



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 13, 2022 at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Wilson Hess; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Joshua Leinwand; and Greyson Orne. Paulette Bonneau and James Ford attended via Zoom.

Absent with Excuse: Wendy Ault and Mark Balfantz

Others Present: Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs, Department of Education and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. She welcomed new Board member Thomas Keller to the meeting.

Roll call was taken by Mary Becker, Secretary Specialist. The chair declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Greyson Orne: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

POEM READING:

Poems Read by Victoria Kornfield

- “Rained Out” by Gerald George, a Maine poet.
- “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” by William Butler Yeats from Ireland.

RECOGNITION TO PETER GEIGER:

Chair Fern Desjardins presented a gift to Peter Geiger for his years of service on the State Board of Education. Peter’s term ends on April 23, 2022. An event is being planned to recognize Peter for his service and for Mary Becker who will be retiring on July 31, 2022 after 14 years as secretary specialist for the State Board.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No adjustments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the March 9, 2022 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern reviewed the business agenda for the April 13 meeting.
- **APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD**
Chair Fern Desjardins appointed Wendy Ault as Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee with Wilson Hess and James Ford as members of the Committee. The Committee will bring back a nomination report for the May 11, 2022 meeting and the Board will vote at the June 15 meeting. Officers will begin their duties on July 1.
- She worked with Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta et al. on an Educational Technician amendment to Chapter 115 that creates a problem for Emergency Certified Ed Techs under LD 1189.
- April 6 – attended a MEPRI Steering Committee meeting to go over the results of the poll on the 2022-2023 workplan. Some of the topics were combined and the list was narrowed down a bit more. Ideas will be shared with the Education Committee for their prioritization before the workplan is finalized.
- Attended the Legislative Action (3/18), Certification & Higher Education (3/23), School Construction (3/25), and Board Effectiveness (3/21) Committee meetings of the State Board.
- Listened to the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee confirmation hearing (4/6) for Ryan Hafener, student who will replace Greyson Orne

when his term expires. He was recommended for confirmation by the Senate.

- April 1 and 15 – Attended Maine Charter School Commission meetings. April 1 was a special meeting for Commission training on the authorizing of charter schools and the renewal of school contracts. The Commission has started up three committees. Fern is serving on the School Performance Committee. The committee met on April 5 and 8.
 - On March 16, she attended the Harpswell Coastal Academy Board of Directors meeting and the Board meeting for Maine Arts Academy on April 6.
- NASBE
 - March 27-29 Legislative Conference in Washington, DC
 - Board of Directors Meeting – Strategic Plan Reframe, Strategic Action Priorities, Committee reports, Nominating Process Launch, Awards Process Launch, and other regular business items.
 - Sessions attended:
 - See You on the Other Side: Envisioning Education Post-COVID, Implications for State and Federal Policy
 - Getting Better at Getting Better: Innovations in Accountability, Assessment, and Supporting Improvement
 - Advancing Early Care and Education: COVID Funding and Beyond
 - Teachers as Drivers of Excellence: Short-Term Challenges, Long-Term Opportunities
 - Federal Landscape and Capitol Hill Preparation
 - Callings and Passions: The Power and Relevancy of Work-Based and Career Learning
 - Wraparound Supports to Drive Student Success
 - Capitol Hill Visits
 - Visited with staff members of Senator King and Senator Collins
 - Networking opportunities were provided at the welcoming reception, meal times, and during breaks to connect with members of other state boards. Fern used those opportunities to learn more about the:
 - Use of portfolios in educator certification (Texas)
 - Staffing on state boards in small states like Maine (Maryland & Delaware)
 - April 4 – Office Hours
 - Fern learned from Chiefs For Change about their System-Level Student Wellbeing Data Review Tool. The tool is designed to help state education and health agencies review student wellbeing factors and available mental health services for children. State leaders can leverage the data to inform student wellbeing strategies and investments using ARP and other federal pandemic recovery funds. Attendees also shared some of their experiences at the Legislative Conference.

