



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on April 12, 2023 at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Denham Ward; Ryan Hafener; and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent with Excuse: Wendy Ault and Edmond Morin

Others Present: Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs; Valerie Chiang, School Construction Coordinator; Doug Breer; Patrick Carroll; B. Colbry; Mallory Cook; Nichi Farnham; Norman Higgins; Andy Johnson; Grace Leavitt; Jonathan Moody; Titus O'Rourke; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll call was taken by Chair Desjardins. The chair declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Joshua Leinwand: The vision of the Maine State Board of Education is that all students will receive a high-quality education leading to graduation with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be prepared for future learning, careers, and life.

POEM READING:

Read by Victoria Kornfield – "Six Seasons" by Kurt Vonnegut.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted five in favor, one abstention (Denham Ward) to accept the March 8, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the March 28, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Norman Higgins addressed the Board regarding a Maine Charter School Commission representative. The Charter School Commission is comprised of seven members, three being members of the State Board of Education. With Wilson Hess no longer serving on the State Board, he is looking for a Board member to fill the vacant seat. He encouraged the State Board of Education to fill the open position as soon as possible.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

➤ **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- Edmond Morin was appointed Chair to the Career & Technical Education Committee.

➤ **APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Chair Desjardins appointed Kristin Bishop as Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee with Wendy Ault and Thomas Keller as members of the Committee. Dr. Keller was appointed Election Clerk. The Committee will submit a slate of officers at the May 10, 2023 business meeting and the Board will vote at the June 14 meeting. Officers will begin their duties on July 1.

Nomination forms for the chair and vice chair positions will be emailed to all members of the board.

- Fern and Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau held orientation on April 11 for

Dr. Denham Ward, new member of the Maine State Board of Education filling Seat #9 that was held by Wilson G. Hess. All seats on the State Board are filled.

- Fern testified Against L.D. 617 An Act to Foster Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools by Creating an Additional Pathway to Certify Industrial Arts Teachers and she attended the Work Session for L.D. 485 Resolve, to Amend the Rules Regarding Athletic Director Qualifications. Paulette and Fern wrote testimony in support of: L.D. 1018 An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing and Paulette presented it to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.
- NASBE
 - Fern attended the March 19-21, 2023 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., along with board members Wilson Hess, Kristin Bishop, and student member Ryan Hafener.
 - March 19 – Board of Directors meeting – Members received an update on the Strategic Plan, NASBE Operations, and discussed a number of policies and issues. All committees reported out on their recent meetings.
 - NASBE and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) held a joint reception with “Clips and Conversation” on The Documentary Film, The Right to Read. Speakers were LeVar Burton, Kareem Weaver and Jenny Mackenzie.
 - U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona joined attendees for an inspiring address on the last morning of the conference.
 - Sessions Fern attended:
 - Stronger Together: State Leaders Collaborate for Education Success
 - Expanding and Sustaining School Health Services
 - Preparing to Navigate the Federal Landscape
 - Let's Do the Math! Data-Informed Strategies for Math Achievement
 - Strategies for Keeping Great Teachers in Schools
 - The Future of High School
 - Empowering Student Leaders on State Boards of Education. Speakers were MSBE student member Ryan Hafener, China Jones-Burgess (student SBE member in DC), Lu Young (SBE member in KY) and Caroline Hendrie (Board of Directors, Open Campus Media).
 - Kristin and Fern visited with staff members of Senator Collins

and Ryan joined them in visiting with a staff member of Senator King's office.

- April 3 – Office Hours
All4Ed presented their report, *Undermeasuring*, which suggests college and career readiness indicators may be undermeasuring students' postsecondary potential.
- Fern, Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, and NASBE President and CEO Paolo DeMaria interviewed for accounting services at NASBE.
- New Member Institute for state board members seated in the last 18 months will take place virtually on June 28, July 26, and August 30 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- On March 14, 2023, Paulette attended a special Career & Technical Education Committee Meeting to discuss and determine the use of carryover Perkins Targeted Reserve Funds, which will be voted on today.
- On March 3, 2023, she attended a Certification & Higher Education Committee Meeting regarding the Roux Institute and a follow up meeting on March 17, 2023 with Sarah Forster. Sarah provided great guidance on steps to take going forward.
- Paulette presented testimony on L.D. 1018 An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing.
- She attended the Public Education Positions Committee Meeting for NASBE on March 6, 2023. The next meeting is April 18, 2023.
- Paulette attended the last CTE meeting that Wilson Hess chaired. He passed the gavel to Edmond Morin, who will be the new CTE Committee Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on March 31, 2023.

