



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 23, 2023 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, via Zoom. The following were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, Denham Ward, and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Michael Perry, Acting Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Penny Bishop and Mallory Cook.

Chair Tom Keller called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the May 24, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the August 2, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment:

Dean Penny Bishop thanked the State Board on behalf of the University System's EPPs for the invitation to the Annual Retreat. They found it very productive and stated it was a welcoming atmosphere.

Higher Education Update:

- Beal University had submitted an application in for Master's Degree Granting Authorization. Beal University is ready to schedule a site review when the State Board is ready to do so. We may need to add committee members to the review team.
- Michael created a form to solicit help from colleges and universities on upcoming reviews. He will email it to Deans or Directors of colleges and universities, and he will post it on the MDOE website.
- Michael spoke of two pieces of legislation. First was L.D. 1264 Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education. One member will be a member of the State Board's Certification & Higher Education Committee. Victoria Kornfield volunteered to represent. Second was L.D. 1608 An Act to Address

Teacher Shortages Through Financial Assistance and Career Advancement Opportunities.
This bill requires annual reporting on the Maine Teacher Residency Program, a MEPRI report on career ladders for educators, and has been amended so funds go directly to the University of Maine System for the Maine Teacher Residency Program.

Review of Annual Reports for Chapter 114 Approved Programs:

16 colleges submit this report to the Committee. The reports are due each year by April 7. With Title II being added to the annual reports, it has made them longer.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following reports:

- Husson University
- St. Joseph's College
- Thomas College

The Committee will continue review of annual reports starting with the University of Maine at the September 27, 2023, meeting.

Certification Update:

- The Longitudinal Data Project with the Region 1 comprehensive center continues. They have an extended an invitation for a State Board member to attend a future meeting. Denham Ward volunteered to represent.
- 2,607 applications were received in July, which is down from June due to a decrease in teacher renewals, but an 123% increase year to year. Applications being processed year over year continues to increase.
- The team viewed 89,636 educator profiles in July.
- 1,800 violations has decreased to 1,718 currently.
- In July, initial teacher certifications outnumbered renewals.
- Tom Keller and Victoria Kornfield are taking the lead on L.D. 485 regarding Chapter 115. It's in process and will be a major piece of our work over the next three or four months. Denham Ward will ask Professional Standards Board for input.
- UMaine is starting their Counseling Education program.

Update from the University of Maine Educator Preparation Program:

On behalf of the UMaine System EPPs, Penny Bishop from the University of Maine attended today's meeting. She said the Teacher Educator Alliance of Maine (TEAMe) has not met since the State Board's Retreat, so there is no new information to add.

Penny would like to be a part of the Longitudinal Data Project to follow their graduates into their careers. One of the greatest challenges she faces is trying to advocate for resources when there's no data to show the gap. This is a requirement for the three University System campuses who are Nationally Accredited, and they struggle with this metric every year.

Other Business:

- Educator Recruitment and Retention from Megan Welter has been tabled.
- Professional Standards Board has agreed to take a lead on Elevate the Profession, and Recruitment and Retention.
- Professional Standards Board Committee has many vacancies. Mallory Cook will forward her list of recommendations to Andrew McCullough.
- Michael highlighted L.D. 753 An Act to Allow Retired Teachers and Educational Technicians to be Recertified and L.D.1366 An Act to Address Educational Technician Shortages in Public Schools by Establishing an Alternative Certification Pathway.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

The August 23, 2023, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.

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