



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 April 10, 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; Martha Harris; Liberty Ladd; and Jana Lapoint.

Excused: Jaylee Rice

Vacant: Two Members

Others Present: Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Associate.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Wilson Hess called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Liberty Ladd: 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 Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and voted six in favor with one member abstained (Martha Harris) to approve the March 13, 2019 minutes as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Wilson Hess

- He discussed with Commissioner Makin the State Board member vacancies. He also talked about the re-appointment of a current Board member.
- Discussion with Commissioner Makin regarding Chapter 115 which is now on the agenda for the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee for consideration of work that was done during the summer and fall of 2018. There continues to be an interest on the part of the Commissioner to re-open Chapter 115. It is an expedited matter after the Legislature has concluded its work on Chapter 115. The issues she wishes to bring forward are consistent with what the Board has heard from her during her presentations.

Vice Chair, Jane Sexton

- Jane gave her report during the morning session which included her attendance and participation at the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference in Washington, DC on April 7 to April 9.
- She announced to the Board the dates and location of the 2019 Annual State Board of Education Retreat. The Board will meet on Monday, August 12 and Tuesday, August 13 (business meeting at 1:00 PM on Tuesday) at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. Hotel information will be emailed to Board members soon. Board members should let Mary Becker know if they need a hotel room for the retreat. Any topics of interest should be emailed to Mary Becker for review by the Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. Ideas from Committee Chairs would be great. Jane suggested discussion and or a presentation on Social/Emotional Learning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins for Martha Harris):

The School Construction Committee met on April 2, 2019, as scheduled.

- The Committee received a presentation on two concept approvals:
 - RSU 24 – New Grades 6-12 Construction Project, and;
 - Auburn School Department – New Edward Little High School Construction Project
- The Board received a presentation (video) from Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, during the morning workshop session and will receive a presentation this afternoon from the school superintendents and others. The Construction Committee recommends approval of both projects.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 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 met on March 29, 2019, as scheduled.

- The Committee received an update on the on-line certification process.
- Jason Libby reported out on Higher Education. Each college with a teacher preparation program is required to submit a report annually. The Committee set a deadline of April 7. Jason has given copies of reports received, to date, to Committee members and all reports should be in by the next Committee meeting for review.
- There are three handbooks for college reviews and the Committee members have been asked to review each handbook and be prepared to have a discussion of each at the next Committee meeting. Jason Libby has made some revisions to the Maine Educator Preparation Program Standards booklet. The handbooks are as follows:
 1. Handbook for Review Team Members – Maine Educator Preparation Programs
 2. Handbook for State Program Approval – Maine Educator Preparation Programs
 3. Maine Educator Preparation Program Standards

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 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 March 28, 2019, as scheduled.

- The Committee continued discussion of the goal of doubling secondary school CTE enrollment with a focus this coming year on grades 9 and 10.
- Reviewed the request from MACTE for Briggs Funds
- Continuing the process for approving/monitoring program grants for both Perkins FY 2020 and Briggs Funds – Funds need to be released by the end of June
- Proposals for a Facilitator

The next Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 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 meets weekly on Friday with Karen Kusiak, Legislative Director at the Department of Education.

The Committee met on April 5 to discuss bills pending for public hearing on April 8. Those bills were:

- LD 307: An Act To Limit the Number of Charter Schools in Maine – Sponsor is Representative Brennan
- LD 438: An Act To Allow the Creation of New Innovative School Models by Removing the Cap on the Number of Authorized Charter Schools – Sponsor is Senator Pouliot
- LD 513: An Act To Limit the Number of Students and Prevent the Addition of Grade Levels at Virtual Public Charter Schools – Sponsor is Representative Brennan

Following a very helpful processing of materials and discussion, the Committee recommended that the State Board of Education take a position of neither for nor against the three bills but provide information on all three that might help the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee reach a decision. The hearing was held and the Committee decided to put all three bills together. Due to the number of people testifying, the public hearing was brought to a halt at 4:30 PM with many presenters not able to give their testimony and will be giving testimony at a later time.

- LD 714: An Act To Prohibit Public Charter Schools From Expending Funds for Advertising – Sponsor is Representative Handy – The Education Committee voted unanimously ought not to pass

The Committee is following other legislation which will be coming up in the following weeks regarding Career and Technical Education (CTE) and testimony will be given when appropriate.

Nomination and Election (Wilson Hess):

Martha Harris is Chairing the Nominations and Election Committee.

Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins will serve on the committee.

The Committee will announce a slate of officers for nomination of chair and vice chair for the 2019-2020 year on May 15, 2019 and the Board will vote at the June 12, 2019 meeting.

Student Voices (Wilson Hess for Martha Harris):

The Committee has not met.