- The committee recommended a Design and Funding Approval consideration for RSU 54's new PreK-5 school construction project, which will be taken up under New Business.
- The committee reached agreement for a recommendation to the State Board on reducing the moveable equipment budget to

encourage the use of existing district owned equipment in future Major Capital Construction Projects. The recommendation will be voted on under New Business.

- The superintendents of RSU 1 and MSAD 33 attended the meeting to present their situations with the fires that destroyed their schools, answer questions from the committee, and to get a better understanding of the intent of the Emergency Project provision in Rule Chapter 61.
- The committee discussed with Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs, bills in the Legislature on school construction and renovations.
- Maine IT is developing a data platform to gather facilities data on all PK-12 public schools. Data collection for the inventory will begin this summer.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

No report for the committee.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on March 14 and March 23, 2023.

- On March 14, 2023 the CTE Committee voted to carry forward the remaining Perkins V Targeted Reserve Grant Funds to FY24. This will be voted on today.
- Donna Tiner received the Perkins amounts for FY24. She is going through the process of figuring out all the amounts for Secondary and Post-Secondary. Maine saw a slight increase.
- State CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported that through a partnership with MDOE and the Department of Labor, both Somerset Career and Technical Center and Foster Career and Technical Center each received MJRP funds for apprenticeships.
- Dwight also reported there is a \$20 million bond sitting in the budget. It's focused on equipment and infrastructure. It will be another opportunity for CTEs to do some upgrades.
- Mercedes Pour, with the Community College Systems, reported the data sharing agreement with MDOE is moving forward, and two Advisors hired from the Davis Grant are imbedded in four CTEs in Maine.

- Dave Keaton, with MACTE, attended the 2023 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and had the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill to discuss several topics with Legislative Staff, and invited them to visit Maine CTEs.
- CTE Directors will be meeting with the Curriculum Leaders Association to start work on barriers associated with CTE and possibly creating templates which may be shared with the State.
- Julie Kenny and Bobby Deetjen reported that schools are in the middle of recruitment and application season. More students are applying than before, which will present a capacity challenge for some schools.
- Jason Judd, with Educate Maine reported they are one of the recipients of the Department of Labor Apprenticeship Expansion Grant. In addition, they were just approved as an intermediary sponsor for an HVAC Technician apprenticeship with the Jackson Laboratory. They are releasing RFPs this month for December's Educate Maine Symposium, and CTE proposals can be submitted through June.
- Wilson Hess was thanked for his commitment and contributions to the CTE Committee and passed the gavel to Edmond Morin.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee meets every Friday at noon.

- Edmond Morin will testify on L.D. 1158 An Act to Recognize the Critical Nature of Workforce Development Through Career and Technical Education by Establishing an Adjustment for Career and Technical Education Centers in the School Funding Formula.
- Fern Desjardins has prepared testimony on L.D. 1333 An Act to Protect Children by Modernizing Internet and Digital Media Filtering Requirements for Education.
- Fern has also prepared testimony on L.D. 1415 An Act to Expand Access to School Construction Funding.
- Wendy Ault has prepared testimony on L.D. 1217 Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program for Alternative Teacher Certification.
- Wendy will also prepare testimony on L.D. 1366 An Act to Address Educational Technician Shortages in Public Schools by Establishing an Alternative Certification Pathway.
- Fern has testified and participated in the work session for L.D. 485 Resolve, to Amend the Rules Regarding Athletic Director Qualifications.

- Fern and members of the Charter School Commission have prepared testimony on L.D. 1089 An Act Regarding the Authorization of Public Charter Schools.
- We are waiting for a work session on L.D. 1018 An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing.

Student Voices (Joshua Leinwand and Ryan Hafener):

The Student Voices Committee met on April 10, 2023.

- Discussed the DOE Student Cabinet.
- Ryan attended and participated in the 2023 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Discussed Ryan's presentation for the Workshop session.
- Joshua will be attending Accepted Student Days soon and hopes to solidify where he will be attending college.
- They will be attending the NASBE Student Engagement Collaborative, which will be on Student Wide Dissemination of Information.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on March 27, 2023.

