



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 February 9, 2022 virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Wendy Ault; Paulette Bonneau; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Victoria Kornfield; Greyson Orne; and Joshua Leinwand.

Others Present: Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities; Jason Libby, Postsecondary and Educator Preparation Coordinator; Angel Loreda, Director of Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

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:

Poem Read by Victoria Kornfield – “Benediction” by Wes McNair, a Maine poet.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the January 12, 2022 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern Desjardins reviewed the business agenda for the February 9 meeting.
- She presented the State Board's Government Evaluation Act, Program Evaluation Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on January 13 and the State Board's 5-Year Strategic Plan 2022-2026 on January 27. A report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs from its review and evaluation of the State Board of Education under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, Chapter 35 will be sent to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mary will forward a copy to Board members once received.
- On February 2, Fern, Wendy and DOE representatives met with the Maine Education Association (MEA) to answer questions on the proposed changes to Rule Chapter 115. On February 4, they met with University of Maine System (UMS) representatives to discuss concerns they raised, and on February 8 they testified at the public hearing for LD 1933, the Resolve on Chapter 115. There were six who testified for, three against, and seven neither for nor against. Concerns were mostly on the emergency certification, the K-8 certificate being changed to K-6, PK-12 certificates, and the addition of a PK-12 teacher of school health and physical education endorsement. A work session on Chapter 115 is scheduled for Thursday, February 17.
- Peter's term on the Board will end on April 23, 2022 if Governor Mills nominates a replacement for Peter prior to that date. Fern is convening a Nominations and Elections Committee to fill the vacancy of Vice Chair of the Board to June 30, 2022. Mary will send a copy of the Nomination Form for Vice Chair to the full Board, along with the process for nominations and elections from the policy and procedures manual.

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

Chair Fern Desjardins appointed Peter Geiger as Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee with Wilson Hess and herself as members of the Committee. The Committee will bring back a nomination report for the March 9, 2022 meeting and the Board will vote at the April 13, 2022 meeting to fill the vacancy of Vice Chair of the Board effective following the confirmation of a successor to Peter Geiger's seat on the Board.

- The Legislative Action Committee is meeting regularly at this time and she attended their meetings on January 21, 28 and February 4. She also

attended a meeting of the Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee and School Construction Committee. The committee chairs will highlight items from their agendas later in the meeting.

- She attended the Maine Charter School Commission meeting on February 8, Harpswell Coastal Academy Board of Directors meeting on January 19, and the Maine Arts Academy Board of Directors meeting on February 2.
- She attended the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) Office Hours on January 13 in which they discussed updates at the federal level, accountability, special education, educator shortages, and the upcoming Legislative Conference March 27-29. Registrations for the conference are open.
- The NASBE Board of Directors met on January 24. They received committee reports and took action on regular business items. The Legislative Conference and Annual Conference will be in-person this year. The New Member Institute may be remote, but a final decision has not been made.
- At the Government Affairs Committee meeting on February 1, the committee discussed:
 - Build Back Better Act: Senate Negotiations
 - Appropriations for FY 2022
 - Education-related cases in the U.S. Supreme Court
 - Secretary Cardona's Priorities Speech
 - State updates from those present at the meeting

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- The month passed rather uneventfully, except for all the snow.
- Peter attended a Legislative Action Committee Meeting on January 21, January 28 and February 4.
- He attended and chaired a School Construction Committee Meeting on January 28.
- He attended an Agenda Review Meeting with Fern Desjardins, Commissioner Makin and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta on January 31.
- On February 8, he testified on behalf of the SBE on LD 1935 regarding rules governing air quality and ventilation in schools with or without mechanical systems.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The School Construction Committee met on January 28, 2022 as scheduled.

The School Construction Committee met with four agenda items.

- Consideration of a request by the Portland Public Schools to waive the filing deadline and related requirements in order to allow Portland High School and Portland Arts and Technology High School to be rated for the

2017/2018 Integrated Consolidated 9 -16 Educational Facility Priority List. The committee's recommendation will be considered during this meeting.