- April 5 – Government Affairs Committee
 - Negotiations on the FY 2023 appropriations education budget on Capitol Hill
 - Significant increase of the Title I budget for sustaining programs and services paid with ARP funds
 - Building Better School Infrastructure and toolkit for using federal funds to support school infrastructure with different streams of funding was released April 4.
 - Call to action to address teacher shortage – apprenticeships and residencies to support and retain teachers; loan forgiveness programs, early career exploration programs
 - States encouraged to invest in summer learning opportunities to address learning gaps and for accelerating instruction
 - Charter School Programs competitive grants
- March 22 – Paulette, Wendy and Fern met with NASBE’s northeast regional liaisons, Winona Hao and Joseph Hedger, to discuss MSBE needs and priorities and the kind of data NASBE could provide to help us meet the goals in our strategic plan.

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- On March 17, the Farmers’ Almanac judged honey recipes as outlined in the 2022 edition. In order to make this happen they engaged the Green Ladle – LRTC culinary arts program. WCSH 6 covered the inner workings of how they judge recipes for their 207 Program. It was a thorough look at the preparation and presentation by students and actual judging of 7 final dishes. The program aired on Tuesday, March 22nd. This is career and technical education at it’s very best!! Thanks to Chef Dan Caron, his staff and all the students involved.
- On March 18, he attended the Legislative Action Committee meeting. It was a busy short session – kudos to committee chair Hess for walking the SBE through four busy months.
- On March 25, he attended and chaired the School Construction Committee meeting which was held in Room 500 of the Cross State Office Building.
- On April 4, Peter attended the agenda review meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The School Construction Committee met on March 25, 2022 as scheduled.

- The Committee meeting was held in Room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The committee reviewed plans for a preK-8 school in RSU 10. In addition to Scott Brown, they were joined by Commissioner Makin and

Wilson Hess. This is a substantial project that will be reviewed as exhibit IX.A. later today.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2022 and will be held in Room 500 at the Burton Cross State Office Building in Augusta. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Wilson Hess for Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee (C&HE) met on March 23, 2022 as scheduled.

- The Committee received a presentation by the Eastern Maine Community College on the Learning Facilitator Program.
- Received an update on Chapter 115. The Resolve has been engrossed by both the House and Senate. The Governor is scheduled to sign, then the Board will have 90 days to act. Jaci Holmes will let the Committee know the date the clock will start following the Governor's signature.
- Received an update from Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator. There have been some changes to PRAXIS. Currently use test #5161 for content knowledge for secondary math. That test is being discontinued and replaced with #5165. There would be a need for adjustments and an update to Chapter 13. Past cut scores will not change. Each year, several changes are made by ETS (Malik McKinley) and there are only two that matter to Maine. Stephanie needs authorization from the Committee to make the changes. A motion was made, and the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the opening of Rule Chapter 13, a routine technical rule. The Committee will revisit and have a discussion at the next Committee meeting.
- The Committee received the review team report from the University of Southern Maine. The Committee voted unanimously for the Board to receive the report. Once the Committee reviews the report at their next meeting the report will go to the Board for consideration of approval.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022 and will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Career and Technical Education (Wilson Hess):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on March 24, 2022 as scheduled. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19.

- The Committee received updates on Perkins Fund Awards. The award for FY 2023 will be \$6,725,000.00. Of that amount, there are \$581,755.00 that falls in the reserve category which is the one that becomes available to the State Board to approve and advise the DOE on how that money will be spent. There is a balance of \$480,000.00 that is in the reserve account from last year and has been approved for carry-over.
- Received an update from Educate Maine which is operating under a board approved contract to look at issues related to funding, data collection and systemic barriers to CTE. On-going work on LD 313 and LD 680.
- Received an update from the Maine Community College System on their continued efforts to align secondary CTE programs with Community College programs.
- Received updates from the Director of Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education (MACTE).

The next regular CTE Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Wilson Hess):

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) last met on March 18, 2022 virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19 surge.

- There have not been many new legislative proposals for the Board's work.
- LD 1933: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115, Credentialing of Education Personnel.
 - Signed by the Governor on April 7, 2022. Chapter 144, Resolve
- LD 1935: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and Portions of Chapter 125: Basic School Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Education and State Board of Education.
 - Placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending final passage. There is a small provision that there must be an amount of outside money.
- LD 680: Resolve, To Re-establish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System.
 - Engrossed by both chambers. Placed on the Special Study Table. Minor things related to how they put together the Task Force Committee.
 - The Legislative Action Committee recommended to the SBE Chair that two members of the SBE CTE Committee be nominated to serve the two seats on the task force. Chair Desjardins sent letters to the Senate President and Speaker of the House with the two nominations

of Wilson Hess and Paulette Bonneau to serve the two seats on the task force.