- Began discussions on the upcoming summer retreat. Penny Bishop, with UMaine, is very interested in participating in the Board retreat.
- On May 2, 2023 the committee will meet with Joseph Marro, Governor Mills' Educational Policy Analyst and Liaison.

The next meeting will be held on May 2, 2023.

Student Membership Committee (Edmond Morin):

- The committee met on March 20, 2023 and reviewed the applications, and as required, selected six applications for Zoom interviews, which took place March 28, 2023.
- From the 6, three applicants were chosen and sent to the governor in order of preference, as set out in statute, along with their application materials.
- Members of the committee commented on how impressed they were with the high quality of the students who applied this year. A lot of impressive credentials, recommendations, and written essays were submitted.

- Letters and/or emails were sent to each of the applicants to thank them for their submissions and let them know whether they were selected or not.
- Edmond thanked committee members James and Joshua for all their work and to Fern and Paulette for the invaluable information they provided. He also thanked Sandy for all the work she's done to make this process possible.
- Joshua reiterated how impressive the top three applicants were, and how lucky we will be regardless of who Governor Mills selects as his replacement.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield and Thomas Keller):

The Charter School Commission met on April 11, 2023.

- Last monthly meeting was held at the Ecology Learning Center in Unity. Their projects and atmosphere were very impressive.
- Spoke of finances and performance of schools. Reviewed Community Regional Charter School and Maine Academy of Natural Sciences with their progress and/or lack of progress.
- Executive Director Lana Ewing is doing a fabulous job. She has an extensive schedule for professional development for school leaders as well as commission members.
- The Commission is shifting orientation with lots of new directions to go in.
- Although we will be losing Nichi Farnham, we have good leadership in place. The committee will consist of all new members.
- The school performance framework, site visit manual, and intervention protocols are some tools that public schools could benefit from.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met on April 10, 2023.

- Continuing to work on Improving the Status of Teachers in the State report. PBS would like to present their findings to the State Board of Education at the June or July meeting. Discussions included student behavior and difficulties on getting new teachers certified or recertified.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FY24 BUDGET ALLOCATION OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224)

BACKGROUND: As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224), requires a designated eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020. Further requirements are as follows:

PART A ALLOTMENT and ALLOCATION §112 - WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION

- (a) From the amount allotted to each State for a fiscal year, the eligible agency shall make available—
 - (1) not less than 85 percent for distribution to local eligible recipients
 - (2) not more than 10 percent to carry out State leadership activities
 - (A) not more than 2 percent to serve State correctional institutions (Arthur R Gould School)
 - (B) not less than \$60,000 and not more than \$150,000 shall be available for services that prepare individuals for non-traditional fields

(C) an amount equal to 0.1 percent shall be made available for the recruitment of special populations to enroll in CTE programs

(3) an amount equal to not more than 5 percent, for administration of the State plan

PART B STATE PROVISIONS §121 - STATE ADMINISTRATION

(a) ELIGIBLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES—The responsibilities of an eligible agency under this title shall include:

(3) convening and meeting as an eligible agency (consistent with State law and procedure for the conduct of such meetings) at such time as the eligible agency determines necessary to carry out the eligible agency’s responsibilities under this title, but not less than 4 times annually;

In accordance with § 121 – Within State Allocation, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team has prepared the FY2024 Perkins budget allocations and submits this budget to the State Board of Education for approval.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the FY2024 Perkins State Budget for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in accordance to §121 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the FY2024 Perkins State Budget for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in accordance to §121 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224). The motion is adopted.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU 54/MSAD 54 - NEW PREK-5 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: RSU 54/MSAD54 Superintendent Jonathan Moody requests that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval for a new PreK-5 school to be constructed in the town of Skowhegan. North Elementary School (grades PreK-K) rated 2nd on the Final Priority List of the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle and was placed on the Approved Projects List at the October 9, 2019 State Board of Education meeting.

RSU 54/MSAD 54 hired Stephen Blatt Architects to conduct a New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing North Elementary School and analysis of three other elementary buildings in the district. The analyses resulted in a recommendation of a new PreK-5 school that would include students from North Elementary (PreK-K), Bloomfield Elementary (grades 1-3), Canaan Elementary (grades 3-5), and Margaret Chase Smith Elementary Schools (grades 4-5). The new school will provide educational programs and services for 942 students and will include space for Child Development Services (CDS), Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Early Childhood (EC) programming. It will eliminate 21 portable classrooms and allow the district to expand and move to universal full-day PreK programming.