- Project #3 is the remaining project on our 2017/2018 Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Program. Superintendent Kevin Jordan indicated that 4 districts involving 18 communities are making progress on a new high school. Support seems to be strong as they continue to create a legal entity to oversee a new school. Superintendent Kelly MacFadyen joined us as well.
- Shelly Chasse-Johndro, Director of the Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs walked us through ESSER funds available for construction projects throughout Maine totaling \$26 million. There is an additional \$1.6 million for ventilation projects.
- Scott Brown brought us up to date on current Major Capital School Construction projects. We expect several of these to come before us in the next few months.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 25, 2022 and will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee (C&HE) met on February 2, 2022 as scheduled.

- The Committee reviewed the University of New England (UNE) Educator Preparation Program in accordance with Chapter 114 and recommended that the item be placed on the February 9 SBE business agenda for consideration of approval by the full Board.
- Reviewed the proposed team for Beal University Degree-Granting authority application review and recommended that the item be placed on the February 9 SBE business agenda for consideration of approval by the full Board.
- The Committee reviewed the University of Maine at Presque Isle Educator Preparation Program Review Team Report and recommended that the item be placed on the February 9 SBE business agenda for receipt of the report by the full Board.
- Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins will testify before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on LD 1933 (Chapter 115) at the public hearing on Tuesday, February 8.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 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 January 27, 2022 as scheduled. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19.

- The Committee reviewed and recommended that the State Board take action today on Item IX.B. – Quarterly report of the Maine Carl D. Perkins Grant as authorized under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.
- Reviewed Financial Reports:
 - Perkins Fund Balances YTD \$530k to distribute
 - Briggs Fund Balance – received YTD \$15k. Balance is \$165,065.61
- Received LD 313 workgroup data presentation.
- Reviewed the Department of Education (DOE)/Maine Community College System (MCCS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for renewal.
- Discussion of Legislative positions on LD 313 – not moving forward in the 2nd session of the 130th Legislation.

The next regular CTE Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Wilson Hess):

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) met on February 4, 2022 virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19 surge.

- LD 1933, Rule Chapter 115, Educator Credentialing testimony was shared and subsequently presented on February 8 by Fern Desjardins and Wendy Ault.
- LD 1935, Rules Chapter 60, 61, and 125 targeted rule changes for Air Quality Standards in Schools testimony was shared and subsequently presented on February 8 by Peter Geiger.
- LD 680 Resolve, To Re-establish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System was monitored and reviewed. Moved ought to pass. Two SBE members will be appointed to the work group.
- LD 313 apparently will not be acted into law this session but will produce a Resolve for continued study and action. If this happens, CTE Strategic Action Items for EPS funding formula will likely not move forward.
- LD 176, An Act to Facilitate a Grade 9 to 16 School Project – related to establishing a governing authority for the Dexter region's Integrated/Consolidated project was designated for monitoring.
- LD 1845, An Act to Amend the Education Statutes (general cleanup) designated for monitoring.
- The CTE Committee requests to participate in outreach with Educate Maine and Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education

(MACTE) to Commissioner Makin, Speaker Fecteau, and others regarding Supplemental Budget consideration for consumable materials due to dramatic cost increases and lack of equitable COVID-related funding available to CTE centers and regions (consistent with Strategic goal to support equitable funding).

The next Legislative Action Committee meeting will be held on Friday, February 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM virtually via Zoom.

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

The Student Voices Committee met on February 9, 2022.

