



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 October 14, 2009, at Portland High School, Portland, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Ann Weisleder; Vice Chair James Banks, Sr.; Marilyn Temple Tardy; Mabel Desmond; Lynda Doyle; Nancy Perkins; Jeffrey Vermette; Steven Pound; and Andrea Levinsky. Excused: James Carignan and Honor Wilkinson.

Also present were: Commissioner Susan Gendron; Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Ann Weisleder called the meeting to order at 1:17PM.

Due to the late start of the Business meeting it was agreed upon to amend the order of business and move to the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RECEIPT REVIEW TEAM REPORT FOR THE APPLICATION FROM MAINE MEDIA COLLEGE FOR REAFFIRMATION OF ITS MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE AS REQUIRED BY ENACTMENT OF LD 318 DURING THE 124TH LEGISLATURE, FIRST REGULAR SESSION.

MOVED by James Banks, Sr., seconded by Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the consent agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

WAIVER OF SECTION 2 (3), APPLICATION FORM, 2, OF CHAPTER 61, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION.

STATEMENT OF FACT: Paragraph 2 of Section 2 (3), Application Form, of Chapter 61 needs to be waived for the application of an Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility because it is not pertinent to this application and could cause confusion. The paragraph states:

“The application must include a study of the availability and accessibility of space in other facilities, both those within the administrative unit and those in adjacent and nearby administrative units. The study must address

enrollment, including trends and projections, the compatibility of grade levels, student transportation, and the potential impact of these factors on the education program and on other issues related to the use of facilities.”

If an Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility is ultimately authorized, it must then respond to the paragraph above when it completes its Site Selection process.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education waive Section 2 (3), Application Form, ¶2, of Rules Chapter 61 as indicated in the Statement of Fact above.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education waive Section 2 (3), Application Form, ¶2, of Chapter 61, State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, that reads as follows:

“The application must include a study of the availability and accessibility of space in other facilities, both those within the administrative unit and those in adjacent and nearby administrative units. The study must address enrollment, including trends and projections, the compatibility of grade levels, student transportation, and the potential impact of these factors on the education program and on other issues related to the use of facilities.”

If an Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility is ultimately authorized, it must then respond to the paragraph above when it completes its Site Selection process.

MOVED by Jeffrey Vermette, seconded by Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the waiver as it has been written in the exhibit.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM THE NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS (NESCOM) TO RENAME THE BOARD APPROVED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS DEGREE TO REFLECT ACTUAL PRACTICE AND TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.

BACKGROUND: 20-A MRSA, § 10704 provides that any educational institution may confer certain degrees if it has been granted initial authority by an Act of the Legislature. The New England School of Communications (NESCOM), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of this State, was initially authorized by the Maine Legislature to confer the Associate of Science degree in 1993. Subsequently, the School was authorized by the Maine State Board of Education to award the Bachelor of Science in Communications degree in 2000. Since State Board authorization NESCOM has awarded the Bachelor of Science in Communications degree with either a Communications Technology or a Media Studies concentration.

Subsequently, NESCOM applied for and was granted national accreditation by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCCT) – one of the programmatic accrediting agencies recognized by the US Secretary of Education. In the process of seeking renewal of accreditation, ACCSCCT has notified NESCOM that it considers the Bachelor of Science in Communications degree, by title, to be too broad to be meaningful in the marketplace given the changing demands and requirements of the communications field. Instead, ACCSCCT is requiring NESCOM to delineate the degree to be awarded into its separate foci. The accrediting agency's preference is to split the

Board authorized Bachelor of Science in Communications degree into two (2) degrees: Bachelor of Science in Communications Technology and the Bachelor of Science in Media Studies. The reason for doing so is to better delineate the areas of proficiency and the fields of study most recognizable by potential employers.

This dilemma was recognized by NESCOM officials at least five (5) years ago. Since then, in practice, NESCOM students have been given the choice to opt for a Bachelor of Science in Communications with a concentration in Communications Technology or in Media Studies. Changing the name of the degree to reflect this practice would bring clarity to the respective fields of study as well as enhance a better understanding as to graduates' skills, knowledge and abilities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the NESCOM request to rename the Board approved Bachelor of Science in Communications degree and permit NESCOM, in addition to its prior authorization to confer the Associate of Science degree, to henceforth award either the Bachelor of Science in Communications Technology degree or the Bachelor of Science in Media Studies degree.

MOVED by Steven Pound, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the NESCOM request to rename the Board approved Bachelor of Science in Communications degree and permit NESCOM, in addition to its prior authorization to confer the Associate of Science degree, to award either the Bachelor of Science in Communications Technology degree or the Bachelor of Science in Media Studies degree, for the student class beginning the fall semester 2010. Existing students enrolled in the program will have a choice between the Bachelor of Science in Communications Technology degree, the Bachelor of Science in Media Studies degree, or the Bachelor of Science in Communication that they originally enrolled in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Jeffrey Vermette, seconded by Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the September 16, 2009 minutes as written.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Vice Chair, James Banks, Sr.

- That the November 18, 2009 meeting will be held at Searsport High School.
- That he attended the Teacher of the Year Announcement in Falmouth on September 17, 2009.
- That the Construction Committee held an informational workshop session on the process of Major Capital School Construction. Members from MSMA attended, and members from architect firms.
- That the next Construction Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 30, 2009.

Chair, Ann Weisleder:

- That she participated in the meeting of the Teacher Preparation Program Deans, Directors and Chairs held at Husson University as they continue to explore standards based Teacher Preparation.
- That she attended the Arts Celebration at Point Lookout on October 9, 2009.
- That she is working with Mary on a power point presentation for the Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Fall Conference on October 22, 2009. The presentation is on the basic responsibilities of the State Board of Education.
- That she is sharing a draft of the SBE brochure that will be distributed at the MSMA Conference.
- That she has received the NASBE notes from Brenda Welburn and would like to convene a small group to meet on October 26, 2009 following the Certification Committee meeting. The group will focus on prioritizing the goals. The meeting will be a working lunch and begin at 11:15 in room 538 at the Cross State Office Building. The following members will attend the meeting: Steve Pound, Nancy Perkins, Jim Banks, Ann Weisleder and Mary Becker for support.
- That Sarah Forster will be attending the November 18, 2009 meeting at Searsport High School, to discuss the Van Buren Appeal.
- That Harry Osgood will do a presentation on Teacher Preparation at the December 9, 2009 meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Marilyn Temple Tardy:

- That she participated with Ann as an Observer at the Tufts University Review Team.
- That she attended the Teacher of the Year Announcement in Falmouth on September 17, 2009.

Andrea Levinsky:

- That she met with the Student Council and a Deering Representative of the School Board was present. They talked about the laptop program.
- That she took the PSAT's today.

Lynda Doyle:

- No Report – Left the meeting at 3:35 PM

Nancy Perkins:

- That she is applying for participation in the NASBE Study Group around Teacher Effectiveness.

Mabel Desmond:

- No Report – Left the meeting at 3:40 PM

Jeffrey Vermette:

- No Report

Steven Pound:

- That he is pleased with the nice things going on in the State of Maine with Career and Technical Education (CTE). He is looking forward to a CTE Committee group forming in the near future. Things are moving along, and businesses and schools are reaching out for partnerships.

Jim Carignan:

- No Report - Absent

Honor Wilkinson:

- No Report - Absent

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- That all members should complete a Travel Account Expense Voucher prior to leaving today's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- No Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Marilyn Tardy., seconded by Steve Pound, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the October 14, 2009, State Board of Education meeting at 4:23 PM.