



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 June 9, 2021 virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Wilson Hess; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Wendy Ault; John Bird; Fern Desjardins; James Ford; Victoria Kornfield; Cynthia Murray-Beliveau; and Greyson Orne.

Excused: Cordelia Pitman and Casey Maddock

Others Present: Paulette Bonneau, Member Designee; Joshua Leinwand, Student Member Designee; and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Wilson Hess called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

The June 9, 2021 meeting is the Board's annual meeting and items on the agenda are marked as annual meeting business.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with Sec. G-1. 1 MRSA §403-A, Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19. Whereas the meeting is open to the public, all votes will be taken by roll call. Nine Board members attended virtually.

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:

Poem Read by John Bird – “Wawenock” by Leo Connellan, a poet from Rockland, Maine.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Fern Desjardins, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the May 12, 2021 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Wilson Hess

- Wilson Hess welcomed two new Board member designees to the State Board of Education, Paulette Bonneau and Joshua Leinwand.
- Joshua Leinwand has been confirmed by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and awaits Senate confirmation. Joshua is a student at Yarmouth High School and a rising junior. He is a runner, he loves debates, is interested in education and interested in the designing and reviewing of policy. He attends school committee meetings in his district as a student and distributes brief diversions of school policy amongst his friends. Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins commented on Joshua’s interview with the State Board Student Membership Committee.
- Paulette Bonneau has been confirmed by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and awaits Senate confirmation. Paulette is the Director of Career and Technical Education in Biddeford and Adult Education. She is a former principal of the elementary school in Biddeford. She is excited to be a part of the State Board of Education. Wendy Ault commented on what a great addition to the Board Paulette will be.
- Wilson reviewed the business agenda for the June 9 meeting.
 - *New Business*
 - Receipt of the Professional Standards Board Annual Report
 - Establish dates of the Board’s annual retreat
 - Review of tentative meeting schedule for the upcoming year
 - Elect from membership a chair and vice chair
 - Consideration of two student transfer appeals
 - Discussion of preliminary review of Chapter 115
 - Discussion of Chapter 115 emergency rule
- Wilson Hess commented on the wrap up of Legislative matters and his duties behind the scenes to keep things moving ahead.

- As a State Board representative, he has been tasked with work on the Charter Commission’s planning document along with John Bird and members of the Charter Commission.
- Wilson spoke of the process with transferring funds from the Board’s “All Other” account to “Personnel” account to cover per diems through June 30, 2021.

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- On May 14 and May 26, Peter attended a Certification and Higher Education (CHE) Committee Meeting to review rule Chapter 115. On May 19, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) hosted an exclusive private conversation between state board of education leaders and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The invitation was open to the chairs and vice chairs of all state boards. Peter signed up and attended the 45-minute event. It was billed as an “off the record - private conversation”. Secretary Cardona made it clear that the U.S. DOE wants to partner with states and is willing to listen in order to better serve all children. In Peter’s opinion, Secretary Cardona has the right stuff to lead. He has the depth of background and a style that is strongly centered on listening. He plans to have similar conversations with NASBE/SBE leaders every few months.
- The Legislative Action Committee met on May 28 to review its watch list. Committee work has been completed with the full Legislature winding down this month.
- On June 1, awards night, he enjoyed a 25 year Adopt-A-School Program between Geiger and Montello Elementary School. On the 20th Anniversary Night of the Stars event, Peter promised the 6th graders in the audience that he would establish a college scholarship fund for their benefit. This became the Class of 2014. Funds are managed by the Maine Community Foundation. Each year a panel evaluates applications and awards scholarships. On June 1st, Peter attended the Lewiston High School Awards Night. In total, the scholarship fund will benefit 5 first year college students and 4 students currently in college who reapplied.
- On June 2, he attended a mini-Next STEP (Tree Street/LHS high school collaboration program) graduation ceremony.
- On June 2, Peter attended a Chapter 115 portfolio planning meeting.
- On June 4 and June 7, he attended special CHE Committee meetings.
- Peter is a member of the Maine Teacher of the Year (MTOY) panel that recently announced the selection of 16 - 2021 County Teachers of the Year. The panel is in the process of narrowing the 16 to 8 by judging video classroom work and eventually oral and portfolio judging resulting in selecting (from this group) the 2022 MTOY. The panel met on June 1 to discuss the video judging and next month will judge oral presentations.
- The State Board heard from Cindy Soule the 2021 MTOY at the April 14 Board meeting. In the June 6 Sunday Telegram there was a very well

written Op Ed concerning teaching during a pandemic pointing out the positives. Mary Becker will share the Op Ed electronically with Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The School Construction Committee did not meet on May 28, 2021 as scheduled.

- Peter Geiger gave an overview of the School Construction Committee at the morning workshop session to assist new members in their preference of what Board Committee they might prefer to serve on.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2021. The meeting 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 held their regular monthly meeting on May 26, 2021 as scheduled. The Committee held special meetings on May 18, May 20, May 26, June 4 and June 7, 2021.

- Wendy Ault gave Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta a shout out for the excellent presentation he gave to the Board during the morning workshop session. Dan will share his PowerPoint presentation with Mary Becker, and she will forward it to Board members.
- Wendy shared a one-pager she created as to what the CHE Committee oversees on behalf of the State Board.
 - Statute: Provides oversight to the State Board of Education regarding educator certification; approval of teacher education programs in institutions of higher education; and, recommendations of degree granting authority for higher education institutions.
 - State Board/Joint Rules that impact Certification and Higher Education Committee:
 - Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists, and Administrators – *State Board Rule*
 - Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs – *State Board Rule*
 - Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel – *State Board Rule*
 - Chapter 119: Adjudicatory Proceedings on Certification Issues – *State Board Rule*
 - Chapter 138: State Accreditation Standards and Processes – *Joint Rule with DOE*

- Chapter 149: Procedures for Obtaining Authorization for Institutions of Higher Education to Confer Academic Degrees or to Offer Degree Courses/Programs in the State of Maine – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 170: Evaluating Requests for Degree Authorization (Maine and Out-of-State Institutions – *State Board Rule*
- At least one State Board observer must be included on every teacher preparation program review and every degree-granting authority review. The Chair of the Board will ensure that all Board members are trained to fulfill this responsibility of Board membership, including the opportunity to participate as a mentored observer on a review before assuming the role of designated observer. When a review is scheduled, the Chair of the Board will appoint the Observer in consultation with the DOE Higher Education Specialist.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2021. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Career and Technical Education (John Bird):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on May 27, 2021 as scheduled.

- John Bird gave an overview of the Career and Technical Education Committee to assist new members in their preference of what Board Committee they might prefer to serve on.
- It has been a privilege for John to serve on the Committee for five years and chair the Committee the past three years. All meetings are attended by four representatives of CTE schools, along with the MACTE Director, Dave Keaton, from Houlton. CTE Directors are very dedicated to the students.
- Workforce development is very crucial to the development of the State. There are close to 9,000 students enrolled in CTE of the 70,000 students in Maine.
- Growing the enrollment of students in CTE is a challenge. The Committee put together a pilot program for middle school students.
- The Committee’s role in the Board’s strategic plan is to grow the enrollment with 9th and 10th graders.
- Last month’s Committee meeting was provided with a proposal from Jason Judd at Education Maine to strengthen the enrollment in CTE. John is confident that there will be workshops held and this relationship will move forward.
- The Committee received an update on 10 to 12 bills that are related to CTE.

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

Legislative Action (Peter Geiger):

The Legislative Action Committee last met on Friday, May 28, 2021.

- The Committee regularly meets each Friday to evaluate LDs that are most closely connected to the Board's work. The Committee established a watch list of approximately 34 bills that were broken into areas of interest including: CTE, Charter Schools, School Construction and Broadband. Chair Hess testified on the Board's behalf on 14 bills and Greyson Orne testified on LD 21 regarding a new dormitory at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM).
- Work of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee is complete, and the Legislature is wrapping up their work by the end of June. The Legislative Action Committee will only meet on an as needed basis going forward. Thanks to the committee members and others on the Board who sat in on these sessions. The 2021 Senate and House registers are available, and Mary Becker will have the books in the mail to Board members today.

Nomination and Election Committee (Wendy Ault):

Wendy Ault is the Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee. Wilson Hess and John Bird serve on the committee. The Committee was tasked with presenting a slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year. The Committee presented a slate of officers at the May 12, 2021 meeting.

The Board will vote later in the annual meeting section of the business agenda.

The Board's procedures indicate that other members who wish to be placed on the ballot must obtain two supporting nominations from Board members and present them to the Nomination and Election committee chair at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting on June 9, 2021. The Committee did not receive any other nominations. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

Student Voices (Casey Maddock, Greyson Orne and Wendy Ault):

Wendy Ault reported that she has the pleasure of working closely with the student members on the State Board. Casey Maddock has been a pleasure to work with as a student representative and in her role on the Commissioner's Student Cabinet as well as in her leadership role on the Board's Student Membership Committee. Casey has done a great job. Wendy is looking forward to Greyson Orne stepping into the role as the senior student member. Wendy believes both Greyson and Joshua Leinwand will be quite a force on the student

voices committee.

Greyson Orne reported on the May Student Cabinet Meeting. High School students were discussing what they would give to principals, executive directors, and school board members of school districts.

- What students would like to see from their schools:
 - What impacts their mental health or learning in general.
 - Concerns from some students on class sizes and what adults are unaware of with teenage mental health
 - Better preparing students with modern technology for work forces
 - Not going to college due to expenses
 - Individualized learning with universal credit standards so students can personalize their high school education plans.

Student Membership (Fern Desjardins):

Wendy Ault, Casey Maddock and Fern completed their task on March 30, 2021.

- Joshua Leinwand from Yarmouth High School has been appointed by Governor Mills to serve a two-year term on the Board and will be replacing Casey Maddock, the Board's senior, who served two-years on the Board and is going on to college.

Fern is pleased to inform the Board that the ad-hoc committee's work is completed.

Charter Commission Representatives (John Bird):

The Charter School Commission met on June 8, 2021 as scheduled.

- The Commission held a two hour meeting and took up business regarding approval to schools.
- Jeremy Jones has been the executive director for six months. He has led a strategic plan process. The Commission received a final draft of the plan and endorsed it at the June 8 meeting. Five strategic priorities anchor what the charter organization is all about.
- Under law in 2011, Maine was permitted to have up to 10 charter schools in 10 years. The Ecology Learning Center became the 10th school in the fall of 2020.

Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met on May 3, 2021.

- Professional Standards Board – MRSA Title 20A Chapter 502. The purpose of the PSB is to advise the State Board of Education regarding but not limited to professional growth, certification, endorsement, authorization, and governance of the education profession in Maine. Due to the

pandemic, organizational work was delayed, but the committee met frequently and is submitting their annual report today. The group has been ably led by Kristen Levesque (Chair) and Nikole Seeger (Vice Chair).

The PSB's next meeting will be held in the Fall of 2021.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

RECEIPT OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Professional Standards Board Yearly Report

The Professional Standards Board met eight times as outlined in statute: August 12, 2020, October 19, 2020, November 2, 2020, November 16, 2020, November 30, 2020, January 4, 2021, March 1, 2021 and May 3, 2021.

An Action Plan was developed at the October meeting to guide the discussion and actions of the Standards Board. Subsequent meetings addressed the goals, listed as follows:

Regarding Chapter 115 (Future): Upon implementation and acceptance of the standards: Monitor the impact of the standards

- *Establish a way to collect valid data, as designed by and in collaboration with the Department of Education*
 - *Information from certification office about how well it is running*
 - *Information from those in the process about how run it is running*
 - *Information from the educator preparation programs*

Regarding Chapter 13 and 115: Follow the recommendations, monitor the process, then report. The PSB will submit a report regarding the Praxis that will share with the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee.

- *115- refers to having a test, 13 refers to the cut off score*

Regarding Chapter 115 (Present): Continue the standards sub-endorsement process

- *Have 1-2 PSB members to attend the certification and higher education committee meetings when able*

All feedback and recommendations from the Professional Standards Board have been shared directly with those parties responsible for the editing and refinement of the chapters noted above.

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the Professional Standards Board annual report as presented.

SPECIAL MEETING:

Following a discussion by Board members, Wilson Hess will meet with Peter Geiger, Vice Chair and Wendy Ault, Chair of the Certification and Higher Education Committee to review and decide on the best date, by the end of June 2021, for the State Board to hold a special meeting. The meeting will convene for the purpose of approval of Regulation Chapter 115, “The Credentialing of Educational Personnel,” Proposed Rule and Regulation Chapter 115, “The Credentialing of Educational Personnel,” Emergency Rule.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:

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

Wilson Hess, 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 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 two transfer requests.

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

The Board’s role in these proceedings is to review the Commissioner’s decision based on the record that was before her at the time she 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 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 Fern Desjardins, seconded by John Bird, 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 BG to review the 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 2:31 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:56 PM.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by John Bird, and voted seven in favor with one member opposed (James Ford) to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for BG.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Fern Desjardins, 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 JT to review the 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 3:00 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:27 PM.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Cynthia Murray-Beliveau, and voted four in favor with four members opposed (Peter Geiger, John Bird, Fern Desjardins, and Victoria Kornfield) to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for JT.

By Board Policy VIII.C, when acting in its appellate capacity, a tie vote is defined to be a “no opinion” ruling. The original decision under appeal stands. The transfer is denied.

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS – CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE 2021-2022 YEAR

As Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee, Wendy Ault thanked John Bird and Wilson Hess for serving on the Nominations and Election Committee.

A slate of officers was read by Wendy Ault:

Fern Desjardins as Chair
Peter Geiger as Vice Chair

An opportunity for nominations from the floor was given. No nominations from the floor were received.

MOVED by Wilson Hess, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to elect Fern Desjardins as chair and Peter Geiger as vice chair for the term of one-year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

BOARD ANNUAL RETREAT DATES

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Peter Geiger, and voted seven in favor with one abstention (John Bird) to confirm the State Board of Education Annual Retreat dates for August 10 and 11, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wilson Hess announced that this is member John Bird’s last meeting on the State Board. Wilson shared a quote by Teddy Roosevelt “The Man in the Arena”. Board members expressed kind comments of their time working with John Bird in the five years that John served on the State Board.
- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- The next Board meeting is currently scheduled to be held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 1:00 PM.
- The Board annual retreat will be held at the Green Ladle in Lewiston. The time will be determined at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the June 9, 2021 State Board of Education meeting at 3:50 PM.

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