- Wendy Ault reported that she is pleased the Commissioner added the two students, Greyson Orne and Joshua Leinwand, to her Student Cabinet. Both students participated in their first meeting of the Student Cabinet.
- Greyson Orne attended the Student Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday, February 2. The Cabinet will meet the first Wednesday of every month for about one hour. The main focus was to identify problem statements or issues that students may have with schools or outside of school issues that may affect their education. Identifying the problem statements first and then working with teams to try and find solutions to the problem statements. Greyson was paired with a group of students where there was a lot of concern about stress, mental health, and mental health awareness in schools. Schools and educators have plans on how to prevent or remedy those problems when they arise. Ideas brought up by the group he was paired with were to have a system for mental health days or sick days for students. An idea of having a separate room inside of schools for quiet space where students could go. To have teachers coordinate with each other to try to avoid stacking major assignments all at the same time to take some stress and mental health issues off students. The less stressed out, students learn better.
- Joshua Leinwand reported that his group talked a lot about safety in schools and how a lot in the group are in marginal communities. Be their gender, sexual orientation, nationality or religion, there are places where they feel unsafe in schools. The group was trying to nail down an action statement to address this. Tried to narrow down to one specific goal and ultimately, they were not able to do this with the time allotted. It was a powerful discussion and they made great progress on how they can improve safety in schools and make it comfortable for everyone.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee has not met.

- Paulette Bonneau reported that the Committee arranged for the presenters for today's morning workshop session - the Maine Principal of the Year, Kristie Clark, RSU 2, Hall-Dale Elementary School and the Maine Superintendent of the Year, Christopher Howell, RSU 14.

Student Membership (Paulette Bonneau):

- Chair Desjardins appointed James Ford, Greyson Orne and Paulette to the Student Membership Committee. The Committee has not met. A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the application process and meeting dates to review applications.
- Applications are being accepted from February 1 to March 1, 2022. The student will be replacing Greyson Orne who represents Congressional District 2.
- All high school principals and school counselors in District 2 have received application materials via email and mail. CTE Directors and Heads of Charter Schools received the application packets as well. The application materials are also posted on the Board's website. Included in the material packets that were mailed is a poster to be hung in each school.
- The Committee will be reviewing applications in March. Six semi-finalists will be selected, and interviews will be conducted in March. The three finalists' names will be submitted to Governor Mills by the end of March.
- A press release is being sent out by the Communications Director at the DOE.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission met on February 8, 2022 as scheduled.

- The Commission reviewed progress on Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS) Charter Renewal.
- Reviewed Progress on Community Regional Charter School (CRCS) Renewal.
- Previewed Changes to Performance Framework (Process)
- Received Strategic Plan Update
 - #1 Accuplacer (College Board) rollout
 - #2 Board training initiatives
 - #5 Enrollment measures
- Reviewed Liaison Discussion Process
- Reviewed MCSC Spending Report
- Accepted FY22 Budget vs. Actual YTD – February Report
- Accepted four Resignations from Charter School Boards
- Received Data Report on 1) Languages Other Than English Spoken by Maine Families and; 2) NWEA MAP Analysis
- Scheduled Special Meeting for Executive Director Evaluation for February 15, 2022 at 2:00 PM at a site to be determined.

- Scheduled next Regular Meeting for March 8, 2022.

Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) last met on December 3, 2021 virtually via Zoom, with the intent to meet again in February 2022.

The next PSB meeting is in the planning stages. Peter expects they will convene later this month.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF RULE 61 REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF INTEGRATED, CONSOLIDATED 9-16 EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

STATEMENT OF FACT: During the Major Capital School Construction Program’s 2017-2018 rating cycle Portland Public Schools submitted applications for both Portland High School (PHS) and Portland Arts & Technology High School (PATHS). Those applications are listed on the program’s Final Priority List, PHS Priority 15th and PATHS Priority 25th. Portland Public Schools Superintendent Xavier Botana is now requesting that the State Board of Education waive “the filing deadline and related requirements” in order to allow PHS and PATHS to be rated and placed on the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Program’s Final Priority List and the program’s Approved Projects List for funding.

The current Final Priority List and Approved Projects List for the Integrated, Consolidated Program was developed during the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. Currently there is one regional proposal that is an active project on the program’s Approved Projects List. The districts involved are working on the early planning issues including exploring possible governance structures and potential site locations.

