



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 May 12, 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; Casey Maddock; and Greyson Orne.

Vacant: One Member

Others Present: Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

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. Ten 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 – “This is my Country” by Robert Peter Tristram Coffin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Fern Desjardins, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the April 14, 2021 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Wilson Hess

- Wilson reviewed the business agenda for the May 12 meeting.
 - *Unfinished Business*
 - Rule Chapter 115 has been carried forward from previous meetings. The Chair of the Certification and Higher Education Committee made a motion at the April 14, 2021 meeting to table consideration of Chapter 115 approval to a future State Board of Education meeting.
 - *New Business*
 - Approval of the FY22 Budget Allocation of the Maine Carl D. Perkins Grant as authorized under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).
 - 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).
- Wilson Hess gave a special thanks to the Ad Hoc Committee for their work to provide input from the SBE to Commissioner Makin on the strategic deployment of ARP/ESSER federal funds. Members on the Committee were John Bird, Chair, Fern Desjardins, Victoria Kornfield and Casey Maddock.
- He gave a special thanks to Greyson Orne for his testimony before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on LD 21 – An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.
- The Board's newest member, Cordelia Pitman from Portland was not available to join the Board today, but hopefully will be at the June 9 meeting.
- Wilson Hess thanked new Board members for attending committee meetings, gaining perspective of committee work, and providing feedback. He will consult with the incoming chair of the Board on Committee appointments for the 2021-2022 year. Wilson reviewed with the Board the Committee Appointments/Board Representatives list. Board

members should express interest to what committees they are interested in serving on.

- He is in the process of nominating Fern Desjardins as the Treasurer/Secretary of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Board of Directors.
- The Maine County Teacher of the Year announcement will take place at 2:00 PM today. Vice-chair, Peter Geiger will be stepping out of the business meeting to say a few words at the virtual event.
- Materials distributed for today's meeting are the Board's Strategic Plan, and Title 20-A - Responsibilities of the State Board of Education.
- Wilson has been involved with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee with the work on LD 1189 – An Act to Amend the Teacher Certification Statutes.
- In regard to Commissioner Makin's presentation at today's morning workshop session on School Facilities, there is still an opportunity to provide input to open the door to further conversations. This could be done through email.
- A financial order is being submitted to move State Board funds in the amount of \$13,200 from "All Other" to "Personal Services" (per diems). The Board has over spent per diem funds by \$50.00. We still have expense vouchers for per diem reimbursement for the fourth quarter – April, May and June.

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- With the legislature in session, the Legislative Action Committee met April 16, April 23, April 30 and May 7, to review legislation that is on our concern list. Thanks to Chair Hess for his deep involvement in testifying and for behind the scenes work to keep us connected to the Department of Education and the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on matters of interest.
- Peter participated in several Certification and Higher Education Committee meetings as they continue to review work on Rule Chapter 115.
- During the week of April 26, Peter served as the Board observer for the team that conducted a 5-year review of the Bates College Education program virtually. It required a dozen meetings all by Zoom. This virtual visit was effective and a report should come to the Board at the June meeting. Kudos to members of the review team and to the college staff who worked hard to prepare a self-study and made time to conduct interviews.
- Today, Educate Maine and the Department of Education will be celebrating the selection of 16 County Teacher of the Year (CTOY) honorees. This is part of the Maine Teacher of the Year program where one teacher from the 16 counties becomes the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year. What is exciting about the program is that over 400 educators are

nominated, 16 become the 2021 CTOY and 1 will represent all Maine teachers in the upcoming year. The State Board of Education has been an active partner in honoring all our outstanding educators since the program's inception in 1958. In a few minutes, Peter will slip away for 3 or 4 minutes to congratulate this year's cohort on behalf of the State Board.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Greyson Orne

- He has two more weeks of classes. Took the SATs two days ago and APs are completed.
- Greyson attended the first virtual programs with the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Naval Academy which were four days each. He is working on his applications.

John Bird

- He attended all four of the Legislative Action Committee meetings.
- He participated and chaired the ad hoc committee for the ARP/ESSER report.
- He participated and chaired the CTE Committee meeting on April 22.

Victoria Kornfield

- She has been attending the Legislative Action Committee meetings.
- She participated on the ad hoc committee for the ARP/ESSER report.

Cynthia Murray-Beliveau

- She has been attending many committee meetings to assess where she will fit in best.

