



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 January 9, 2019 at the Burton Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Wilson Hess; Vice Chair Jane Sexton; Wendy Ault; John Bird; Fern Desjardins; Liberty Ladd; Jana Lapoint; and Jaylee Rice.

Excused: Martha Harris

Vacant: Two Members

Others Present: Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialists; and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Wilson Hess called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Jaylee Rice: 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the December 12, 2018 minutes as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victoria Wallack, Director of Communications and Government Relations, Maine School Management Association commented on the candidate for Commissioner of Education – A. Pender Makin.

The Maine School Boards Association Board and the Maine Superintendent's Association Board have not had a chance to formerly weigh in on the Acting Commissioner's nomination, however, she attended the Maine School Board

meeting on Saturday, January 5, 2019 and she wowed them all. Her priorities are first for the students and the teachers and she is very supportive of letting leaders be leaders. She understands what it will take to do this job. Ms. Wallack is happy to recommend her for the position and MSMA (Maine School Management Association) will make it official for the public hearing before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee presuming their Boards vote this way.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Wilson Hess

- The next order of business will be consideration of the nomination of a candidate for Commissioner of Education – A. Pender Makin
 - Under Title 20-A, Section 251 and ongoing email communication with the Governor's transition team, more specifically, Ben Grant, who graciously put Wilson into direct contact with A. Pender Makin right around the first of the year. Wilson and Acting Commissioner Makin have had a number of productive email discussions and a very engaging conversation on the phone, as well. This satisfies that the Board Chair has been involved in the process. The next step is that there will be an interview with the candidate. The Board will then produce a written analysis and send it to the Governor within ten days of the date of the interview. Upon receipt and consideration of the analysis, the Governor is cleared to proceed with the formal nomination process.
 - For the Board's internal consideration today there are two steps:
 - The Board will entertain a statement from Acting Commissioner Makin
 - The Board will engage in a series of conversations built around questions and answers
 - Board members have indicated their first choice on questions
 - As time permits there will be opportunity for second questions
- Board expenditures – all Board members received a report from Mary Becker through email and Wilson has reviewed the report. The budget is on track half way through the fiscal year.
- In statute, the Board is responsible to review the changes in the organization of school districts. This has not been reported publicly in the past. Wilson wants to be sure the Board sees these changes and the hope is that the Board receives these for consideration in advance. A summary of the recent changes of four was distributed to all members.
 - Amended Certificate of Organization for Regional School Unit #41 d/b/a School Administrative District #41 (Brownville, Lagrange and Milo)
 - Certificate of Withdrawal of Atkinson from Regional School Unit #41 d/b/a School Administrative District #41
 - Amended Certificate of Organization for Regional School Unit #39 (Caribou and Stockholm)
 - Certificate of Withdrawal of Limestone from Regional School Unit #39

- Wilson acknowledged the work of Dwight Littlefield, Career and Life Education Team Leader/State Director for CTE, Department of Education, and his team who held their first stakeholder workshop related to Perkins V. Both Wilson and John Bird were in attendance. It was a statewide group of people and there will be another statewide follow-up meeting in February. There will be Regional meetings as well. There seemed to be specific willingness of folks in attendance to comment on the Alternative Certification Pathways. This is of interest to both the CTE Committee and the Certification Committee of the State Board.
- Wilson brought attention to a news article that was circulated relating to a former student member of the Board, Kristin Bishop, who has interned at Senator Collins Office both in Augusta and DC and has now been hired as an aide for Susan Collins in Washington, DC.
- Recently, the Board received a Freedom of Access Request related to the Teacher Certification Process. The information requested is on the ten most recent program reviews the Board has had. Mary Becker will work with Jason Libby at the Department of Education gather all the documentation requested. This is a reminder to Board members of all the things we do that are subject to Freedom of Access.
- Over a period of some three weeks, the office has been receiving correspondence from an individual in Southern Maine related to alleged bullying issues. The correspondence has been reviewed by Sarah Forster, Assistant Attorney General, and Sarah is communicating with this issue. Wilson wanted Board members to be aware of the correspondence.
- Receipt of an email notification from Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist, Maine Department of Education, that relates to a clerical error in the University of Maine Farmington (UMF) period of approval. The Board's motion called for Fall of 2018 to Fall 2024 as the period of approval and it should have been Spring 2018 to Spring 2025. The error is in the Board's motion and in the team's report.

Vice Chair, Jane Sexton

- Wilson received an email with suggestions for revisions to the Board's procedures manual and Jane and Wilson decided to take a section for each meeting to review. The Board began this review of the policies and procedures manual at the January 9 workshop meeting.
- She attended the agenda review meeting through conference call.

CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION:

Wilson introduced Acting Commissioner A. Pender Makin to State Board Members and Acting Commissioner Makin made an introductory verbal statement to the Board and agreed to answer any questions the Board might have.

The Board interviewed A. Pender Makin for approximately 90 minutes with a series of a dozen questions.

Later in the meeting, under New Business, Board members offered comments in the appraisal of the candidate. The Board is broadly supportive of Ms. Makin's

candidacy. Members were appreciative of the engaging manner of the dialog, believing it offered particular insights on the candidate's strengths. The Board also took note of certain challenges, the awareness of which they deem important considerations for achieving her espoused goals. The Board looks forward to working closely with Ms. Makin.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins for Martha Harris):

The School Construction Committee did not meet on January 2, 2019, as scheduled.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2019. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Jane Sexton):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee did not meet on December 26, 2018, as scheduled.

- A public hearing for Chapter 115: "The Credentialing of Education Personnel" is scheduled for January 14, 2019. The three Board members attending the hearing will be Jane Sexton, John Bird and Wilson Hess.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2019. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building. 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 January 3, 2019, as scheduled.

- The Committee reviewed an updated and signed copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Community College System. The Committee's goal was to have the signed MOU by the end of 2018. John Bird thanked Dwight Littlefield and Jason Libby for getting this completed expeditiously. The December 31, 2018 deadline was met and the MOU was well tailored.
 - Leveled the playing field for kids in the State of Maine – Giving them equal access from K-12 and the Community College System
 - The MOU will be reviewed three years from the date it was executed to determine effectiveness and periodically as needed
- Perkins V Transition Plan – John and Wilson Hess attended the stakeholder group meeting in Augusta on December 19 and it was a very robust meeting. He will attend the next stakeholder meeting scheduled for February 8. Regional meetings will be scheduled as well.

The next Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2019. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross

State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Jana Lapoint):

The Legislative Action Committee has not met since November 20. Jana and Wilson will be meeting with an individual to assist the Board with the writing of white papers.

Nomination and Election (Wilson Hess):

A committee has not been appointed. Wilson Hess is looking for volunteers interested in serving on the committee and would like to get the group together in January.

Student Voices (Wilson Hess for Martha Harris):

The Committee has not met.

Charter Commission Representatives (Jana Lapoint):

The Charter School Commission did not meet in January.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

GRANT APPROVAL TO THE MAINE COLLEGE OF ART (MECA) EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 114

BACKGROUND: The review team was chaired by Dr. Mara Tieken of Bates College. The review took place October 14-16, 2018. The review team reviewed the institution's self-study using Chapter 114 standards and recommended five-year program approval.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the MECA Review Team report of findings that the institution's educator preparation program be granted five-year program approval by the Maine State Board of Education.

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the MECA Review Team report of findings that the institution's educator preparation program be granted five-year program approval by the Maine State Board of Education.

MEMBERSHIP: MAINE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

On September 12, 2018, the State Board voted unanimously to accept the appraisal of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and approve the reappointment of James Rier to serve on the State Public Charter School Commission. The Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions sent paperwork to Mr. Rier to appear before a Dedimus Justice and take his oath of office. Due to the oath not taking place for whatever reason, the State Board of Education needs to reappoint James Rier to serve on the Charter Commission and Mr. Rier will need to take an oath of office before a Dedimus Justice once he

receives the paperwork from the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions.

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to reappoint James Rier to serve on the State Public Charter School Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

ASSIGNMENT OF AUTHORIZING THE WRITTEN REPORT ON CANDIDATE MAKIN TO GOVERNOR MILLS

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present for the State Board of Education to authorize Wilson Hess, Chair of the Board, with consultation from three Board members (Wendy Ault, John Bird, and Jane Sexton) to draft the appraisal of the candidate to the Governor as set forth in Title 20-A, Sec. 251.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Liberty Ladd

- She will be studying at Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the next four years.
- She continues to participate in the SAiL Program – “Student Adventures in Learning”.

Jaylee Rice

- In March, she will be participating in the Maine State Science Fair.
- She will be attending Berkley College of Music National Competition in February.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted unanimously by those present for the Board to go into executive session to discuss student transfer appeals at 3:02 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:16 PM.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Commissioner’s decision in the approval of a transfer for AS. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Commissioner’s decision in the designated placement of MS. The placement is approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be held at the Cross State Office Building in Augusta on February 13, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT:

The January 9, 2019 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.