



**Certification and Higher Education Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the February 21, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, via Zoom. The following were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, Denham Ward, and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Laura Cyr, Federal and State Legislative Specialist; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Rose Marie Angell; Penny Bishop; Mallory Cook; Eileen King; Megan London and Vicki Wallack.

Chair 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 January 24, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Higher Education Update:**

- Michael Perry shared two documents: Current EPP approvals with pending extensions and an EPP review calendar with pending extensions.
- The Husson review went well. Team members were impressed and Husson passed all of the standards. It's more of a business model.
- An appreciation letter has been drafted for members of EPP reviews. We hope to begin sending this out to team review members once it's been approved with MDOE. It would be nice to be able to compensate members in the future.
- Syracuse will be preparing their self-report documentation to submit. Michael will create a review team soon thereafter (possibly this spring). It should be a one day virtual visit.
- Michael is having internal conversations on Beal University to get a better timeline on the events that took place. He will report back to the committee afterwards.
- University of Maine has submitted a request for several programs (Certificate 010: Superintendent, Certificate 040: Building Administrator, Certificate 092: Literacy Specialist, Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities at age/grade level

birth to school age 5, grades K-8, and grades 7-12, Endorsement 286: Teacher of Children with Severe Disabilities) to be off-cycle reviewed as State of Maine approved programs. Possibly in the spring of 2025 if not sooner. Michael will begin to assemble a team for that review.

- Laura Cyr will be assisting Michael with higher education processes.
- There possibly is an issue with EPPs that have dual programs, e.g. School Counselor and Teacher – do they need dual reports?
- EMCC has requested an EPP approval extension.
- College of the Atlantic has requested an EPP extension as well.
- Bowdoin College (from Spring 2027 to Spring 2029) and Bates College (from Fall 2025 to Fall 2027) have asked for extensions as well. These will be addressed in the March meeting.
- Maine College of Art and Design has submitted an extension on their EPP approval too.
- There will be no reviews of UMFK or Unity. It remains unclear if UMM will come under UM's program approval or not.
- Victoria Kornfield is the State Board representative on L.D. 1264 Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education.
- In the supplemental budget, there's an item for NC SARA for state participation fees.
- Changes have been made to the Annual EPP Report format, which will expedite data and not duplicate efforts.
- The Regional Longitudinal Data Study continues to move forward. A pilot reporting data form has been created and presented to superintendents, in hopes they will sign up for the pilot program. Training sessions will be held in the next few weeks for those signed up.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present that pursuant to Chapter 114, the Certification & Higher Education Committee allow Maine College of Art and Design from Fall 2023 to Fall 2025), College of the Atlantic from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026), and Eastern Maine Community College (from Fall 2024 to Fall 2026), as per their requests, to delay their EPP reviews. The motion passes.

### **Certification Update:**

- 3,778 total applications were processed in January, which is slight decrease year over year and nearly double since December 2023, which is typical. Two requests were made relative to this data – one was to break out Pathway 1 from Pathway 2 candidates, and the other was to break out “initial teacher certifications”, especially 282s.
- Certifications/clearances processed are back above pre-pandemic levels.
- Erin is working with superintendents one on one to clear their violation reports.
- The Legislature, once the bill is passed, has directed the State Board to go into rulemaking with LD 2221 Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education. Laura Cyr has developed a timeline. Laura will also prepare a red-lined version of Chapter 115.

### **Update from the Maine Educator Preparation Programs:**

On behalf of the EPPs, Dr. Penny Bishop from the University of Maine attended today's meeting. The University of Maine at Farmington's professional day and job fair is on March 4.

The University of Maine had their inaugural pinning ceremony to recognize preservice teachers as they move into the candidacy stage of their program. Reps are looking forward to having the certification office fully staffed in order to have the capacity to review the spreadsheets that were submitted last fall by the approved EPPs to expedite some transcript reviews.

Challenges were discussed with Chapter 115, particularly with students seeking endorsement 282. There was an issue if “Language Development” could substitute for “Literacy”. Also, post June 10, 2022, certification grade level options are not available on the MEIS database, which poses a problem. Michael Perry replied it is being fixed now.

**Other Business:**

Megan London stated EMCC is making significant revisions to their CTE program delivery. They’re currently working with MACTE and directors. She would like to share that information with the C&HE and CTE Committees to seek feedback. Both committees will work towards this goal.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

**Adjournment:**

The February 21, 2024, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

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