Casey Maddock

- She has been wrapping things up at school. AP exams are coming up.
- Her last day of school is June 4. She has her formal senior dinner this weekend and prom is coming up soon.
- She participated in her last dance competition. She had an outdoor performance which included all the numbers they take to competition.
- Casey received a full tuition scholarship to The University of Maine. She plans to be a Math Teacher in the State of Maine.

James Ford

- James has been busy with school. Working on two big projects for Lewiston.
- They just got a new principal at Lewiston High School – Putnam from Houlton.

Fern Desjardins

- Fern attended four Certification and Higher Education Committee meetings.
- She attended four Legislative Action Committee meetings.
- She participated in the two Ad Hoc Committee meetings on ARP-ESSER.
- She attended the Charter Commission monthly meeting on May 11.

- She attended the Harpswell Coastal Academy and Maine Arts Academy Board of Directors meetings as their liaison.
- She attended a webinar “From Physical Plant to Mental Health: What's the Best Use for American Rescue Plan Education Funds”? She benefited from that in being on the Ad Hoc Committee for ESSER III Funds.
- She attended and chaired the Public Education Positions Committee meeting for NASBE.

Wendy Ault

- Wendy will report on committee meetings during Committee Reports.
- She continues to be impressed by student board members. She applauds Casey as she moves into adulthood. Wendy wishes Greyson the best of luck as he moves forward with his goals.
- The MELMAC Foundation is hosting a virtual peer learning session on Monday, May 24, 2021, from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. All State Board of Education members will be invited to participate as schedules allow. Joanne McCallie, former UMaine women’s basketball coach, will be the keynote speaker. Her book has been sent to all participants, so they have the opportunity to read it ahead of time. Joanne will focus on brain health and being aware of mental health when working with young people in the State of Maine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The School Construction Committee did not meet on April 30, 2021 as scheduled.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 28, 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 April 28, 2021 as scheduled. The Committee held special meetings on April 15, April 16, and April 21, 2021.

- At the morning workshop session, Deputy Commissioner Chuhta presented an update on the status of the work on Chapter 115. Chair Hess and Peter Geiger have spoken today regarding LD 1189 – An Act to Amend the Teacher Certification Statute. The Committee is waiting for results of the Education and Cultural Affairs action on the bill.
- The next Special Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 20, 2021. The focus continues to be on Chapter 115.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 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 April 22, 2021 as scheduled.

- The Committee approved a recommendation for the SBE to approve Exhibit VIII.A. on the business agenda today - approval of the FY22 Budget Allocation of the Maine Carl D. Perkins Grant. Portion of the money is split 50/50 with the Community College System, so they are involved in the Perkins funding. The Board has Perkins funds and Briggs funds to distribute to improve CTE for students in the State of Maine.
- Perkins funds the Board can distribute are in the amount of \$150,000.00 from Briggs and the Perkins funds subject to Board distribution are \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00.
- The SBE Strategic Plan - CTE goals have a focus to build up CTE enrollment. There are about 8,000 to 9,000 students enrolled in CTE programs.
- The Committee approved a recommendation for the SBE to approve Exhibit VIII.B. on the business agenda today – approval of the Quarterly Report of the Maine Carl D. Perkins Grant.

The next regular CTE Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 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 7, 2021.

- The Committee met four times since the last monthly State Board of Education meeting. They continue to evaluate the LDs that are up for public hearings and work sessions as it relates to the Board's work. During the past months, Chair Hess testified on the Board's behalf in support of LD 298 (An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Capital Improvements and equipment for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers and Regions) and LD 702 (An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund). During the past year a number of groups have been evaluating certification rules. LD 1189 puts proposed rule changes into certification statute. Chair Hess has worked with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, Department of Education (DOE) regarding LD 1189.
- Then the Legislative Action Committee pulled out a heavy hitter to testify in support of LD 21 (An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics - MSSM). The Board's junior student member and MSSM student, Greyson Orne, did the honors. Since this was Greyson's first time in front of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, Peter Geiger

shared Greyson's YouTube testimony with Board members during the meeting.

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 met on Friday, April 30, 2021.

Wendy Ault presented the Committee's recommendation for a slate of officers:

Fern Desjardins – Chair
Peter Geiger – Vice Chair

The Board will vote at the June 9, 2021 annual meeting.

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.

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

Wendy Ault reported that the highlight of the month was the Student Cabinet Meeting, which was focused on mental health. There were several breakout rooms and students had the opportunity to talk about mental health and what they are observing in their schools. The Commissioner was able to join the meeting and speak with students on what they are observing with mental health.

