employees. That allowance is an estimate of what it will cost us next year. That is always our first line of ask, so that it is not forgotten. Often, it is thought that that is included, so we must make sure that the legislature remembers that they must fund it.

Next, we have changed the format of the request from what it has been in the last couple years. Our focus now is on what are the individual needs that we need in the state, and how do we meet that need? Everything that you will see in the request is focused on that method.

The 37 million dollars in workforce training request is what is left from last year's request. That request was not met by the legislature. We got three million out of the 40 that was requested and now we are showing why that is needed.

This information will be updated, as of August 25th. I asked all the Technology Centers Superintendents to, once they get their students there, show us where the need really is, where the needs lie. They have an idea from pre-enrollment, but once everything settles out, come back to me, and tell me where there are areas of growth that are needed in your community. That way, we can address what those needs are with our requests.

They have a survey currently and they have begun to fill that out and will continue until August 25th. At that time, I will shut the survey off, and then, we will talk a little more in depth with each superintendent about what their needs are.

Incarcerated individual workforce, that is our Skill Center programs. We want to make sure that people understand what skill center means, because not everybody knows what a skills center is. That is our training for the incarcerated individuals in our state.

We have had great success with that program with a 90 or better percent placement rate every year.

On average, we are at 5 to 6% recidivism rate. Our Skills Centers are very successful programs that every state in the country is trying to model and do what we are doing.

We want to add new programs so that we can reach a larger population of incarcerated individuals.

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We release 6,000- 7,000 inmates every year. We cannot train all of them; some of them do not meet the criteria. They may be immediately released, or they were a one-night incarceration, but there is a lot more that we can do.

Our goal is to get to 1,750 inmates a year. We are going to try to do that over the next five years, so we've requested 750,000.

One of the big requests there you will see, is transition coordinators. The biggest hindrance to an inmate going back to the workforce is, how do I get to the job, how do I find a way to get back home, how do I get work boots, those types of services.

We need to make sure that we can provide that, so that they become taxpayers not tax users.

Construction trades is a growing need. Dr. Lockwood's been training our new superintendent, and they just met with a company last week to talk about the program that CareerTech can build for them, so that company can hire 600 employees.

Currently, that company cannot fill their needs, so we are looking at building a program specifically for their type of construction, and then other employers may jump on as well. There is a lot of need in that space.

The Empowered by Oklahoma CareerTech program is a new brand of what we have been doing with TANF services and partnership with DHS.

DHS has requested that we bring forward a new proposal of how we can better serve individuals in need. That will include, probably, other government programs as well such as SNAP EBT.

Families that qualify for those services need educational training so that they can get a leg up. We are proposing how to wrap our arms around that service and make sure that they can be a part of the CareerTech family and get into a high-wage, high-need job. That is a why we have that proposal there.

The Career and Technology Expansion Program is because we have a large expansion need in western Oklahoma.

If you look at the Panhandle, in much of that area there are not CareerTech services available. That is going to come at a cost to start up, then it will sustain itself with tax dollars. If the taxpayers were to vote that in, that could be a one-time startup cost to help them get programs going immediately. That is the reason we have that request.

That brings us to the total of \$41,750,000. Again, this is the first reading of this, but it is a great time for us to have discussions around these ideas or maybe other ideas that you have.

A discussion was had among the Board.

4. MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

- 4.01 Discussion and possible vote on CareerTech hiring policy within the CareerTech Employment Guidebook and Policies Manual and Oklahoma Administrative Code
4.02 780:1-5-1- Mr. Brent Haken, State Director

Director Haken said, This Board item is here due to a request from the special Board meeting that we had last month in Stillwater.

The reason that we had to have that meeting was because the hiring policy requires a board vote to hire pay bands 14 and above.

During the meeting, it was asked of Nikki Batt, who joined us from the Attorney General office, to look into the hiring policy from a legal perspective and what it would require making changes. We appreciate Nikki and what she does from the AG's office to help us understand legal processes.

You have in front of you how the policy reads. From our hiring standpoint, there could be changes made to that, and Nikki will have to help us if we need to make those changes. This is open for discussion. That the Board members requested that we look at the policy and see if that is where we want to be, or if we want to move more like a lot of agencies, and have the director makes hirings up to a higher rate.

CareerTech goes up to pay band 20, and currently pay band 14 and above must be brought to Board for approval. I did not present a recommendation for this, as this was a request from you all, and I would happily entertain any thoughts that you have.

A discussion was had among the Board.

Ms. Shaelynn Haning moved to approve the amendment on CareerTech hiring policy within the CareerTech Employment Guidebook and Policies Manual and Oklahoma Administrative Code 780:1-5-1 – which will increase the need for Board approval to grade 17 and above. Mr. Edward Hilliary seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Edward Hilliary, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Ms. Kendra Wesson, yes
Mr. Ryan Walters, yes


Motion Carried. A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

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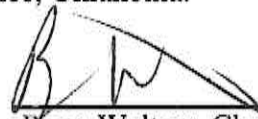
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will convene at Gordon Cooper Technology Center, 1 John C. Bruton Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma.



Ashley Zemp, Executive Assistant
to the CareerTech State Director and
Secretary of the CareerTech Board



Ryan Walters, Chair of the Board