The State Board of Education’s Construction Committee has finalized their 5-year Strategic Plan. That plan includes initiating and completing new rating cycles for both the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Program and the Major Capital School Construction Program. The Committee is currently working with the Department in finalizing a timeline to achieve those goals.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The School Construction Committee unanimously recommends that the State Board of Education deny Portland Public Schools’ request to waive the filing deadline and related

requirements in order to allow Portland High School (“PHS”) and Portland Arts and Technology High School (“PATHS”) to be rated for purposes of the 2017-2018 Integrated Consolidated Secondary and Postsecondary (“ICSP”) Facilities Final Priority List (the “ICSP Priority List”) and considered for placement on the ICSP Approved Projects List.

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to deny Portland Public Schools’ request to waive the filing deadline and related requirements in order to allow Portland High School (“PHS”) and Portland Arts and Technology High School (“PATHS”) to be rated for purposes of the 2017-2018 Integrated Consolidated Secondary and Postsecondary (“ICSP”) Facilities Final Priority List (the “ICSP Priority List”) and considered for placement on the ICSP Approved Projects List.

Request Approval of the Quarterly Report 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).

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:

SEC. 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.

The State Board of Education Chair has requested, in accordance with Title 20-A, Section 405, 7, that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team submits a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the second report for FY2022.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2021

through December 31, 2021, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 114

BACKGROUND: The state review team was chaired by Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College. The virtual review took place September 27-October 1, 2021. The review team reviewed the institution's self-study using Chapter 114 standards. The following programs were reviewed:

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)

- Elementary/Middle with K-8 certification
- Art Education with K-12 certification
- Secondary Education with 7-12 certification and the option to add on Physical Education with K-12 certification
 - Physical Science
 - Life Science
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Social Studies
- Special Education with K-8 certification

College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS)

- Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Advanced Educational Leadership (CAGS- AEL), Building Administrator (040) endorsement
- Master of Science in Education - Reading Specialist (MSED- RS) endorsement
- Master of Science in Education - Inclusion Education (MSED- IE) endorsement
- New: Master of Science in Education - Educational Leadership (MSED- EL), Building Administrator (040) endorsement

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the University of New England Review Team report recommendation that the University of New England Educator Preparation Programs, be granted full five-year approval by the Maine State Board of Education from Fall 2020 to Fall 2025. Additionally, the unit should share progress regarding recommendations within the annual report as stipulated by Chapter 114.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the University of New England Review Team report recommendation that the University of New England Educator Preparation Programs, be granted full five-year approval by the Maine State Board of Education from Fall 2020 to Fall 2025. Additionally, the unit should share

progress regarding recommendations within the annual report as stipulated by Chapter 114.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED TEAM MEMBERS FOR BEAL UNIVERSITY DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY APPLICATION REVIEW

BACKGROUND: Beal University has filed an application for degree-granting authority in Maine. According to Chapter 149, review team members must be approved by the State Board of Education.

The following individuals are proposed to serve on the review team:

Dr. Valerie Sauda (Chair), Husson University
Nilda Cravens, The University of Maine
Kristen Tifft, Central Maine Community College
Emily Poland, Maine Department of Education

Wendy Ault, State Board Observer

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the proposed Beal University review team.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted five in favor with one member abstained (Wilson Hess) to approve the proposed Beal University review team with an amendment to add Paulette Bonneau as a State Board of Education Observer.

RECEIPT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT

BACKGROUND: The state review team was chaired by Dr. Linda Fuller of the College of the Atlantic. The virtual review took place November 15-19, 2021. The review team reviewed the institution's self-study using Chapter 114 standards.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive the University of Maine at Presque Isle Review Team report.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to receive the University of Maine at Presque Isle Review Team report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled to be held on March 9, 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 February 9, 2022 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:21 PM.

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