Charter Commission Representatives (Jana Lapoint):

The Charter School Commission met on April 2, 2019

The Commission gave approval for expansion of Threshold Program for Maine Academy of Natural Science. They currently serve 40 students and have requested a two-year increase finally reaching 120 students. The Threshold Program provides an opportunity for students who have dropped out of high school for various reasons to re-engage in their high school careers. They meet weekly with an instructor in their own home who outlines their work and they come to the campus every other week for a full day of classes.

After an engaging discussion, the Commission passed a motion to continue with all schools on proficiency-based diplomas. The Commission realizes it will take time and money from the Commission to help develop all the schools with what they will need to do to be effective with proficiency-based diplomas.

A very extensive draft closure plan was presented and given its first reading and discussion. It will be presented again next month for a potential final approval.

The Commission was notified that LD 898 – the teacher salary increase would apply to all the schools not just the district public schools and they should be watching it closely.

Twenty-five leaders and teachers attended another full day of training on NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association).

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU 24 NEW GRADES 6-12 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent Michael Eastman requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new grades 6-12, 500 student Middle/High school to be located in Sullivan. The Sumner Memorial High School rated 15th on the 2010-2011 Rating Cycle and was placed on the Approved Projects List at the September 14, 2016 State Board of Education meeting.

The current High School has fewer than 300 students which, pursuant to Chapter 61 Section 6.1, requires State Board review of specific information outlined in the rule to determine whether the SAU will have the capacity to provide an adequate education program. At the February 15, 2017 State Board of Education meeting the Board reviewed RSU 24's capacity to provide and maintain an adequate education program and voted unanimously to authorize the district to proceed with the planning of their project.

RSU 24 hired PDT Architects to conduct a New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Sumner Memorial High School and conduct a regional analysis of the four K-8 buildings in the RSU. The analyses resulted in a recommendation of new construction that would include grades 6-8. This would allow the elimination of 6 portable classrooms and provide space to enhance Pre-K programming in the

district. The combining and inclusion of grades 6-8 in the project will also facilitate educational equity for middle school programming in the district.

The proposed new 6-12 school will be built on the existing site. The site will allow the new school to be constructed while the existing school remains operational. This site benefits from good access and is well served by utility and transportation infrastructure. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on December 12, 2018.

The new building has been designed to meet the Department of Education school construction standards. All appropriate state and local agencies have had input, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to 20-A M.R.S., Section 15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Project Description by Michael Eastman, Superintendent

The nine Regional School Unit 24 communities have expressed overwhelming support for the project that would replace Sumner Memorial High School with a state of the art facility for students from Grades 6 through 12. While the current building served its students well over the last nearly 70 years, it also presents many challenges to providing a 21st century education.

The original 24,000 sq. ft. wood framed structure opened in 1952. Since then, no less than five additions plus two portable structures have been added, creating an interesting, but rambling configuration of classrooms and other spaces that are not necessarily ideal for the purposes for which they are used. Aside from the configuration, the wood framed structure does not meet modern standards for snow loading, wind loading and other codes. The roof and siding are well past warranty. Electrical and plumbing systems and fixtures are antiquated and varied with each new addition that was made. Much of the structure does not have mechanical fresh air. Age and obsolescence are taking a toll. Consequently, district taxpayers find themselves squandering precious resources on an old facility, that has long since exceeded its life expectancy, to keep it suitable for student occupancy instead of making much needed investments in student achievement.

The district's commitment to proficiency based, student centered learning has driven the Concept Design from the very beginning. Much visioning work was done with a variety of stakeholders including members of our various communities in the school district, resulting in a proposed educational program that will be supported by collaborative and intimate learning spaces that will allow for individualized and small group work, project-based learning, and with state of the art technology to serve as a tool in the process. Our strong belief in trades education and real-life, authentic learning opportunities will be supported by our Pathways Program and "Industrial Arts" learning spaces. Our Maker Space and Learning Commons will serve to inspire

learning beyond the traditional resources found in the classroom. The replacement for Sumner Memorial High School will be a representation of the values and beliefs that our extended community holds as very important.

The inclusion of grades 6-8 students from our four sending schools creates an opportunity to provide an educational program to the majority of our students under one roof and will allow for equitable programming for our students that is vertically aligned and supports our belief that we take each student from his/her current level of proficiency and facilitate growth and progress without the impediment of limited opportunities (courses/teachers/space).

The proposed facility also brings the latest innovations in efficiency to our communities. During concept design, the Building Committees' Energy and Sustainability Subcommittee explored the full range of options for the buildings energy sources. While pellets and chips seemed the most appealing options. Further exploration revealed potential issues with delivery and storage, given the size of the site. Readily available local fuel sources was also an issue. The committee then looked at geothermal options and ultimately settled on newly emerging air to air heat pump technology. Data provided by the energy consulting firm Thorton Tomasetti revealed the air to air heat pumps exceeded all other options in terms of both installation and operating costs. The concept also includes local only funding to strengthen the roof structure for future photo-voltaic installation.

