



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
SPECIALIZING IN HIRE EDUCATION

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DRAFT

Full Council Meeting
Cape Henlopen High School
1250 Kings Highway
Lewes, DE 19958

ATTENDANCE

Mark Freidly, Karen Hutchison, Mark Reeve, Richard Jester, Col. Timothy Hoyle (virtual), Connie Fox, Briana Catalon (virtual), Ronald Burkle, Nello Paoli (virtual), Dr. Hill-Shaner (DOE), Christopher Stahl, and Caitlin Rozell(virtual), and Mr. Coulter (AP Cape Henlopen HS)

Dr. Hutchison called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Coulter highlighted Cape Henlopen High School's CTE.

APPORVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Fox moved to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2025, Council Meeting as presented. Mr. Freidly seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

The Budgetary Expenditure Report was discussed. Mr. Freidly moved to accept the report as presented. Mrs. Fox seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

DOE UPDATE

An update was given from Dr. Hill-Shaner from DOE.

Statewide PD Day, DACCTE participated. There was lots of trainings for teachers and Administrators, both virtual and in person format.

Programs of Study- 60 turned in across the state.

Innovation Grants are being turned in and moving to districts.

Program Adoption Model has changed. It explained how many stakeholders participated.

Discussed State Teacher Pathway Model and the redesign of other models.

Discussed staffing changes in CTE workgroup, Sarah Bell is the new Education Associate for Agriculture.

Shift in Fiscal resources- Apprenticeship Block group to go to DOL

Legislative Priorities- WBL Language updates and Giveback language.

Creative Economy Legislation- reviewing to ensure it meets CTE requirements. Some pathways may be better off than others due to data not reported. The report will be coming out in February.

Red Clay is turning McKean into a CTE Innovation Center. DOE is trying to work with them now.

US DOE invited NCCVT to give an award with the Secretary of Education.

Volunteer guide for CTSO's can go to Community organizations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Stahl welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Mr. Stahl announced that program visits for Fall 2025 are almost complete. Polytech High School will be the last visit for the fall. All visit reports will be posted by early January. There was a total of 19 schools in total for the Fall visits.

Mr. Stahl stated that DACCTE presented to Smyrna High School Teacher Academy class on October 13, 2025, on the topic of CTE funding in the State of DE.

Mr. Stahl reported that on October 13, 2025, the FY26 Budget proposal was turned into OMB.

Mr. Stahl mentioned that DACCTE attended the High School CTSO Fall Leadership Conference on October 14, 2025. Every CTSO in the state attended except FFA (they hold their own conference)

On October 15, 2025, Mr. Stahl mentioned he met with Representative Hilovsky introducing DACCTE and discussed CTE.

Mr. Stahl mentioned that all new Council members had a DACCTE orientation meeting since the last Council meeting. He stated it was great being able to discuss DACCTE with each new member and to discuss CTE with each of them.

Mr. Stahl stated that on October 30, 2025, Mrs. Rozell and himself both attended the DE Pathways Guiding Coalition meeting in Wilmington at the Junior Achievement Campus. It was a stakeholder group of about 15 people representing DOE, Del Tech, United Way, etc. Future meetings are being planned.

On November 3, 2025, Mr. Stahl mentioned he attended the Student Success Plan meeting held at Smyrna Library. The meeting was attended by many stakeholders, and it focused on updating the Student Success Plan to be a viable document that can be used by all school districts in Delaware. It will be used as a “roadmap” for students to potentially from Middle School-Post Secondary. Currently it is a High School document. Future meetings are planned at the Smyrna Library as well.

Mr. Stahl stated he has continued to attend the Public Education Funding Committee meetings. They have been virtual. He also stated that he has reached out to Senator Sturgeon that leads the meetings to let her know that anytime she would like to discuss CTE and its funding, to please let him know.

Mr. Stahl mentioned that Mr. Freidly and Dr. Hutchison have both been by the new DACCTE office in Dover for a tour. He let all other Council members know that all are welcomed to stop by anytime.