The proposed new school will be built on the existing Margaret Chase Smith School 26.11-acre site. The site will allow the new school to be constructed while the existing schools remain operational. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on July 14, 2021, and Concept Approval on May 11, 2022. The project was approved by local referendum vote on June 14, 2022.

The Department of Education's construction staff is currently working with the architect in finalizing the construction documents for bidding. There have only been minor modifications to the building and site design through the review processes since Concept Approval. The new building has been designed to meet the Department of Education school construction standards and is in the final stages of receiving all required approvals.

Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to Title 20-A M.R.S. §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Project Information:

Project: RSU 54/MSAD 54 New PreK-5 School Construction Project (includes EC, CTE, and CDS components)

Superintendent: Jonathan Moody

Architect: Stephen Blatt Architects – Stephen Blatt and Doug Breer

Schools to be closed: North Elementary School and Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$75,338,985

Local Only (no State participation): \$4,440,572

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$70,898,413

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU 54/MSAD 54 for a new PreK-5 school construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The School Construction Committee of the State Board of Education will consider this exhibit at its March 31, 2023 meeting.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU 54/MSAD 54 for a new PreK-5 school construction project as presented. The motion is adopted.

MODIFICATION OF CHAPTER 61 RULES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SECTION 10.4.A MOVEABLE EQUIPMENT BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND: This exhibit pertains to State Board of Education Chapter 61 Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects Section 10.4.A. Budget Requirements.

“Budget Requirements: Moveable equipment costs will generally constitute 9% of the building construction costs in a project budget. This percentage may be modified by the State Board upon recommendation of the Facilities Team. This budget may be adjusted by the Commissioner at the time of Final Funding Approval.”

The Moveable Equipment percentage of 9% was reduced to 6% of the building construction cost on December 12, 2018, by the State Board of Education. This did not result in a significant impact on a SAU's ability to fit out a new school. School construction material and labor costs continue to increase which increases proportionally the equipment budgets.

The Facilities Team has recommended that the percentage be modified to 5% and that this percentage may be increased to a higher amount to address special and unique circumstances specifically pertaining to Career and Technical Education projects.

The School Construction Committee has examined the proposal and evaluated multiple options over several meetings.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The School Construction Committee recommends that the State Board of Education modify the Moveable Equipment Budget Requirement to 5% of the building construction costs. This amount may be increased for special and unique circumstances specifically pertaining to Career and Technical Education projects. The Committee proposes that this change be effective for projects that have not yet received State Board of Education Site Approval. Additionally, the Committee recommends that the percentage be further modified to 4% of the building construction costs for projects receiving State Board of Education Site Approval after May 1, 2024.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education modify the Moveable Equipment Budget Requirement to 5% of the building construction costs. This amount may be increased for special and unique circumstances specifically pertaining to Career and Technical Education projects. The Committee proposes that this change be effective for projects that have not yet received State Board of Education Site Approval. Additionally, the Committee recommends that the percentage be further modified to 4% of the building construction costs for projects receiving State Board of Education Site Approval after May 1, 2024. The motion is adopted.

REQUEST APPROVAL TO ALLOCATE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS TARGETED RESERVE GRANT FUNDS AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224)

BACKGROUND: The State Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Committee recommends to the State Board of Education to combine FY23 and FY24 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds and allocate these funds to eligible secondary CTE recipients in FY24 via the Perkins V Basic Formula. These funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies needed for CTE curricula. Activities normally supported with these funds are not feasible at this time, as many CTE schools do not have the resources to oversee additional projects.

- FY23 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated is \$383,958.
- FY24 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated \$397,998

Funds will be used in accordance with section 135 of the Perkins V Act and will supplement and not supplant current resources. The committee reviews proposals to make recommendations for the approval of programs to enhance career and technical education to the State Board of Education.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the allocation of Perkins V FY23 and FY24 targeted reserve grant funds to eligible secondary CTE schools via the FY24 Perkins V Basic Formula. Funds are to be used to purchase equipment and supplies need for CTE curricula.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the allocation of Perkins V FY23 and FY24 targeted reserve grant funds to eligible secondary CTE schools via the FY24 Perkins V Basic Formula. Funds are to be used to purchase equipment and supplies needed for CTE curricula. The motion is adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building, Room 103 and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist
State Board of Education
