

REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING December 17, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on December 17, 2025.

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Tori Manzi, Bob Duke, Taylor Pohlman	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Paul Coster*, Nick Keeney, Loren Andrews*	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Seth Hall, Julie Swindler, Danny Jackson, Matt Speno	(77.89/ea.)
SAD 7	Jerry White	(7.49)
SAD 8	Yvonne Thomas	(24.58)
St. George	Mike Felton*	(54.68)

Bobby Deetjen, Director; Sherry Moody, Business Mgr., Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord., Scott Browning, Asst Director; Danica Wooster, J. Bakley

*Attended via Zoom

Absent – Amelia Grant

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 848.82**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – Adjust name of agenda item 7C to Ad Hoc Committee on K-8 CTE Programming

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular October 24th board meeting

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 770.93

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Yes	Grant (69.62): Absent	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Abstain	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Absent	Speno(77.89): Yes
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by White, to approve the minutes of the regular November 19th board meeting

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 848.82

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Yes	Grant (69.62): Absent	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Yes	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Absent	Speno(77.89): Yes
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

[Pohlman arrived 6:02 PM]

REPORT TO BOARD ON ACTE VISION CONFERENCE

Kristy reported she attended the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) national conference in Nashville, TN with Rich Barratt and Danica Wooster. She had several key takeaways from the conference including marketing techniques and harvesting new ideas from CTE schools across the country. Connecting with Maine CTE and national CTE networking were also key to the group. Kristy presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the experience. Kristy spoke about her desire to hold a national signing day at MCST. She spoke about using "key phrases" to attract students into various programs at MCST. Another key concept she learned about is "Words are your Superpower" which focuses on language students can use and shared a rubric as an example. Kristy spoke about what student success looks like and ways to measure their success including industry credentials and work experience. Danica spoke about meeting other Special Education teachers from other states and plans to continue networking with them in the future. Taylor asked about statistics on earning potential for CTE students in the workforce. He also asked about the impact of AI and how it was discussed at the conference. Scott spoke to the Board about a recent workshop he attended in Bangor on AI, sponsored by Educate Maine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

The committee met and reviewed the warrants for November and December and the November 30th financial report. Matt also discussed the latest wealth management report dated November 30.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by White, to accept and approve the warrants for November and December and the budget report for November.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 918.44

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Yes	Grant (69.62): Absent	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Yes	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by White, to approve second reading of Policy EFC – School Nutrition Services: Free School Meals for All Students (New/Revised)

Paul asked for clarification on the free and reduced guidelines mentioned in the policy.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 918.44

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Yes	Grant (69.62): Absent	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Yes	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON K-8 CTE PROGRAMMING

Matt Speno spoke about his research on K-8 programming for CTE. He shared his excitement with the Board. Matt plans to meet with the board committee members in January. State law already allows for CTE education for Middle School students. Paul expressed his concern that we would be stepping on curriculum in our sending schools. [Mike Felton exited the meeting at 6:45 PM.] Bobby explained how Chapter 232 governs CTE Education. He felt that the concept of K-8 CTE programming has been met with great success in St. George and we can ease into a process with our sending schools as well. Matt used a PowerPoint presentation to outline his goals for the committee which includes finding out the needs of each school and what we can offer in terms of CTE programming. [Loren Andrews exited the meeting at 6:58 PM.] [Paul Coster exited the meeting 7:02 PM.] Several board members mentioned their concerns about the disruption to curriculum in our sending schools and potential issues as a result.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby informed the Board that he is meeting with the Facilities Committee on January 5th. He discussed a specific issue regarding our DEP Stormwater permit that was issued in 2017. We have been in touch with Bill Lane at Gartley Dorsky regarding the original permit. Bobby is part of a working group reviewing Chapter 232 which has not been revised in forty years. We have wrapped up almost all our preliminary budget meetings with teachers. The online student application is now live in Camden and will be soon in Medomak and Oceanside high schools. Student tours will begin in January for eighth graders in the region. Bobby and Heidi Nolan met with Fisher Engineering to discuss a cooperative welding program. SteelPro is also interested in a partnership with us as well. Danny asked if we can have an update on negotiations at the next board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Next Board Meeting: January 28, 2026

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary