



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 November 9, 2022 at the Morse High School/Bath Tech Center and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Joshua Leinwand; and Ryan Hafener

Others Present: Dan Chuhta, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Education; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Dwight Littlefield, State Director for CTE; Erin Connor, University of Maine at Farmington; Gary Rosenthal, St. Joseph's College; Dr. Kathleen (Kassy) Clements, St. Joseph's College; Julie Kenny, MACTE President; Rebecca Mitchell, Maine Department of Education; Liv Birnstad; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist/Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

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

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Ryan Hafener: 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 – "Dharma" by Billy Collins.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted to accept the October 12, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

➤ **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- Student Membership Committee Chair – Edmond W. Morin
- Vice Chair Bonneau and Fern met with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, MSSA Executive Director Eileen King, and Presidents of MSSA Regional Associations to hear their concerns with school construction and renovations. That meeting was followed up with a School Construction Committee meeting on October 24 with the newly formed MSSA School Construction Committee.
- Attended the Milken Family Foundation Educator Award Announcement for Sarah Collins, grade 4 math and science teacher at the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School in Herman. Stephanie Bishop, Vice President of the Milken Educator Awards in California, made the presentation.
- Participated in the Board Effectiveness Committee meeting on October 31.
- Corresponded with the State Board’s attorney, Sarah Forster, during the last two weeks on Title 5, §12002-A. Payment of expenses and §12002-B. Compensation of board members.
- NASBE
 - Attended an Executive Committee meeting (10/14) via Zoom and a Board of Directors meeting (10/26) in person on the day prior to the Annual Conference held in Phoenix, AZ.
 - The Annual Conference took place October 27-28. The sessions Fern attended, aside from the Northeast Area Meeting, were:
 - Recruiting and Retaining Effective Educators

- Michigan Addresses Teacher Shortages in Research-to-Practice Partnership
- Leading for Literacy: State Support for Evidence-Based Local Choices
- Industry-Recognized Certifications: Myths, Realities, and Implications
- Making High School Relevant: College and Career Pathways That Engage Students
- Briefing on 2022 NAEP Reading and Math Results
- Opportunity to Learn, Responsibility to Lead: An Excellence and Equity Agenda
- Better Together: State Board and State Agency Collaboration
- State and Local Perspectives on Doing Assessment Right
- Brushing Up on Parliamentary Procedure
- The State Board’s Role in Data Access and Student Privacy
- Understanding the State of the American Student
- Fern voted for Maine at the Delegate Assembly held on Saturday, October 29. Action included:
 - Sarah Moore, Arkansas, voted as Chair-Elect
 - Revisions to Public Education Positions in Section H. PreK-12 Educator and Leader Effectiveness
 - (i) Educator Workforce
 - (ii) School and District Leaders
 - Revisions to the Bylaws in Article V, Section 3. Nomination.
 - Approval of the 2023 NASBE Annual Budget and 2021 Auditor’s Report.
- All standing committee chairpersons reported out.
- Presidents of affiliated organizations NCSEA and NCSBE reported out.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- She attended School Construction Meetings, where Superintendents were present.
- She attended the Teacher of the Year Gala, which was invigorating.
- Board Effectiveness Committee met on October 31 and worked on the Vision and Mission Statements.
- The December State Board of Education meeting will be at Nokomis High School.
- She attended the MSMA Conference. The Keynote Speaker spoke about trust between Boards and the community, consistency and transparency.

- On October 31, she and Chair Desjardins met with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta for the monthly agenda review meeting.
- She attended the Career and Technical Education Committee meeting on October 27, 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on October 24, 2022.

- The Committee met with superintendent representatives of the Maine School Superintendents Association and their Executive Director, Eileen King, to hear their concerns with school construction and renovations, including the lack of funding to address some of their needs.
- Members discussed the August 16, 2022 correspondence received from MSAD 33 Superintendent of Schools Benjamin Sirois in regards to the loss of Dr. Levesque Elementary School in a tragic fire on July 25, 2021.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee (C&HE) met on October 6, 2022.

- New business recommendation is on the agenda with St. Joseph's College.
- Next meeting is on November 16, 2022. The focus will be on EMCC's Learning Facilitator Program and USM's Teacher Residency Program.

Career and Technical Education (Wilson Hess):

The Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) met on October 27, 2022.

- Briggs Trust balance is \$146,000.
- Received the 3rd Quarter report on Perkins Grant.
- Received an update from Dwight Littlefield, State CTE Director
 - Two RFA's went out as part of the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan Act – Personnel, Infrastructure and Equipment. The total funds were \$20 million.
 - Certification and CTE Monitor Program
 - Grant applications totaling \$1 million, 20 of the 27 districts have applied for them.
 - 9,700 students enrolled in CTE, lots of program growth

- Maine Community College Update – They have good evidence that there is no consistency in how dual and concurrent enrollment courses get posted to high school transcripts. Also, they have joined the Launch Years Initiative at the University of Texas, Austin and are the 20th state to join.
- MACTE Update – Fall conference had the largest number of attendees at 470. Produced a call for a White Paper in which there’s a proposal on the business agenda.
- Will be presenting at the Educate Maine Symposium on December 9.