The next Legislative Action Committee meeting will be held in May or June as needed.

Nomination and Election (Peter Geiger):

The Committee is comprised of Fern Desjardins, Wilson Hess and Peter Geiger. This item will be taken up under new business later in the agenda.

Student Voices (Wendy Ault, James Ford, Greyson Orne and Joshua Leinwand):

The Student Voices Committee did not meet this month.

- Joshua Leinwand reported that he will be reaching out to Rachel Paling at the DOE as neither he or Greyson Orne were invited or aware of the Student Cabinet meeting in April. Neither have received any communication regarding the Student Cabinet since March 1, 2022.

The next Student Voices Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 12:00 PM virtually via Zoom.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met twice in the month of March 2022.

- The Committee generated a preliminary list of guests to invite, going forward, to Board workshops.
- Reviewed and discussed the Vision and Mission Statements collected from other State Boards from across the country. Began the discussion of dissecting the Board's own vision and mission statements.

The next Board Effectiveness Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:00 AM virtually via Zoom.

Student Membership (Paulette Bonneau):

- The candidate for student member went before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on March 7, 2022. Looking forward to the new student joining the Board and sadly seeing Greyson Orne graduate and move on to a different path in his life.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission met in person on April 12, 2022 as scheduled.

- Received one hour of public comment, around one particular topic.
- Highlights of the meeting:
 - Received an update on new committee structure implementation. The Committees are as follows:
 - *Executive Committee*
 - *School Performance Committee*
 - *Finance Committee*
 - The three committees reported out that they held informational meetings. Each did some work on school assessment.
 - Approved grant funds for Maine Arts Academy.
 - Received mid-year monitoring reports for 8 of the 10 Charter Schools. All reports were accepted.
 - Approved changes to the Ecology Learning Center By-Laws.
 - Approved a request by ACADIA Academy to amend school schedule.
 - The Commission spent over an hour and a half considering Harpswell Coastal Academy’s request to change school facilities and made a decision that more work needs to be done before approval.
 - Carried forward the remainder of the agenda to the next meeting as the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

The next Charter Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) did not meet since the last State Board meeting.

There are tentative plans to meet in May, but a date has not been finalized.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU 10 NEW PREK-8 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: RSU 10 Superintendent Deborah Alden requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new PreK-8 school to be constructed in the town of Mexico. Rumford Elementary School (grades PreK-5) rated 3rd 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 10 hired Harriman to conduct a New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Rumford Elementary School and similar studies of the elementary and middle school buildings in the Mountain Valley region of the district. These analyses resulted in a recommendation to construct a school that would also include the students from Meroby Elementary (grades PreK-5) and Mountain Valley Middle School (grades 6-8). The new PreK-8 will provide educational programs and services for 1,034 students. The project will include space for Child Development Services (CDS) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Early Childhood programming. It will eliminate 3 portable classrooms and expand Pre-K programming, in support of the district's goal to improve educational equity.

The proposed new school will be built on the existing Meroby Elementary and Mountain Valley Middle School 30.87-acre site. The site will allow the new school to be constructed while the existing schools remain operational. This site benefits from good access and is well served by existing utility and transportation infrastructure. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on August 11, 2021.

The new building has been designed incorporating the Department of Education school construction standards. All appropriate state and local agencies have had input, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file.

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

Project Description by Deborah Alden, Superintendent: The new PreK-8th grade School in the Mountain Valley Region of RSU 10 will provide a more equitable, healthy, and efficient environment for our children and communities to learn and grow.

Currently, our students, PreK-4, are housed in two separate schools 1.5 miles apart. Rumford Elementary School (RES) was built in 1954 and has safety concerns as well as a lack of appropriate space for special education, the arts, and PreK. Meroby Elementary School (MES) was built in the 1970's as an open-concept school that is unable to meet the needs of today's students. Parents request moving students to RES so their classroom has four walls!

In 2019, in order to have more space at the elementary schools, we moved 5th graders from these two schools to Mountain Valley Middle School (MVMS), which was a 6th-8th grade middle school. MVMS, which was built in 1969 as a high school, did not have enough space for all 5th-8th graders, thus making it necessary to add more portable classrooms. Additionally, at this same time, mold was discovered in this building.