Greyson Orne attended the meeting and reported that discussion was on what students can do to help with their own mental health. It was a valuable discussion for students on the Cabinet to try to better understand the resources that are available to them in their particular schools as well and around them.

Casey Maddock was unable to attend the Cabinet meeting but was part of the planning session for the meeting. The adults wanted to hear from the students what their sources of strength are and in turn were hoping to learn how they can bolster the sources of strength in schools. Today, Casey did an interview with Channel 6 regarding student mental health. This morning, she also did a call in with Maine Public Radio, as they are doing a segment on mental health.

Student Membership (Fern Desjardins):

Wendy Ault, Casey Maddock and Fern Desjardins completed their task on March 30, 2021 which was to send three finalists names to Governor Mills. Fern Desjardins informed Board members at the April 14 meeting that the Committee had received 26 applications and Fern shared a breakdown on the applicants.

It is now in the hands of the governor to select the student member who will replace Casey Maddock.

- The three finalists are:
 - Joshua Leinwand, Yarmouth High School
 - Cole Cochrane, Thornton Academy
 - William Dunham, Freeport High School

Ad Hoc Committee – ARP/ESSER III Federal Funds (John Bird):

John Bird chaired the Ad Hoc Committee and Fern Desjardins, Victoria Kornfield, and Casey Maddock served on the Committee. The Committee held two meetings. An overview of the meetings was presented at the workshop session today. Report to Commissioner Makin:

**State Board of Education Recommendations to Commissioner Makin
on Strategic Deployment of ARP/(ESSER III) Funds**

The Maine State Board of Education ARP/ESSER Ad Hoc Committee met for the purpose of establishing priorities, on behalf of the State Board, for the use of ARP/ESSER federal funds available to our state. The Board was asked by Commissioner Pender Makin to provide feedback/share ideas for the application to the U.S. Department of Education. The Board highly supports Commissioner Makin’s forward thinking in utilizing this opportunity to invest the funds to better our education system into the future or as Education Secretary Miguel Cardona stated, “The American Rescue Plan ... prioritizes *redesigning our schools*.” We concur with Secretary Cardona that, “We shouldn’t go back to the schools of March 2020 – that’s a low bar.”

To that end, the committee recommends three major areas of strategic focus for ARP/Esser funds: infrastructure, transforming student & learning supports, and addressing mental health & promoting social emotional learning.

Strengthening Infrastructure

1. Improving indoor air quality
2. Improving water quality
3. Ensuring broadband access in all schools and homes

A comprehensive statewide inventory of all of Maine’s school buildings would be an essential first step in addressing Maine’s physical infrastructure needs. The COVID pandemic, combined with a longstanding funding shortfall in meeting the needs of the State’s ageing physical plants, has heightened the urgency of turning the corner on this important area of focus. Committing a generous amount of the available ARP/ESSER funds to this task will enable the state to do just that – turn the corner and create much-needed forward momentum.

The COVID pandemic has also heightened our sense of urgency in addressing an important equity issue, the lack of broadband access. Broadband is the gateway to remote learning and to being functional in today’s society. The broadband deficit is especially prevalent in northern and downeast Maine. While the state has taken modest steps to redress this deficit in recent decades, the ARP/ESSER funding initiative affords us the opportunity to take a big leap towards closing the gap.

Transforming Student and Learning Support

1. Closing the digital divide – Purchasing educational technology and providing technological support
2. Better tools to assess academic achievement
3. Acceleration through tutoring
4. Robust summer school programs
5. Filling funding gaps in CTE programs to meet workforce needs

Student and learning supports should be transformed to better address barriers to teaching and learning. It is important that when the ESSER funds have been depleted, the transformations can be sustained. These programs could be community/school based and must start with clear assessments of each child's needs.

Again, the COVID pandemic has heightened our awareness of the challenges many people face in meeting their children's learning needs, especially when in-person learning is suspended for long periods of time. Robust compensatory learning support programs are critically important to families facing these challenges. Maine DOE should encourage research-driven strategies that have proven to be a good investment to help students get back on track and accelerate their learning, such as an intense tutoring program. CTE programs should have the resources needed to build on skill sets to better meet workforce needs. ARP/ESSER funding could be transformative in student learning.

