



**Certification and Higher Education Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the July 22, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Wendy Ault; Wilson Hess and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Excused: Jana Lapoint

Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment

**Approval of Minutes:**

At Jane Sexton's request the June 24, July 1, and July 8, 2020 draft minutes will be accepted at the next Committee meeting when Jana Lapoint is in attendance.

**Do's and Don'ts of Virtual Meetings:**

Jane Sexton gave a brief review of virtual meeting etiquette.

**Higher Education Update:** *(Jason Libby)*

***Review of Draft Letter – Upcoming Reviews:***

Jason Libby drafted a letter to communicate with Educator Preparation Program units that have upcoming reviews in the Fall of 2020. The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft letter.

The Committee agreed that the drafted letter, once finalized, can go out from the Department of Education with Jason Libby's signature.

Update on Team Reports:

- *Review Team schedules* – Jason has spoken with Bates College and the University of New England (UNE) – Outside visitors are not currently welcome at Bates or UNE. Team recruitment is difficult at this time with the COVID-19 and what folks will be doing when September rolls around and the possibility of a second wave.
  - *Bates review – September of 2020*
  - *UNE review – October of 2020*
  - *UMaine at Machias – Requested delay to April 2020 – Pandemic moved review to November of 2020*
  - *UMaine review – December 2020 – State and CAEP Review. Do not have full control of the CAEP review. The five-year agreement with CAEP’s term ends this year.*
- College of the Atlantic (COA) has submitted a formal written request for a virtual visit of their Fall review.
- Committee could adapt for virtual visits that would be a temporary process and not alter future reviews
  - Interaction
  - Self-study due in advance
  - Evidence of standards in advance
  - Ensuring that review team members are available
  - Review held throughout week – Monday – Friday
  - Complete a trial run – experiment with a college – make all aware that this is a test
  - For a trial – C&HE Committee member as Board Observer
  - Due to uncertainty of COVID-19 – do not hold virtual or in-person reviews. Look at in December 2020, and review data on the COVID-19 situation.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present for the Certification and Higher Education Committee to look at the situation of upcoming scheduled reviews in January 2021 and make a determination on how the reviews will be conducted.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to have information from the colleges at the January 2021 Committee meeting for upcoming reviews.

**Review of Annual Reports:**

The Committee agreed to postpone the review of the annual reports received that had not previously been reviewed by the Committee (MECA, University of Maine – Orono, University of Southern Maine, and University of New England) until the August 26, 2020 meeting.

Annual Report – Due date is April 7:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. Reports that have been received by Jason Libby and forwarded to Committee Members:

<b>Annual Report From:</b>	<b>Date Received:</b>
Bates College	February 10, 2020
Bowdoin College	January 27, 2020
College of the Atlantic	April 7, 2020
Eastern Maine Community College	April 7, 2020

Husson University	April 9, 2020
Saint Joseph's College	May 13, 2020
MECA	May 28, 2020
Saint Joseph's College	May 13, 2020
University of Maine Farmington	April 6, 2020
University of Maine at Machias	April 16, 2020
University of Maine - Orono	June 12, 2020
University of Maine at Presque Isle	June 3, 2020
University of Southern Maine	April 7, 2020
University of New England	June 9, 2020

**Strategic Plan – Action Agenda:**

Committee to look over both documents to prepare for discussion at the annual retreat on August 10, 2020.

**GOAL #2: STREAMLINE AND ENHANCE TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND PREPARATION IN MAINE**

The State Board of Education set as its goal to streamline and enhance teacher certification and post-secondary educator preparation programs.

Rationale: Our students need the very best teachers in their classrooms. Right now, Maine is facing a severe shortage of high-quality teacher candidates at a time when the number of teacher retirements is ramping up steeply. Certification processes that facilitate the smooth & timely credentialing of qualified candidates is crucial to filling those vacancies. Further the very best quality teacher preparation programs possible at the post-secondary level are equally critical to filling the pipeline with highly effective teachers.

