

**STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
TUTTLE SEMINAR CENTER
1500 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA**

JUNE 18, 2026

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2026, in the Tuttle Seminar Center at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, 1500 West Seventh Avenue, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice of the meeting and the final agenda were posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act prior to 8:59 a.m. on June 17, 2026, in accordance with 25 O.S. § 311(9).

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

Mr. Lindel Fields, state superintendent of public instruction and chair of the board
Mr. Brent Haken, state director, ex-officio nonvoting member
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
Mr. Peter Dillingham, Enid
Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa
Mr. Leonard McCullough, Tulsa
Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education who were absent:

Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mr. Michael Brown, Lawton

Attendees from the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and other guests:

See Attachment A.

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Fields called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Ashley Rink called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the Oklahoma State Flag and a moment of silence were led by Superintendent Fields.

1.03 OPENING COMMENTS

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mr. Lindel Fields welcomed those in attendance.

1.04 DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Haken provided updates on the upcoming CareerTech leadership planning retreat, which will be held in conjunction with the Technology Center Superintendents' meeting. He reported that the agency's strategic planning process is nearing completion and that the finalized strategic plan is expected to be presented to the Board in August.

Director Haken also shared that the biennial Return on Investment (ROI) study, conducted by UC Economics, is nearing completion and will be released soon.

Additionally, Director Haken reminded Board members of the upcoming Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation Golf Tournament and preparations for the CareerTech Summit.

1.05 MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard McCullough and seconded by Mr. Peter Dillingham to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026, regular meeting as presented.

Voting Results:

Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, absent
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Randy Gilbert arrived at 9:05 a.m. just before agenda item 2.01.

2 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2.01 STATE STAFF MEETING SUMMARY WITH POSSIBLE DISCUSSION – DR. JUSTIN LOCKWOOD, CHIEF OF STAFF.

Dr. Lockwood provided a summary of the June State Staff Meeting, highlighting revisions to the meeting format designed to encourage greater collaboration across agency divisions in response to employee feedback received through the agency's 360 evaluations and strategic planning process. He reported that staff from across the agency presented information about their respective divisions and that the meeting emphasized employee recognition and cross-divisional awareness.

Dr. Lockwood recognized the recipients of the 2026 State Staff Awards:

Rising Star Awards: Dustin Ford and Colton Duncan

Spotlight Award: Lance Ali

Team Award: Career Counseling and Career Development (CCD) Team

Dr. Lockwood also recognized two employees for receiving external professional honors:

Tonja Norwood, who was inducted into the Oklahoma TSA Hall of Fame.

Julie Childers, recipient of the High Road Leadership Award presented by the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA).

In response to a Board member's question, Dr. Lockwood discussed ongoing implementation of changes to high school graduation requirements and noted that House Bill 3021 will require additional outreach and guidance for schools during the coming year.

2.02 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF 2025–2026 OKLAHOMA CAREERTECH STUDENT ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Director Haken presented highlights from the 2025–2026 Oklahoma CareerTech Student Organization (CTSO) conference season on behalf of the CTSO team. He reported that CareerTech student organizations served more than 35,000 students through leadership development, technical skills competitions, community service, and career preparation activities. He also noted that the conferences generated significant economic impact for Oklahoma communities and provided substantial scholarships, awards, and industry support to participating students.

Director Haken highlighted continued membership growth and record participation across several CTSOs, including milestone achievements by Oklahoma FFA, HOSA, FCCLA, TSA, DECA, Business Professionals of America, and SkillsUSA.

During discussion, a Board member asked whether community service hours completed by CTSO members are tracked statewide. Director Haken responded that some organizations currently track volunteer service hours and that the agency is exploring options to implement a more comprehensive tracking system, including the potential to incorporate volunteer service data into future Return on Investment (ROI) studies.

3 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

3.01 DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGY CENTER FUNDING – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Director Haken reviewed the implementation of the Technology Center funding formula, noting that FY 2027 marks the second year of implementation. He explained that the formula is designed to promote greater equity among technology centers by considering factors such as local ad valorem revenue, program offerings, student service rates, and instructional expenditures.

Director Haken reviewed funding comparisons for FY 2026 and FY 2027, including the impact of the Legislature's \$4.5 million increase in appropriations. He reported that the funding formula is functioning as intended to help offset disparities in local revenue while encouraging accountability in program utilization and student enrollment.

During discussion, Board members asked questions regarding funding increases for specific technology centers, the relationship between local property tax collections and state funding, and the accountability measures incorporated into the funding formula. Director Haken explained that funding adjustments are based on changes in local ad valorem collections and the formula's equity measures rather than population growth. He also noted that the formula encourages technology centers to maintain enrollment in qualifying programs and to monitor program capacity and resource allocation.

3.02 REPORT AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MR. LEONARD MCCULLOUGH, BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR.

Mr. McCullough reported that the Board Personnel Committee, established at the previous Board meeting, had convened twice via virtual meetings. He stated that the committee worked to better understand the agency's operational needs, provide input on the qualifications for the proposed Chief Operations Officer position, and assist in developing the position's role in support of the agency's strategic goals.

Mr. McCullough reported that the position was posted internally and externally for a 14-day recruitment period. As of the meeting date, 36 applications were received, with nine applicants meeting the initial qualifications. He noted that the committee would continue to assist Director Haken throughout the interview process.