Addressing Mental Health & Promoting Social Emotional Learning

1. Supporting students, school staff, and families with schooling changes
2. Increasing home and school connections
3. Staffing to provide mental health and social emotional learning services

These interventions should be planned and developed with families and community stakeholders to create safe and nurturing learning environments. Everyone working with students in our schools needs stronger mental health supports and training to better understand the social and emotional needs of students. Mental health and social emotional learning require a comprehensive system of support for all students. That can be better accomplished by working with local health care and social services providers. Students and parents could be offered after hour support.

Our educators are all too painfully aware of the enormous toll the COVID pandemic has taken on the socio-emotional health and well being of Maine's school communities the past year and a half. Devoting significant funding resources to this area of focus has the potential to stimulate major progress.

The key to any successful school initiative is professional development for all stakeholders impacted by the change - teachers, administrators, parents, and community members. By utilizing funds to train stakeholders, Maine will be investing in ways for the targeted initiatives to sustain themselves after the funds have been depleted. The Board supports the continued efforts of improving teachers' skills in remote teaching as it may shape changes in education into the future. Overall, we balance practicality with innovation. The immediate demands are great, but the money should be spent with an eye to the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Maine State Board of Education ARP/ESSER Ad Hoc Committee

– John Bird (Chair), Fern Desjardins, Tori Kornfield and Casey Maddock

Charter Commission Representatives (John Bird and Fern Desjardins):

The Charter School Commission met on May 11, 2021 as scheduled.

- The Commission amended the 2019-2020 Annual Monitoring Reports for Maine Connections Academy and Maine Virtual Academy.
- Jeremy Jones, Executive Director, presented a proposal for the use of carryover funds held by MCSC. The Commission voted to table action on the proposal.
- Discussion took place on a 3-year MCSC strategic plan draft that was developed during the past several months with input from various stakeholders. It incorporates the voices of local and national experts in authorizing, innovation, and leadership. Wilson Hess (Chair), Shelley Reed,

and John Bird agreed to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to provide feedback on the plan.

- John Bird reported that Executive Director, Jeremy Jones, is still in Texas and attending meetings virtually. John spoke about LD 604 – An Act to Promote Accountability in Maine’s Charter Schools.

Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):

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

- The Professional Standards Board reviewed the status of work on Chapter 115. They understand that Part 1 has gone through the Board’s Certification and Higher Education (CHE) Committee and more work is required by the CHE committee on Part 2 before it gets to the State Board of Education (SBE). It will be next year until any action is taken.
- Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta explained the inner workings of how LR 1315 that became LD 1189 (An Act to Amend the Teacher Certification Statutes) and the significance of that bill to change statute for all the proposed revisions. He also shared how LDs 1149 (An Act to Provide Exemptions from Certain Teacher Certification Examination Requirements) and 1169 (An Act to Improve Teacher Certification during Staffing Shortages) related to LD1189.
- The PSB had a brief discussion on the annual report that is due to the SBE at its June 9, 2021 meeting. Their report will be an exhibit at the State Board’s next meeting.

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

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF RULE CHAPTER 115

At the April 14, 2021 State Board of Education meeting, the Board voted unanimously to table consideration of Rule Chapter 115 approval to a future State Board of Education meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FY22 BUDGET ALLOCATION OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224).

As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224), requires a designated

eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020. Further requirements are as follows:

PART A ALLOTMENT and ALLOCATION §112 - WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION

(a) From the amount allotted to each State for a fiscal year, the eligible agency shall make available—

(1) not less than 85 percent for distribution to local eligible recipients

(2) not more than 10 percent to carry out State leadership activities

(A) not more than 2 percent to serve State correctional institutions (Arthur R Gould School)

(B) not less than \$60,000 and not more than \$150,000 shall be available for services that prepare individuals for non-traditional fields

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

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

PART B STATE PROVISIONS §121 - STATE ADMINISTRATION

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

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

In accordance with § 121 – Within State Allocation, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team has prepared the FY2022 Perkins budget allocations and submits this budget to the State Board of Education for approval.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the FY2022 Perkins State Budget for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance to §121 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the FY2022 Perkins State Budget for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance to §121 of the

Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

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 third report for FY2021.

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

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Quarterly report for the period of January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 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, June 9, 2021, at 1:00 PM.
- Wilson Hess reported that he will be reaching out to Robert Hull, President of NASBE to confirm his role as facilitator for the SBE annual retreat to be held on August 10 and 11. Peter Geiger reported that he has reserved the Green Ladle in Lewiston as the facility for the annual retreat.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the May 12, 2021 State Board of Education meeting at 2:31 PM.

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