Legislative Action (Wilson Hess):

The Committee did not meet in the last month.

Student Voices (Joshua Leinwand and Ryan Hafener):

The Student Voices Committee met November 7, 2022.

- Discussed how committees are not very accessible for students since they meet during school hours.
- Student Cabinet is now in session.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on October 31, 2022.

- Worked on the vision and mission statements that were presented in this morning’s workshop session.
- Meeting in December to work on the 2nd year goals we have in our strategic plan.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission met on November 8, 2022.

- Going through a significant transition with staffing. We now have an Acting Director from a national consulting organization.
- Going through the process of nonrenewal of a school.
- A school is in the process of buying a facility, with hopes to occupy it next school year.
- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures Grant – using it to create a maker space barn.
- HCA non-renewal – 45 closure steps.
- Maine Connections Academy amendment request to increase enrollment- we did not act on that.

- Enrollment report from 9 of the 10 schools that have certified results – we will see monthly updates.
- Considered the approval of the Maine Arts Academy request to incur up to 3.4 million dollars in debt to finance a new facility. That was approved unanimously.
- Considered the approval of Maine Arts Academy’s request to move to a new site, which is the former Maine Veteran’s Home in Augusta. It was approved with an advisory.
- Accepted the FY 23 vs. actual report.
- Reviewed the 2022-2023 enrollment report.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) did not meet in the last month.

- Identified 5 categories for consideration in their action plan:
 - Elevate the profession
 - Fiscal Responsibility – Cost of education – not just paying teachers more
 - Mentorship
 - School Culture
- Support & career advancement

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2022.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT

BACKGROUND: A State Board of Education approved review team conducted a virtual program review on March 28, 2022 through April 1, 2022 for St. Joseph’s College. The report of findings was received by the State Board of Education on October 12, 2022. The review team was led by Dr. Erin Connor of the University of Maine Farmington.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the St. Joseph's College Review Team report of findings and be granted five-year program approval from Spring 2022 to Spring 2027 in accordance with the standards set forth by Chapter 114. Also, that the Unit submit an interim report of progress toward meeting the recommendations related to the online graduate program within the report by October 2023.

The programs reviewed are as follows:

- Elementary Education: (K-8) Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- Special Education: (K-12) Bachelor of Science in Special Education
- Physical Education: (K-12) Bachelor of Science in Physical Education
- Secondary Education: (6-12) Minor (Mathematics, History, Life Science, Physical Science)
- Graduate Programs: MSED Leadership Administration - for 045 Assistant Building Administrator Certification.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the St. Joseph's College Review Team report of findings and be granted five-year program approval from Spring 2022 to Spring 2027 in accordance with the standards set forth by Chapter 114. Also, that the Unit submit an interim report of progress toward meeting the recommendations related to the online graduate program within the report by October 2023.

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 first report for FY2023.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE BRIGGS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,500 TO MACTE FOR A SPECIAL PROJECT. THE PROJECT WILL RESULT IN A WHITE PAPER SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE PLAN FOR MAINE'S CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wilson Hess, that the State Board of Education authorize the use of the Briggs Grant in the amount of \$18,500 to MACTE for a special project. The project will result in a white paper supporting a statewide plan for Maine's Career and Technical Education.

A copy of *Maine White Paper on Innovation and Future Readiness in CTE* (written by Dave Keaton, executive director of MACTE) was distributed to members of the State Board. Julie Kenny, President of MACTE, provided an overview of the proposal and answered questions from the Board. Much discussion took place on the use of funds for the development of a White Paper.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Edmond Morin, and unanimously

voted by those present that the State Board of Education table consideration of this matter so the CTE Committee can enter into discussions with MACTE to bring a revised proposal to the next State Board of Education meeting.

2023 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS CALENDAR

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the 2023 State Board of Education meetings calendar.

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 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 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 Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Kristin Bishop, 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 KT 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 3:36 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 4:01 PM.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Wilson Hess, and voted five in favor with two members opposed (Victoria Kornfield and Paulette Bonneau) and one abstention (Thomas Keller) to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for KT. The motion is adopted. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and voted five in favor with two members opposed (Victoria Kornfield and Paulette Bonneau) and one abstention (Thomas Keller) to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for JT. The motion is adopted. The transfer is granted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Fern Desjardins 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, December 14, 2022 at 1:00 PM at Nokomis Regional Middle/High School in Newport, RSU 19.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 4:04 PM.

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