**Goal 2.1 Higher Education - Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Educational Personnel. Chapter 114**

Hold higher education programs to high standards in program reviews

Rationale: “Our students need the very best teachers in their classrooms”

- a) Update the “observation” role of State Board members (*Winter 2018*)
- b) Make well informed decisions in program reviews
- c) Update handbook by creating an appendix with rubrics for each subsection under each standard (*Spring 2018*)
- d) Create training for State Board members in their “observer” role (*Spring 2018*)
- e) Start initial training for teams (*Spring 2018*)
- f) Pilot revised handbook with rubrics in appendix on reviews (*July 2018*)

**Goal #2.2 – – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel. Chapter 115**

Review the certification process

Rationale: “Certification processes facilitate the smooth and timely credentialing of qualified candidates”

- a) Monitor and learn more about recent changes to Chapter 115: LD 404 – Resolve Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115 Certification and Approval of Education Personnel (*Winter 2018*)
- b) Monitor statutory revisions related to Chapter 115 rule updates as (LD 1569 – An Act to Revise Certification Statutes for Educational Personnel) moves through the process this session (*Spring 2018*)
  - 1. Revise Rule 115, Pt. II (Fall 2018)
    - i. Maintain Alternative Certification Pathways
- c) Monitor the on-line teacher certification/re-certification process (*Summer 2018*)
  - 1) Monitor Online Teacher Certification Implementation
- d) Review other certificates (*Fall 2018*)
  - 1) Review Teacher Certification Qualifications (2019)
  - 2. Review Individual Certification Areas for Teachers (2019)

**Goal #2.3 – – Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators. Chapter 13**

Review the use of PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II and the cut scores

Rational: “Our students need the very best teachers in their classrooms”

- a) Look at/edit the draft administrative letter (*Fall 2017*)
- b) Approve the final form – administrative letter (*Fall 2017*)
- c) Board workshop on the use of PRAXIS in all higher education programs in Maine (*Summer 2018*)
- d) Research the data on teacher effectiveness/test scores (*Fall 2018*)
- e) Review Praxis Scores & Standards (2019)
- f) Study the Relationship between Praxis II Scores & Teacher Effectiveness (2019)

At the State Board’s annual retreat in August of 2017, the Board updated their 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. At the September 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved an Action Agenda.

Each year at the Board retreat in August, the Board reviews its annual action agenda. Being the fifth year of the plan, the Committee reviewed the action agenda and discussed suggested revisions for the upcoming year.

**Goal 2.1 Higher Education**

- 1) Remove update the “observation” role of the State Board – Observer needs some education when a new member is appointed to the Board and/or Committee.
- 2) Have an informal process – presentation of the process at a workshop session of the Board.
- 3) Not necessary to have two Board Observers at each team review – some observers have participated in team reviews alone.
- 4) Letter to colleges for September 2019 to August 31, 2020 annual report, which is due April 7, 2021.

**Goal #2.2 Chapter 115**

- 1) Chapter 115 rewrite of consensus-based rulemaking – active process that Committee should join.

- 2) Important to monitor on-line teacher certification
- 3) Standards – work on in 2020

Goal #2.3 Chapter 13

- 1) Praxis scores and Standards – work on in 2020
- 2) Quality Instruction
- 3) Virtual Learning – Relationship with MPA and MSMA

Keep on Radar –

- 1) MEPRI Report on Teacher Prep – shared with Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
- 2) Reciprocity for teachers from other states
- 3) Several teachers not returning to classrooms due to COVID-19

**August 26, 2020 Meeting Topics:**

- Review and acceptance of the draft minutes - last four Committee meetings (June 24, July 1, July 8, and July 22)
- Annual Report Update and Review of Reports not yet reviewed
- Upcoming Team Review Schedule
- Review of EPP Letter – Upcoming Reviews

**Meeting Handouts:**

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – June 24, 2020, July 1, 2020, and July 8, 2020
- 3) Strategic Plan and Action Agenda for Certification and Higher Education Committee
- 4) Annual Reports received to date

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

**Adjournment:** The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 12:21 PM.