Mr. Stahl stated that on November 19, 2025, DACCTE attended the WBL roundtable meeting hosted by DOE. Furter meetings are being planned.

On November 29, 2025, DACCTE had an OMB Budget presentation in person at the DE Archives. Dr. Hutchison and himself both attended, and Mrs. Breeding attended virtually. Mr. Stahl went on and explained this is the first step in a series of meetings to begin the budget approval for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Stahl stated that the meeting went well and said that we received a multitude of questions from the roughly 12-person panel that included OMB Directors and Representative Williams.

Mr. Stahl stated that on December 3, 2025, DACCTE attended the CTE Cadre meeting at Wilmington University in Dover. Numerous CTE updates were discussed. Future meetings are being planned.

Mr. Stahl mentioned that on December 4, 2025, Mrs. Rozell and himself helped judge the Ed Rising competition at Smyrna High School, the total of attendance for students and judges was around 350.

Mr. Stahl mentioned that DACCTE attended the Caesar Rodney high School Holiday Showcase. This was an advisory meeting held during the day at the high school showcasing their programs and giving an opportunity for Advisory members to talk with teachers, visit classrooms, and talk with students. There were around 40 people in attendance.

Mr. Stahl stated that he had renewed his CDCC Chamber membership in December instead of January to receive a \$25 discount on dues. We paid \$325 instead of \$350 for calendar year 2025 membership.

Mr. Stahl announced that Spring school visit dates had gone to school admin., and a lot of them are already confirmed. The dates will be going to the Council for members to sign up to participate in visits very soon.

Mr. Stahl stated that as it stands this year there are 839 Division 1 CTE staffing units earned. This number is based on the September 30th Unit Count each year. This year's total shows an increase of 2 units over last year's number of 837. The growth this year is overall enrollment numbers for Districts throughout the state.

Mr. Stahl also stated that updated Unit Count information has been received to be able to calculate the 509 (vocational funds) sheets for schools and all schools that received last year's data due to the scheduled time of their visit, new update totals are being sent to them.

Mr. Stahl stated that the CTE Month Poster Contest has around 70 entries. DACCTE has selected a committee to participate with partners at DOE and DOL (Career Compass) to select a winner. They are meeting in January in Wilmington.

Mr. Stahl stated that DACCTE is a partner with DOE in a movement "Giveback" language as a priority. We will see where it goes from here, but stated that we are slowly getting more traction on the issue.

Mr. Stahl announced that DOE has a new CTE Associate- Mrs. Sarah Bell, she is the CTE Associate for Agriculture and other assigned areas. She started with DOE on November 3, 2025.

Mr. Stahl stated that DACCTE is participating with the DOE Health Science Program Revision Advisory Committee. These are on-going meetings with educators, industry representatives, etc. To construct a new curriculum for the state. All Career Clusters are beginning to do this in a new format, and we expect to be on more of these as they gear up.

Mr. Stahl mentioned that he is currently working on an updated CTE Proclamation for CTE Month February 2026. Representative Gorman and Senator Sokola have agreed to sponsor the CTE

Proclamation again this year and we appreciate all their support. The Proclamation will be sent to them soon. More information will be communicated as the Proclamation develops.

HANDOUTS

- ~ October Meeting Minutes
- ~ Vocational Division 1 Units Chart (received in email)

OLD BUSINESS

SREB Funding Support- Motion was on table, Mrs. Fox moved to accept, and Mr. Freidly seconded the motion. Mr. Stahl to meet with Mr. Fitzgerald to ask questions and to try and meet with one of the 14 SREB participants.

NEW BUSINESS

DACCTE Awards (Middle Grade)- Mr. Jester moved to accept, and Mrs. Fox seconded the motion. This is to award a Middle Grade student and teacher with an outstanding award at our April Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Richard Jester talked about his AI program and Educator PD.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

The next DACCTE meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026.

BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fox moved to adjourn the business meeting. Mr. Reeve seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Let the minutes reflect that the General Public had access to the information regarding this meeting. There was no one that attended or commented.

Mr. Stahl thanked everyone again for attending and wished everyone a great night.