



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on July 10, 2019 at the Burton Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Wilson Hess; Vice Chair Jane Sexton; Wendy Ault; John Bird; Fern Desjardins; Peter Geiger; Martha Harris; Jana Lapoint; Casey Maddock; and Jaylee Rice

Vacant: One Member

Others Present: Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Wilson Hess called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Welcomed Peter Geiger to the State Board of Education as a new member serving a five-year term and attending his first meeting. Former two term member of the State Board and a former chair of the State Board.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Jaylee Rice: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted six in favor with an abstention by two members (Peter Geiger and Martha Harris) to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Linda Bolland PharmD, MBA, Clinical Educator spoke to Board members about her concerns with certification. She has practiced for 25 years across the country and now wants to teach school. When applying for a teaching certificate she discovered that she is not able to get certified as a teacher because she does not

have a bachelor's degree. In speaking with Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Office, Maine DOE, many professionals are not able to become a teacher as they do not have a bachelor's degree. Wilson Hess confirmed that Stephanie Fyfe has Dr. Bolland's contact information.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Wilson Hess

- Wilson thanked Jane Sexton for the work she does as Vice Chair of the Board and the additional duties she takes on as Vice Chair. Jane has agreed to serve a second term as Vice Chair and he is pleased to work with Jane another year.
- Congratulations to Wendy Ault for the recognition award she was presented with by the New England Board of Higher Education.
- Congratulations to Fern Desjardins for being elected to serve on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Board.
- The Fall edition of the NASBE Journal "The Standard" is in the process of final articles. The theme is Career and Technical Education.
- Committee Assignments for the 2019/20 year beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020:
 - School Construction Committee
 - Fern Desjardins
 - Peter Geiger
 - Martha Harris – Chair
 - Certification and Higher Education Committee
 - Wendy Ault
 - Jana Lapoint
 - Jane Sexton – Chair
 - Career and Technical Education Committee
 - Wendy Ault
 - Jana Lapoint
 - John Bird – Chair
 - Legislative Action Committee
 - Peter Geiger – Chair
 - Wilson Hess (Chair of SBE)
 - Jane Sexton (Vice Chair of SBE, Certification and Higher Education Committee Chair)
 - John Bird (Chair, CTE Committee)
 - Martha Harris (Chair, Construction Committee)
 - Student Voices Committee
 - Jaylee Rice
 - Casey Maddock
 - Wendy Ault – Chair
 - Charter School Commission Representatives
 - John Bird
 - Fern Desjardins
 - Jana Lapoint
 - Teacher of the Year Program (co-representation)
 - Peter Geiger
 - Martha Harris
 - New England Secondary School Consortium

- Jane Sexton
 - MEPRI – Maine Education Policy Research Institute
 - Wilson Hess
 - Science Standards Steering Committee
 - Jane Sexton
 - ELA Standards Steering Committee
 - Martha Harris
 - Math Standards Steering Committee
 - Fern Desjardins
 - ESSA Sub-Committee
 - Fern Desjardins
 - NASBE – Board of Directors
 - Fern Desjardins
 - NASBE – Editorial Board
 - Wilson Hess
 - NASBE – Government Affairs Committee (Chair)
 - Martha Harris
 - NASBE – Planning Steering Committee for Various Events
 - Martha Harris
- The Board had a useful discussion with the Commissioner during the workshop session in regard to Chapter 115: “The Credentialing of Education Personnel”. Chapter 115 is a State Board Rule. The Board has due diligence and obligations to review the Resolve that came from the Legislature. In August and September, the Board will hear from the Certification Committee regarding Chapter 115. The Commissioner has other things she would like to have considered in the future related to Chapter 115.
- For the Board Retreat in August, if Committees could review their Strategic Goals accomplished over the past year and present to the Board during the retreat, it would be much appreciated. Jane Sexton will speak more about the retreat during her Vice Chair report.

Vice Chair, Jane Sexton

- Jane attended the Hall of Flags ceremony honoring Wendy Ault with recognition from the New England Higher Education Board.
- She attended the Commissioners Conference for Superintendents in Bar Harbor and they held great workshop sessions.
- She attended the Think Tank in Augusta on July 9.
- The Annual Board Retreat will be held on Monday, August 12 and Tuesday, August 13 at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. Jane has asked the Chairs of the Committees to present what they have accomplished this year and what their future goals are. The Committees will report on day one and the Board will talk about their future goals on day two.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins for Martha Harris):

The School Construction Committee met on July 2, 2019, as scheduled.

- Wilson Hess, Peter Geiger and she (Fern) attended the meeting. Peter Geiger had not yet been assigned to the School Construction Committee but was in

attendance as a non-voting member to be on top of what is happening at the Construction Committee level.

- The focus of the meeting was for concept approval for South Portland Middle School. The Assistant Superintendent gave a presentation along with two architects from WBRC Architects-Engineers. This is a grades 5 to 8 middle school giving space for a pre-kindergarten expansion, special education and English language learners classrooms. South Portland received site approval from the State Board in July of 2018. The School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the July 10, 2019 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Concept Approval to the South Portland School Department for the new combined Middle School construction project as presented.
- The Committee received a Legislative update from Scott Brown.
- Talked about Chapter 61 and if they want to open it and what parts they were considering making changes to.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2019. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Jane Sexton):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on June 26, 2019, as scheduled.

