



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the July 24, 2019 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Jana Lapoint; Wendy Ault; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Emily Gribben, Educator Effectiveness; Jaci Holmes, Federal and State Legislative Liaison (Department of Education Staff) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Committee Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 26, 2019 minutes as written.

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

- Renewal Season
 - 61% of all renewals are complete
- Processing Time
 - Complete initial applications – 5 to 6 weeks
 - Re-opened files – 5 to 6 weeks
- Fingerprinting
 - Project between DOE, OIT, and SBI is now complete
 - Push of a button, the Certification Office can get results to move applications forward
- Staffing
 - Received funds to hire one additional evaluator
- MEIS
 - Current contract ends July 1, 2020
 - Angel has met with other states to develop new plan/contract
- Chapter 115
 - Chapter 115 is in holding pattern
 - When final word and language is approved, will need to work with developer
 - No need to do K-8 to K-6 changes right now, so cost would likely be 60K and would take 2 to 3 months to complete. Many applications received after September 16 cannot be processed until the system is ready.

Rule Chapter Updates:

Chapter 115 – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel:

(Jaci Holmes)

- Jaci reviewed the changes in Rule Chapter 115 - result of the Resolve
- Sarah is reviewing and once she gives the okay – will proceed
 - Following discussion by the Committee:

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to recommend that the State Board of Education vote to submit Chapter 115 as amended pursuant to the Resolve to the Secretary of State for final adoption.

Chapter 13, Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators: *(Emily Gribben)*

- School leaders voted in June what Praxis test to be discontinued and replaced
- Emily reviewed with the Committee a handout:
 - Test to be discontinued
 - Replacement test and cut score
 - Date of last Administration
 - New test available date
- Praxis research in other New England States
 - Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Jersey

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

- Annual Team Reports:
 - Jason to send Jane the dates each report was received.
- University of Maine at Machias – Letter requesting a six-month extension
 - Following discussion by Committee:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request from the University of Maine at Machias to delay the educator preparation review until Spring of 2020 honoring the request for an extension.

- Tufts University and Maine Medical Center Review Team Report
 - Renewal of degree-granting authority for the Tufts University School of Medicine and Maine Medical Center's Maine Track Program
 - Fall 2019 to Fall 2023
 - Question: How many students in the program are Maine residence – back to 2008/2009 – first year?
 - Following discussion by Committee:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request from Tufts University and Maine Medical Center to continue to offer the Maine Track Program in Maine.

- Northern Vermont University
 - Committee will receive the team report in August.
- Northern Vermont University

- Committee will receive the team report in August.
- Beal College Review
 - Committee will receive the team report in August.
- Purdue University Global
 - The State Board granted approval in November of 2018 for Purdue Global University to offer a Degree – “Bachelor of Nursing”.
 - Request for Associates Degree in Nursing – a degree level down and the same program and licensure.
 - A review team is in the process of being formed.
- Maine SARA Renewal Application - Regional State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement – 2017 Application and Evaluation Form for State Membership Renewal in SARA
 - A state that would like to renew its membership in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) must submit a form and required documentation to the office of the appropriate regional compact.
 - Angel Loredo distributed information and the Board Agreed to place the item on the next Committee meeting agenda for August 28, 2019.

Strategic Planning:

- I. Strategic Plan Goal 2.1 – Discuss the “observation” role of State Board Members
 - a) Preparation for board observers:
 - a. Angel Loredo presented (PowerPoint) to the full Board “The Role of the State Board Observer at Educator Preparation Program Reviews” on July 6, 2016.
 - i. SBE new members since presentation
 - Wendy Ault – 10/30/17
 - Fern Desjardins – 4/30/18
 - b. Certification and Higher Education Committee Members assure that a trained observer attend each review
 - c. Observer be a member of the committee and if not a member, observer be present when the committee reviews the report – three or four reviews per year
 - d. Training to include review of handbook and standards in Chapter 114, and review of self-study
 - e. Workshop session at the August 2018 Board Retreat
- II. Strategic Plan Goal 2.2 – Progress report for on-line teacher certification/re-certification process
 - a) The Department held a soft rolling out of the new online certification system in November of 2017.
- III. Strategic Plan Goal 2.3 – Review of Chapter 13
 - a) Sarah Forster indicated that the State Board maintain Chapter 13 regulation for the cut scores for the PRAXIS exams.
- IV. Strategic Plan Goal 2.3 – PRAXIS – when do we want to have information on and who will gather information for Board presentation?
 - a) Need further discussion on PRAXIS
 - b) Malik McKinley, ETS, and Robert Hasson presented to the SBE on PRAXIS at the October 12, 2016 meeting held at Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS) in Hinckley.

- i. SBE new members since presentation
 - o Wendy Ault – 10/30/17 and
Fern Desjardins – 4/30/18

Jane Sexton distributed a copy of the Certification portion of the State Board’s Strategic Plan (See below on page 4 & 5). The Committee had a discussion on what they had accomplished over the past year. The Committee will present to the full Board during the August Annual Retreat. The Committee reviewed each goal and rationale.

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

The State Board of Education sets 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*) **Have not completed**
- d) Create training for State Board members in their “observer” role (*Spring 2018*) **No training took place in a regular meeting**
- e) Start initial training for teams (*Spring 2018*)
- f) Pilot revised handbook with rubrics in appendix on reviews (*July 2018*) **Legislation came as priority – Update “C” before piloting new handbook**

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” **Receiving Department of Education reports – Committee Monitors**

- 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*) - **Monitoring**
- 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*) - **Monitoring**
 - 1. Revise Rule 115, Pt. II (Fall 2018)
 - i. Maintain Alternative Certification Pathways - **Completed – example ROTC**
- c) Monitor the on-line teacher certification/re-certification process (*Summer 2018*)
 - 1) Monitor Online Teacher Certification Implementation - **Completed by DOE Staff with updates**
- d) Review other certificates (*Fall 2018*)
 - 1) Review Teacher Certification Qualifications (2019) - **Have not looked at**
 - 2. Review Individual Certification Areas for Teachers (2019) - **Have not looked at individual areas**

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*) - **Emily Gribben, DOE (form - process piece)**
- 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*) - **Malik McKinley, ETS**
- d) Research the data on teacher effectiveness/test scores (*Fall 2018*) – **Researched**
- e) Review Praxis Scores & Standards (2019)

- f) Study the Relationship between Praxis II Scores & Teacher Effectiveness (2019) - **To do**

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – June 26, 2019 Meeting
- 3) Certification News – Update
- 4) Chapter 13, Praxis Update
- 5) Chapter 115 – Final Adoption Highlights Due to Resolve
- 6) University of Maine at Machias Letter – Request for Extension
- 7) Tufts University – Review Committee Report of Findings
- 8) National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) State Innovations – School Leaders’ Role in Empowering Teachers through SEL (Social and Emotional Learning)
- 9) NASBE – Policy Update – Gaging Support for Social and Emotional Skill Building in School
- 10) Strategic Plan – Certification and Higher Education Goals
- 11) New England Board of Higher Education – Maine SARA Renewal Application
- 12) University of Maine at Machias Annual Report
- 13) Colby College Annual Report

Committee to Do List – Future Meeting:

- A. Review of Beal, Tufts, and Northern Vermont reports.
- B. Saint Joseph’s – Attend Committee meeting in October
- C. Update on Chapter 115 – Waivers completed by Commissioner
- D. Handbook for Review Team Members – Maine Educator Preparation Program
- E. Review Wendy Ault’s Draft Changes to Handbook for Review Team Members – Maine Educator Preparation Programs

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Burton Cross State Office Building.

Adjournment:

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.