Regional School Unit No. 24 feels very fortunate to be a part of this process and we anxiously await the positive influence that a new facility will have on student learning in our district

Project Information:

Project: RSU 24 New Grades 6-12 Construction Project
Superintendent: Michael Eastman
Architect: PDT Architects – Lyndon Keck, Kathy Kahill
Schools to be closed: Existing Sumner Memorial High School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$44,147,166.
Local Only (no State participation): \$1,055,797.
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$43,091,369.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU 24 for a new grades 6-12 school construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On April 2, 2019, the School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the April 10, 2019 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Concept Approval to RSU 24 for a new grades 6-12 school construction project as presented.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present for the State Board of Education to grant Concept Approval to RSU 24 for a new grades 6-12 school construction project as presented.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; AUBURN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT-NEW EDWARD LITTLE HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent Katy Grondin requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new high school in Auburn. The proposed new high school will replace the existing Edward Little High School. The Edward Little High School rated 16th on the 2010-2011 Rating Cycle and was placed on the Approved Projects List at the September 14, 2016 State Board of Education meeting.

The Auburn School Department hired Harriman to conduct a New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Edward Little High School. The analysis was completed with a recommendation of new construction. Harriman then worked with the district and city administrative personnel to identify potential school sites. After extensive evaluation of the final sites the existing Edward Little site clearly became the best option for the new high school. The site is centrally located in the district and well established in the social context of the community and will allow the new school to be constructed while the existing school remains operational. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on September 12, 2018.

The proposed new school went through a vigorous visioning process that included strong community involvement. The process also included a review of pathway and program needs at the Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC). As a result, a total of 12 satellite programs will be included in the project to support a Technology pathway and a Public Services pathway for all students of the LRTC region. The facility will have the capacity to hold 1,100 Auburn High School students daily and 210 career and technical education students per half day.

The new integrated high school building has been designed to meet the Department of Education school construction standards. All appropriate state and local agencies have had input, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to 20-A M.R.S., Section 15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Project Description by Katy Grondin, Superintendent

The new Edward Little High School (ELHS) facility will provide our grades 9-12 students with the environment needed to prepare them to succeed in an ever changing world.

For more than 12 years, NEASC has placed ELHS' accreditation on probation due to the deficiencies of its facility. The building, constructed in 1961, has only one science

lab. The cafeteria is in the basement with no windows, there is no auditorium, and spaces have been creatively carved out for student services wherever possible. Our community has long awaited this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a high school that meets our educational vision, is safe and secure, and will boost Red Eddie pride.

In addition to the programming to support ELHS students, the new Edward Little High School will house the Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC) satellite, which will expand Career and Technical Education options for our students as well as students in the region. Rob Callahan, LRTC Director, reviewed all programming and created different pathways for the Lewiston and Auburn campuses, after adding 10 new state-approved programs to the current 20 programs being offered. The Auburn site will be the location for the Technology (6 programs) and Public Services (6 programs) pathways. These new programs are in response to our region's needs in the areas of manufacturing, firefighting and EMT.

Beyond the building, our high school, for the first time, will have all of its playing fields on one site! The only teams that currently play at ELHS are track and field, soccer, and tennis. There were two high priorities for the community: to have the school centrally located within the city, and to have all the playing fields on the site. This project will meet both of those goals.

We anticipate a boost in student participation in co-curricular opportunities and an increase in community pride as our residents come out to cheer on the Eddies in their many competitions. We recognize the importance of athletics and the arts in developing well-rounded citizens. This is why the community is not only supporting a stadium, but also a 1,200-seat auditorium through local funding.

The new Edward Little High School Construction Project will significantly improve the educational opportunities for Auburn students by creating an environment that celebrates learning both in academics and CTE programming. In order to have a healthy learning environment, we will have a geothermal climate control system. Geothermal was selected after reviewing other options such as wood burning and solar, due to the State contribution to geothermal and its 18 years return on investment. It will be truly amazing to walk into a building built with students in mind and watch school pride and achievement soar.

On behalf of the citizens of Auburn, and especially the students and staff, I thank the Maine Board of Education for its continued support of this project!

Project Information:

Project: Auburn School Department - New Edward Little High School Construction Project

Superintendent: Katy Grondin

Architect: Harriman – Mark Lee, Lisa Sawin

Schools to be closed: Existing Edward Little High School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$122,016,342.

Local Only (no State participation): \$16,117,492.

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$105,898,850.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Auburn School Department for the new Edward Little High School construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On April 2, 2019, the School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the April 10, 2019 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Concept Approval to the Auburn School Department for the new Edward Little High School construction project as presented.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present for the State Board of Education to grant Concept Approval to the Auburn School Department for the new Edward Little High School construction project as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Martha Harris, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted unanimously by those present for the Board to go into executive session to discuss a student transfer appeal at 2:42 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:03 PM.

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted six in favor with one member opposed (Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for LL. The transfer is denied.

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 May 15, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT:

The April 10, 2019 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:04 PM.