During discussion, Board members requested additional information regarding the purpose of the Chief Operations Officer position. Mr. McCullough explained that the position is intended to strengthen the agency's operational leadership, allowing the State Director to maintain focus on strategic initiatives while ensuring effective day-to-day operations.

Director Haken expressed appreciation for the committee's guidance throughout the recruitment process and reported that interviews would begin following the close of the application period. He stated that a recommendation for the position could be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

4 MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

4.01 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE DISTANCE EDUCATION ACCREDITATION FOR GREAT PLAINS TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9 PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM – MR. JOEY VANEK, ACCREDITATION MANAGER.

Mr. Vanek reported that the Accreditation Division conducted an on-site review of Great Plains Technology Center's proposed distance education Practical Nursing Program at the Frederick Campus on June 2, 2026. He stated that the program met all required accreditation standards, with no areas of noncompliance identified. Accreditation staff recommended approval of the program's distance education accreditation.

Representatives from Great Plains Technology Center, including Superintendent Joel Jolly, provided an overview of the proposed program. They explained that the program is intended to expand access to practical nursing education in rural Oklahoma while maintaining the same academic standards, clinical experiences, and student outcomes as the existing program. They also noted that only the didactic portion of the curriculum would be delivered through distance education, while all clinical instruction, skills assessments, and student evaluations would remain in person.

During discussion, Board members asked questions regarding the structure of the program, student support, and the percentage of instruction delivered through distance education. Mr. Vanek explained that the proposed program includes approximately 45 percent distance education and noted that CareerTech has not approved programs exceeding 50 percent distance education due to the hands-on nature of CareerTech instruction.

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Mr. Peter Dillingham moved to approve the distance education accreditation for the Great Plains Technology Center School District No. 9 Practical Nursing Program. Ms. Shaelynn Haning seconded the motion.

Voting Results:

Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

**4.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION FY27
BUDGET – MS. LISA BATCHELDER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, AND MS.
DANIELLE KIPP, FINANCE MANAGER.**

Ms. Kipp presented the proposed FY27 Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education budget. She reviewed the agency's projected revenues and expenditures, highlighting the increase in state appropriations, changes in federal grant funding, continuation of apprenticeship and workforce grants, and the addition of a new Rural Health Grant to support high school practical nursing programs in rural communities. She reported a proposed FY27 budget totaling **\$239,957,797**, supported by projected revenues of **\$227,748,743** and available carryover funds.

During discussion, Board members asked questions regarding the increase in Perkins supplemental funding, the purpose of the Rural Health Grant, and the projected carryover balance. Agency staff explained that the Perkins supplemental funding reflects grant awards that have not yet been allocated, the Rural Health Grant will support the expansion of rural high school practical nursing programs, and the projected carryover is primarily attributable to delayed capital projects and unexpended funds reserved for employee benefit adjustments.

Mr. Ryan Deatherage moved to approve the proposed FY27 Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education Budget. Ms. Shaelynn Haning seconded the motion.

Voting Results:

Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes

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Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

**4.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE STATE BOARD MEETING
LOCATION ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE
DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.**

Director Haken recommended that the September 17, 2026, State Board meeting be held at Canadian Valley Technology Center. He noted that Canadian Valley has expanded its programming by offering evening programs that mirror its daytime offerings to meet increased student demand, providing an opportunity for the Board to observe the technology center's growth and initiatives.

Mr. Leonard McCullough moved to approve Canadian Valley Technology Center as the location for the September 17, 2026, State Board meeting. Mr. Peter Dillingham seconded the motion.

Voting Results:

Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

**4.04 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE STATE BOARD MEETING
LOCATION ON NOVEMBER 19, 2026 – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE
DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.**

Director Haken discussed potential locations for the November 19, 2026, State Board meeting. Board members discussed possible locations in the Tulsa area, including Tulsa Technology Center and other potential sites. Director Haken noted the importance of selecting a location that can accommodate meeting technology needs and requested additional time to evaluate available options.

The item was tabled pending further review and a future recommendation from Director Haken.

4.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 25 O.S. 2011, § 307 (B)(1) RELATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL SALARIED EMPLOYEES: MR. JOE BOLENE, PRESS OPERATOR, AND MR. DALE CLAWSON, DIGITAL BINDERY JOURNEY WORKER. – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

SHOULD THE BOARD ENTER THE EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT OF MR. BOLENE AND MR. CLAWSON, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN:

- a. VOTE TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- b. DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT OF MR. JOE BOLENE AND MR. DALE CLAWSON**
- c. VOTE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**
- d. POSSIBLE VOTE ON ANY ACTION REGARDING SUBJECTS OF THE PROPOSED**
- e. EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Director Haken recommended that the Board does not enter executive session unless requested by a Board member. He recommended proceeding with termination actions regarding Mr. Joe Bolene and Mr. Dale Clawson.

No motion was made to enter executive session.

Mr. Leonard McCullough moved to approve Director Haken's recommendation regarding the employment of Mr. Joe Bolene and Mr. Dale Clawson. Mr. Randy Gilbert seconded the motion.

Voting Results:

Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business requiring action.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

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The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

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



Lindel Fields, State Superintendent
of Public Instruction and Chair of the Board

State Director OK CareerTech



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

