



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 2, 2023 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, via Zoom. The following were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Wendy Ault, Victoria Kornfield, and Denham Ward (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Michael Perry, Acting Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Cynthia Alexander; Rose Angell; Penny Bishop; Lane Clarke; Mallory Cook; Dan Holman; Dave Keaton; Eileen King; Alana Margeson; Jean Roesner; Andrea Stairs-Davenport; and Vicki Wallack.

Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 28, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment:

Dan Holman and Jean Roesner from Maranacook Middle School addressed the C&HE Committee regarding certification changes in Chapter 115, specifically the K-8 020 certification being changed to a preK-6 and the grades 5-8 middle school certificate having implications for best practices for integrated curriculum.

Higher Education Update:

- Michael Perry has created a draft EPP site visit schedule. He will reach out to EPPs to confirm dates.
- Fall of 2023 and Fall of 2024 will be busy for approvals. We hope to engage EPPs in getting help recruiting review committee members. Husson, Maine College of Art and Design, and Unity are due by the end of 2023, with Colby, EMCC, Thomas and UMA due by the end of 2024, as it looks right now.
- They are looking into a hybrid model for site visits.
- We need to collect the records and have a review committee look over the report for Syracuse University's renewal. Tori has agreed to be the State Board Observer on a visit. Tom asked Michael to please include Tori or Tom on correspondences with Syracuse

University.

- Michael reached out to President DeWalt from Beal University to get her understanding of where we are in process, and what their intentions are moving forward. Denham has agreed to be the State Board Observer on a visit. Tom asked Michael to please include Denham or Tom on correspondences with Beal University.
- NIFS will be taken up at the August State Board meeting.
- A draft document from the MDOE regarding the Roux Institute is in preparation.
- Announced more Higher Education Grants from the DOE. We have three applicant institutions that will receive funds through MJRP totaling close to \$4 million.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield seconded by Denham Ward and unanimously voted by those present to amend the University of Maine at Presque Isle's Educator Preparation Program list of certification areas to include 029 Early Childhood, 081 Early Elementary and 282 Teacher of Students with Disabilities. The motion passed.

Certification Update:

- Processed 4,786 credentials in June, which is a 112.95% increase over May and a 245% increase year to year. Michael presented a pie chart with specifics.
- Processing time for new applicants is back down to three weeks. The team worked diligently through the backlog with the approved overtime pay.
- Michael hopes to extend an offer for the Certification Coordinator position soon. There are 9 members of the Certification team.
- The team viewed 98,975 educator profiles in June.
- 2,972 violations has decreased to 1,800 currently. Many of these are errors between the NEO data system and the MEIS data system, such as incorrect SSNs.
- Baseline concern for non-educators transitioning requires 7 college courses to achieve full certification to be a CTE Educator in CTE Centers and Regions. Directors feel this is another barrier for people making that transition.
- DOE and EPPs are interested in exploring ways of how courses line up for Pathway 2 to avoid misalignments.
- Michael shared the Federal Teacher Shortage Area List. In Maine, the annual teacher shortage list is utilized by the MDOE to determine which endorsements are eligible for an emergency certificate.
- As per the US ED, waivers are not permitted for endorsement 282 Special Ed. Michael is reaching out to Special Ed Directors. A person needs only 9 hours to be conditionally certified in Special Ed.

Update from the Maine Educator Preparation Programs:

On behalf of the EPPs, Dr. Lane Clarke from UNE attended today's meeting. She said the Teacher Educator Alliance of Maine (TEAMe) met in June. The next meeting is in September at USM. Followed by the December meeting at UNE. The group is collaborative and inclusive; they work very well together. They all have a shared vision and the same goals. It was asked if a State Board member may attend the TEAMe meetings. Dr. Clarke will get back to us on that.

Several of the Educator Preparation Programs met to work on the agenda for the State Board of Education Annual Retreat to be held on the USM Portland Campus on August 15 and 16. Many of the EPPs will be attending the retreat.

Other Business:

- The committee reviewed and made edits to the current C&HE Committee Policy.
- Tom thanked Wendy for her leadership and her many contributions to the C&HE Committee.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

The June 28, 2023, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist
Maine State Board of Education