- Angel Loreda presented on what is happening in the Certification Office:
 - Three-week processing time
 - Time on phone lines is shortened which consumers appreciate.
- Chapter 115 was object of much discussion. Legislation that passed 2 years ago went into effect on July 1, 2019. This legislative session - the work done on Chapter 115 will go into effect on September 19, 2019. The Commissioner's thoughts on how to help the interim period was reported to the Committee.
- Praxis tests to be on future agendas
- Higher Education
 - Husson University Team Report is on the July 10, 2019 SBE agenda.
 - Northern Vermont, Beal College, and Tufts University Team Reports will be coming before the Board, in the near future.
 - Work to do on Purdue Global
 - Chapter 114 - Annual Reviews from Colleges
 - University of Maine at Presque Isle was in on time but sat in someone's mailbox and did not get to the Board. The Committee now has the report.
 - The reports are very informative for the Certification and Higher Education Committee and Jane is glad the annual reports are in Chapter 114 and the Committee is requesting the reports

annually.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2019. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Career and Technical Education (John Bird):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee did not meet on June 27, 2019, as scheduled.

The topics at the next meeting will be:

- The Workshop with CTE folks at Sugarloaf on August 4 and 5. It will be facilitated by Hart Consulting and the Fiscal Agent for the process is Educate Maine. Attendance looks robust and it appears all 27 regions/centers will be represented at the workshop. John will be attending.
- A mid-course report will be presented by Dwight Littlefield, MDOE, on the Memo of Understanding with the Community College System.

The next Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2019. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Jana Lapoint):

The Legislative Action Committee met weekly, as needed, on Fridays with Karen Kusiak, Legislative Director at the Department of Education.

- The DOE had over 300 bills that went before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.
- Jana briefed the Board on bills that were followed by the Board and signed by the Governor.
- Bills followed and passed without the Governor's signature.
- Charter School bills that all passed legislation but became law without the Governor's signature.
 - LD 307 – to limit the number of charter schools
 - LD 513 – to limit the number of students and prevent grade level expansion
 - LD 1638 – gubernatorial appointments of Charter School members with staggering terms

Nomination and Election (Fern Desjardins):

Fern Desjardins reported that the Committee is very pleased to have the continuing Chair, Wilson Hess and continuing Vice Chair, Jane Sexton serve another year from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Student Voices (Martha Harris):

The Committee has not met.

Charter Commission Representatives (Jana Lapoint):

The Charter School Commission met on July 1, 2019.

Approvals of the following:

- Fiddlehead to expand to grade eight (8) by 2022.
- ACADIA for a school calendar change to provide more time for teacher development at the start of the school year.
- Maine Connections Academy – Independent third-party evaluation
- Discussion to consider a change of the date and time of monthly meetings – second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM.

The Commission received two applications for new Charter Schools that were accepted as complete and will move forward in the process. The proposed schools are: Ecology Learning Center and Sheffwood Academy. There is a professional team for reviewing both applications, along with Shelly Reed and Jana Lapoint as reviewers from the Commission.

The Capacity Interviews will be held on July 29th at 9:30 AM for the Ecology Learning Center and July 30th at 9:30 AM for the Sheffwood Academy. Both will be held in Augusta at the Burton Cross State Office Building. On August 6th the Commission will vote whether or not to move the applicants to a public hearing between the dates of August 7, 8, and 9. At the September Commission meeting action would be taken to approve or reject an applicant that has advanced to that point in the process. On or before December 31, 2019, a final contract would be signed between the school's governing board and the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; SOUTH PORTLAND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT - NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent Ken Kunin requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new grade 5-8 middle school in South Portland. The Mahoney Middle School rated 14th on the 2010-2011 Rating Cycle and was placed on the Approved Projects List at the August 8, 2016 State Board of Education meeting. The proposed new middle school will replace the existing Mahoney Middle School (grade 6-8) and the Memorial Middle School (grade 6-8).

The South Portland School Department hired WBRC Architects-Engineers to conduct a New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Mahoney and Memorial Middle Schools. The analysis was completed with a recommendation of new construction. WBRC Architects-Engineers then worked with the district and city administrative personnel to identify potential school sites. After extensive evaluation of the final sites the existing Memorial Middle School site clearly became the best option for the new combined school. The site is centrally located in the district and well established in the social context of the community and will allow the new school to be constructed while the existing schools remain operational. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on July 11, 2018.

The planning for the new school included a vigorous visioning process that included strong community involvement. The inclusion of the 5th grade in the proposed school will improve middle school programming as well as create much needed space for Pre-K, Special Education, and English Language Learners (ELL) students throughout the district. This plan was overwhelmingly supported at the recent June 20th straw poll by a vote of 95 to 2.

