



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 March 15, 2006, at the Cross State Office Building, Room 103, Augusta with the following members present: Chair James Carignan; Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Joyce McPhetres, Ellie Multer, Janet Tockman, and Ann Weisleder. Excused: Jean Gulliver and Jack Norris.

Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Patrick Phillips and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the December 14, 2005, minutes as written.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

PROVISIONAL ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE CHAPTER 114; PURPOSE, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREPARATION PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

Statement of Fact: This chapter contains the State Board of Education standards and procedures for the review and approval of preparation programs for education personnel. The standards and procedures are intended to provide the highest quality educator preparation programs to help all students meet the standards of the System of Maine's Learning Results.

The Department of Education, through a representative stakeholders committee, and the State Board of Education have reviewed the current rule Chapter 114 and have recommended certain amendments to the rule. On January 11, 2006, the proposed rule was presented to the State Board and the Board authorized the promulgation of the rule proposed in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act.

The State Board held a public hearing on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, to receive oral comments regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 114. The deadline for submission for written comments was Thursday, January 27, 2006.

Oral and written comments received have been reviewed by Department staff and responses have been prepared. A copy of the final rule (prior to comments received) as well as a summary of comments and responses to the comments are attached to this exhibit for consideration by the Board.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education provisionally adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 114, Purpose, Standards, and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel.

MOVED by Janet Tockman, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted by those present to provisionally adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 114, Purpose, Standards, and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH RULEMAKING CHAPTER 61 – RULES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Statement of Facts: Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, govern the expenditure of millions of Maine taxpayers' dollars in support of the provision of safe and attractive schools that support the demands of 21st century education. Extensive needs for improved education facilities across the state make it imperative that the rules be kept clear, current, and supportive of the state's education goals. To this end, the Department of Education and the Construction Committee of the State Board of Education have worked jointly to propose modifications to Chapter 61. The proposed revision incorporates changes encouraged by the State Planning Office, GrowSmart Maine and others interested in assuring that school siting is not a factor in sprawl.

Key aspects of this revision include:

- Additional definitions to clarify the language of the rule, including definitions to distinguish technology for educational purposes from other types of technology,
- Consolidation of the waiver provisions into a single item with a requirement that the rationale for granting or denying it be in writing,
- Removal of any reference to the length of a construction cycle,
- Replacement of the minimum acreage requirements with a listing of the essential facilities to be provided,
- The addition of a section spelling out the specifics of "An Adequate Education" as the term is used in M.R.S.A. 20-A, §15905, 2 applying to construction of schools for fewer than 300 pupils,
- Detailing of requirements regarding cost estimates and commissioning,
- Requirements for budget tracking, and the spelling out of more details on various aspects of construction financing.

Recommendations: It is recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education approve the proposed amendment to Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, as routine technical rules. It is further recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education authorize proceeding with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the proposed amendments to Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, as routine technical rules, and to authorize with proceeding with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO “21ST CENTURY SKILLS FOR A 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY,” THE MAINE STATE PLAN FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UNDER THE CARL D. PERKINS ACT OF 1998 (PL 105-332)

The current interim state plan for career and technical education in Maine, 21st Century Skills for a 21st Century Economy, will expire on June 30, 2006. As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support career and technical education for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007), the eligible agency in each state must submit:

- revisions to the existing state plan if appropriate
- proposed performance levels
- budget figures for its Perkins Grant Award

This is required under Office of Management and Budget “Notice of Action 1830-0556.” In Maine the designated eligible agency is the State Board of Education.

The attached draft plan contains minor revisions to the current interim state plan, which addressed the four key areas outlined in “Program Memorandum OVAE/DHSPCE FY 2004-02.” Those four key areas are:

- Improving the academic skills of vocational and technical education students;
- Strengthening connections between secondary and postsecondary education;
- Preparing individuals for occupations in demand that pay family-supporting wages; and
- Investing in effective, high quality local programs

Wording from the CTE Strategic Plan Implementation Plan, Year 1 has been added and all major changes to the plan have been made in red to make them easier to identify. Funding streams, percentages of distribution and funded activities have not changed. Areas where word tenses have changed have not been highlighted. Since reauthorization is imminent and this is a plan revision, no public hearings are required prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Education. The plan is due on April 15, 2006.

Both the budget and the accountability targets are still “proposed” because we do not have final figures from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, Commissioner Gendron has not had the opportunity to review the document but will do so prior to the board meeting.

Reauthorization of the Act is underway. Currently the Senate has passed its version of the reauthorization by a vote of 99-0 and the House has passed its version 409-19. It has yet to go to conference. States will have to engage in a full planning process once the bill is reauthorized.

Motion: The State Board approve the revisions to “21st Century Skills for a 21st Century Economy,” the Maine State Plan for Career and Technical Education Under the Carl D. Perkins Act of 1998 (PL 105-332) for program year 2006-2007.

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Janet Tockman, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the revisions to “21st Century Skills for a 21st Century,” the Maine State Plan for Career and Technical Education Under the Carl D. Perkins Act of 1998 (PL 105-332) for program year 2006-2007.

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Chair Carignan reported on the following:

- That he revised draft memo addressed to the Board, which outlined possible research needed by the Select Panel in order to adequately complete its report and that he is seeking permission from the Board to speak with David Silvernail about the cost of such research.

The Board granted Jim permission to speak with David Silvernail about the cost of performing the research.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Ann Weisleder:

- That she participated as a member of the Team Review for the review of the University of Maine at Presque Isle’s teacher preparation program.
- That she, Jack, and Janet are in the process of reviewing the Making the Grade Award application.

Joyce McPhetres:

- That as a side note, the company that bought MBNA, Bank of America, has indicated that it will honor any existing scholarships that have been awarded to college students, and that Bank of American will continue to honor these existing scholarships for the entire four years that the student remains in college.

Janet Tockman:

- That the Special Education Eligibility Task Force is busy finalizing its report and that the report will be brought back to the Board for review.
- That the Chapter 118 Stakeholder Group is almost finished making its proposed changes to rule Chapter 118. This will also be coming before the Board for consideration to go through the public hearing process (APA).

Phil Dionne

- That the CTE Stakeholders group is working to develop a formula, which will be used in the Essential Programs and Services model.
- That he attended the Teacher of the Year (TOY) Hall of Flags Ceremony on Thursday, March 9.
- That the Perkins Sub Committee met to begin to draft the State Plan, which will need to be submitted to the federal government for approval.

ADJOURNMENT:

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the March 15, 2006, meeting at 1:30 PM.