



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, via Zoom. The following were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, Denham Ward, and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Erin Reinhard, Certification Coordinator; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Penny Bishop; Mallory Cook; Amy Johnson; Gerry Durgin; Cynthia Alexander; Sherry Brown; Megan London; Jonathan Moody; Cindy Dean; and Gay Anne McDonald.

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 November 27, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the November 29, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the December 1, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment:

Gay Anne McDonald, Executive Director of MADSEC, thanked the Certification and Higher Education Committee and the State Board of Education on the L.D. 485 Report that was presented to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Please feel free to reach out to MADSEC as you continue to work on Chapter 115.

Higher Education Update:

- Maine College of Art and Design has signaled their intent for an extension on their EPP approval.
- EMCC has requested an EPP approval extension.
- St. Joseph's has submitted an Interim Report from October 2023.
- University of Maine has submitted a request for several programs to be off-cycle reviews

as State of Maine approved programs.

- University of Maine at Augusta has requested an EPP approval extension as well.
- Syracuse University's program at Edward Little High School needs to be reviewed this year. They will be submitting the required report soon.
- No new movement on Beal University currently.
- US Department of Education has negotiated rulemaking regarding distance education and that has the potential to impact MDOE's work as a state portal entity for NC SARA.
- Michael Perry and Chair Keller attended a recent TEAMe meeting. Tom asked programs for input on a helpful Annual EPP Report Format. Michael added that it would be helpful if EPP data points needed for the MDOE Region 1 Comprehensive Center Longitudinal Data Project could be incorporated into this existing reporting mechanism.
- The Regional Longitudinal Data Study continues to move forward towards a pilot year programming, and it's currently filling out a roster of pilot year participants. A GIS element will likely be added to offer a visual of maps.
- L.D 19 *The Degree Granting Authority for the National Institute of Funeral Services* was carried over and the work session on this bill is later today.
- Husson University's EPP review is February 4-7. Everything is in good shape to move forward with this review.
- A draft review team appreciation letter has been created between Penny Bishop and Denham Ward.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present that pursuant to Chapter 114, the Certification & Higher Education Committee accept the Saint Joseph's College Interim Report from October 2022 to the Maine State Board of Education. The motion passes.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present that pursuant to Chapter 114, the Certification & Higher Education Committee approve the delay of the University of Maine at Augusta's self-study and accreditation visit from fall of 2024 to fall of 2025. The motion passes.

Certification Update:

- 1,912 total applications were processed in December, which is typically the slowest month due to the holidays.
- Processed 39,759 certification/clearances for 2023, which is a 30% increase over 2022.
- 1,300 violations exist currently. Erin is working directly with Superintendents on clearing their violation reports.
- Chair Keller thanked MDOE and stakeholders for their input on Chapter 115, L.D. 485 Report, which is currently with the Legislature.
- Public comment will be collected on the shortage report to identify other endorsements that should be added to the list. They will be given to the Federal Government and will be eligible for emergency certification.
- L.D. 2107 *An Act Regarding Department of Education Reliance on Criminal Background Checks Required by the Department of Health and Human Services* is with the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. MDOE has concerns with bypassing their unique school specific background check process. DHHS has a very different process than MDOE.

Chapter 115 Review and Discussion:

The L.D. 485 report was presented the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on January 23. The ECA Committee was pleased that many stakeholders were involved and able to give their input. It is undetermined how we will proceed. This report is available on the State Board of Education's website.

Update from the Maine Educator Preparation Programs:

On behalf of the EPPs, Dr. Sherry Brown from Colby College attended today's meeting. The last TEAME meeting was on January 19. They discussed connecting the Annual Report to the CAEP Standards that some EPPs are required to address. Institutions were concerned on the lack of communication around criteria for their EPP reviews and their extension requests.

Other Business:

No Other Business

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

The January 24, 2024, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.

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