The new middle school building has been designed to meet the Department of Education school construction standards. All appropriate state and local agencies have had input, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to 20-A M.R.S., Section 15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Project Description by Ken Kunin, Superintendent: The new South Portland Middle School will provide our grade 5-8 students an efficient, effective and sustainable learning environment designed to feel small and personal while ensuring access to multiple and varied opportunities to learn, grow and achieve. For more than fifteen years South Portland has been developing plans to address the needs of its aging middle schools. Mahoney, a grand building constructed in 1923-24, has undersized classrooms, problematic handicapped accessibility and limited potential to reconfigure during a renovation because of the type of construction. Though Memorial, which opened in 1967, was constructed more recently, it has significant issues with intrusion of water and is costly to maintain and operate. For different reasons, both buildings are at the end of their useful lives as schools based upon their condition and ability to meet the educational needs of our students now and into the future.

While both schools have served South Portland well, their current conditions do not lend themselves to flexibility or the educational program we seek as is detailed in the Educational Specifications submitted as part of this project. Costly changes would be required in order to bring these facilities up to current building code and even then, our new versus renovation analysis showed that these rebuilt facilities would not meet educational standards. For example, even after an expensive and extensive renovation, the great majority of the classrooms at Mahoney Middle School will remain well below state standards for size of rooms.

Further, based on the amount of renovation work required at the schools, it would not be possible to keep students in the current schools while renovations are being performed throughout the buildings and on the site. Students would be displaced and moved to other school facilities in the district during construction causing hardships in those learning environments and added costs for student transportation as well as prolonged construction schedules due to phasing of the work.

This project will positively impact education in South Portland and will provide for a District and City solution to both meet current needs and to better prepare for future enrollment. A new consolidated school building is the most responsible path forward. Changing the school department's grade configurations from 6-8 to 5-8 creates room for additional Pre-Kindergarten classrooms at the current elementary schools and helps with much needed space for the growing Special Education and English Language Learner (ELL) populations, leading to better support for all South Portland

students. As we begin to see changes in housing development in South Portland, particularly on the west side of the city, we will be better prepared should enrollment increase if several large projects move forward.

The plan to build a new consolidated middle school has been based on detailed analysis following the states guidelines, educational adequacy, comparative cost data, building committee analysis, and community input. We are putting forward a plan that we believe will serve the needs of all South Portland students for decades to come.

On behalf of the citizens of South Portland, and most directly our students, faculty and staff, I thank the Maine Department of Education for its continued support of this project.

Project Information:

Project: South Portland School Department - New grade 5-8 Middle School
Construction Project

Superintendent: Ken Kunin

Architect: WBRC Architects-Engineers – Michael Johanning

Schools to be closed: Existing Mahoney Middle School and Memorial Middle School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$67,726,169.

Local Only (no State participation): \$8,457,096.

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$59,269,073.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the South Portland School Department for the new combined Middle School construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On July 2, 2019, the School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the July 10, 2019 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Concept Approval to the South Portland School Department for the new combined Middle School construction project as presented.

MOVED by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Martha Harris, and unanimously voted by those present to grant concept approval to the South Portland School Department for the new combined Middle School construction project as presented.

CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE HUSSON UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 114

BACKGROUND: The review team was chaired by Dr. Audrey Bartholomew of the University of New England. The review took place December 2-5, 2019. The review team reviewed the institution’s self-study using Chapter 114 standards and recommended five-year program approval for the following endorsements:

- BS in Physical Education, (K-12) [undergraduate]
- BS in Elementary Education (K-8) [undergraduate]

- BS in Secondary Education (7-12) offered in English Language Arts, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences [undergraduate]
- MS in School Counseling [graduate]
- Elementary Education (K-8) [post-baccalaureate]
- Secondary Education (7-12) offered in English Language Arts, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences [post-baccalaureate]

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the Husson University Review Team report of findings that the institution's educator preparation program be granted five-year program approval from Spring 2019 to Spring 2024, by the Maine State Board of Education.

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Husson University Review Team report of findings that the institution's educator preparation program be granted five-year program approval from Spring 2019 to Spring 2024.

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE HONORABLE NICHIE FARNHAM FOR APPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the appointment of the Honorable Nichie Farnham to seat #4 on the Charter School Commission for a three-year term ending on June 30, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted unanimously by those present for the Board to go into executive session to discuss student transfer appeals at 2:25 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:11 PM.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Martha Harris, and voted seven in favor with one member opposed (Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for MR. Motion Carries and the transfer is denied.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for GR. Motion Carries and the transfer is denied.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Peter Geiger, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for SR. Motion Carries and the transfer is denied.

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted seven in favor with one member opposed (Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for MB. Motion Carries and the transfer is denied.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted two in favor with six members opposed (John Bird, Peter Geiger, Martha Harris, Wilson Hess, Jana

Lapoint and Jane Sexton) to overturn the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for MG. Motion Fails to Carry.

MOTION by Martha Harris, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for MG. Motion Carries and the transfer is denied.

MOTION by Martha Harris, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins) to uphold the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for AC. Motion Carries and the transfer is denied.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be held at Central Maine Community College in Auburn on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 1:00 PM. The Business meeting will follow the Board's Annual Retreat that will take place on Monday, August 12 and Tuesday, August 13 in Auburn.

ADJOURNMENT:

The July 10, 2019 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.