In the Mountain Valley Region of our school district we currently have 28-30% identified as qualifying and receiving special education services. This creates a huge need for “specially - designed” space that is not typically found in schools built between 1950-1970 and this certainly has been the case in our three schools. In addition, we have 70-80% students qualify for free and reduced meals. Students often are sent to school hungry or not well, in order to see our school nurse for medical care and receive a meal.

As we know, early childhood education is very important for our childrens’ future. We have only had the space in RES and MES to offer 2-day per week PreK. The Head Start program in the Mountain Valley Region is 5-days per week and draws many of our students as the parents in our areas seek 5-days for their children. Three and four year-old children with special needs receiving services through Child Development Services, often cannot get their needs met as we do not have more than 2 days a week, nor do we have the space. The new school would allow us to offer full-time PreK programs and space for CDS services as well.

To increase student achievement and social emotional development, our students need to attend school regularly, make positive connections, be involved learners and take pride in their accomplishments. The consolidation of these three schools allows more access to programs, services and collaboration that will have a positive educational impact as well as addressing the other basic needs of our students, families and community as we work to provide for a successful tomorrow. Additionally, it will support efficiency of facilities, services and programs for our District.



Superintendent of Schools
RSU 10

Project Information:

Project: RSU 10 New Grades PreK-8 School Construction Project

Superintendent: Deborah Alden

Architect: Harriman – Mark Lee and Lisa Sawin

Schools to be closed: Rumford Elementary School, Meroby Elementary School, and Mountain Valley Middle School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$91,802,395.

Local Only (no State participation): \$1,177,036.

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$90,625,359.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU 10 for a new grades PreK-8 school construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On March 25, 2022 the School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the April 13, 2022 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Concept Approval to RSU 10 for a new grades PreK-8 school construction project as presented.

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Concept Approval to RSU 10 for a new grades PreK-8 school construction project as presented.

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICER:

Presented by Peter Geiger, Nominating Committee Chair: A slate of officer names was submitted at the March 9, 2022 Board meeting. Wendy Ault was nominated for election to fill the soon to be vacated Vice Chair position of Peter Geiger whose term on the Board ends on April 23, 2022.

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to elect Wendy Ault as Vice Chair of the State Board of Education starting April 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF COMMISSIONER DECISIONS ON STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Fern Desjardins, Chair of the Board, read a procedure for the Board when going into executive session to review requests for review of the Commissioner's decisions on student transfer requests.

The Board will be considering requests for Board review of the Deputy Commissioner's decision regarding requested transfers of students to another school district, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205(6)(F). The Board will be going into executive session to consider the request because each one involves

reviewing and discussing information contained in student records made confidential by the federal law known as FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The parents and any attorney representing a parent are welcome to attend the executive session for the discussion of their particular student's transfer, as are the Superintendents of the school districts involved in that requested transfer. The Board will review each of the transfer requests in separate executive sessions. Today, the Board has one transfer request.

After the Board comes out of executive session, the Board will entertain a motion and take a vote on the disposition of the request in public session.

The Board's role in these proceedings is to review the Deputy Commissioner's decision based on the record that was before him at the time he made the decision. Although the statute directs the Board to "communicate with" the parties involved, which the Board has done, the Board cannot accept any new evidence pertaining to a transfer request that was not considered or not available in the record at the time of the Deputy Commissioner's decision.

The Board provides for public comment which was explained earlier in the meeting. In the executive session the same rules apply for public comment and there will be a three-minute time limit for comment. This is not a time for debate or a time to introduce new evidence. It is a time for families to highlight the things they want the Board to consider in the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from AG to review the Deputy Commissioner's decision to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 2:55 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:14 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for AG. The transfer is granted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.

- Note to members that there is an issue with the Board's budget and reimbursing Board members for expenses. A budget order was requested but has yet to be completed.
- A date will be sent out to all Board members for a recognition event at the Green Ladle in Lewiston for Board member Peter Geiger and secretary specialist Mary Becker.
- Peter Geiger thanked Board members and stated that it has been a pleasure to serve with all members.
- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled to be held on May 11, 2022. The meeting will be held in person. The Board will meet at the Burton Cross State Office Building in Augusta, Room 103.

ADJOURNMENT:

The April 13, 2022 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mary Johnson Becker, Secretary Specialist
State Board of Education