



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 25, 2021 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Wilson Hess; Victoria Kornfield; and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Angel Loreda, Director of Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

Guests: Gay Anne McDonald, Executive Director, MADSEC

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 7, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 11, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 15, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 18, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 21, 2021 minutes as amended.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 23, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the July 28, 2021 minutes as presented.

Public Comment:

Gay McDonald, the new Executive Director at MADSEC, is replacing Jill Adams. She may need to excuse herself early for personal family medical reasons. She wants the Committee to know she is looking forward to working with us and collaborating to help students with disabilities throughout the State of Maine, and teaching staff as well.

Introductions:

Chair Ault welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

The focus of the August 25, 2021 meeting was stated:

- Public Comment
- Chapter 115 Update
- Certification update from Angel Loredo for Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator
- Higher Education update from Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist
- Strategic Plan
- Review of Annual Reports

Chapter 115 Update: *(Deputy Commissioner Chuhta)*

Deputy Commissioner Chuhta presented an update on Chapter 115.

- A public hearing was held in-person and virtually via Zoom on Monday, August 16, 2021. Several people spoke and we received good public comment. Jaci Holmes is working to incorporate all the comments into a document that will capture all comments. The comment period will end on September 15, 2021 (30 days post-hearing).
- Once all comments are compiled, the Committee will review the document with responses. The document will also be reviewed by the Assistant Attorney General and be filed with the Secretary of State Office.
- December 2021 is the deadline for final board adoption of the provisional rule. The Committee should schedule a meeting to review comments/responses.

Certification Office Update: *(Angel Loredo for Stephanie Fyfe)*

Angel Loredo presented a written certification news update and reviewed it with the Committee. (Copy of written report in file)

Service Summary by Date Range (Statistics) 8/25/2020 to 8/25/2021 and 8/25/2019 to 8/25/2020.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

Review Team upcoming schedules. All reviews will be virtual.

- The University of New England (UNE) review is scheduled for the week of September 27, 2021 and will run throughout the week. Wendy Ault and Cynthia Murray-Beliveau will be the Board Observers. The Board needs to approve the review team for the UNE review. Jason Libby will submit an exhibit for the September 15, 2021 Board meeting.
- The University of Southern Maine (USM) CAEP review is scheduled for November 7 and will conclude on November 9 or 10, 2021. Wilson Hess and Victoria Kornfield will be the Board Observers.
- The University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) review is scheduled for November 15, 2021. Fern Desjardins will be the Board Observer. A new Board member may join Fern for the review.

Chapter 262 – DHHS/CDC Immunization Rule has changed. The rule effects post-secondary institutions and was changed to include religious and/or other exemptions. The rule went out to

public hearing and has been approved as of August 11, 2021. As of September 1, 2021, the exemption has been revoked for post-secondary students.

MOTION by Wilson Hess to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the review team for the University of New England review.

Motion withdrawn until the Committee has the full slate of names for the UNE review.

Angel Loreda spoke about the SARA Agreement. Angel will send to Mary Becker to distribute to Committee members for review. The Chair of the State Board will sign the completed agreement.

Jason Libby briefed the Committee on the NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) Agreement. SARA is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate postsecondary distance education.

SBE Strategic Plan:

Fern Desjardins framed the conversation for the Strategic Plan for the Certification and Higher Education Committee.

- The priority for Certification and Higher Education should be to enhance teacher certification and preparation in Maine. Once the priority is set, then the Committee would focus on the overarching goal which would be Rule Chapter 115 with the goal that it be amended by the Maine Legislature by Spring of 2022.
- Move into rationale: Why do we want this goal – because Maine is experiencing a workforce shortage in education. Different pathways to educator certification would expand credentialing opportunities without sacrificing the quality of personnel to help students meet the standards of the system of learning results.
- Move into actions, outcomes, and milestones:
 - What will milestones be?
 - What will our metrics be?
 - How will success be measured?

There was discussion. The Committee will continue to discuss the Strategic Plan at the October 27, 2021 Committee meeting.

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.

The Committee reviewed the following reports:

- University of Maine at Farmington
- University of Maine at Machias
- University of Maine
- University of Southern Maine

The Committee will review the following reports at the next Committee Meeting:

- University of New England
- Colby College
- College of the Atlantic
- Thomas College

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Minutes
- 3) Certification update from Angel Loreda
- 4) Annual Reports (9 reports)

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10:30 AM.

The Committee scheduled a special meeting on September 1, 2021 for work on the Strategic Plan.

Adjournment:

The August 25, 2021 Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson Becker
Secretary Specialist,
Maine State Board of Education