



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Jana Lapoint; Wendy Ault; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; and Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the May 27, 2020 minutes as written.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 10, 2020 minutes as written.

Certification Office Update: *(Stephanie Fyfe)*

Mid-May survey published in USA Today reports that up to 20% of teachers will not be returning to classrooms this Fall through early retirement, change of career, etc. Stephanie shared data with the Committee from Maine in a YoY comparison from 2019 – 2020. Copy of data is in the meeting file.

MEIS Info – Online System:

- Phone wait time varies depending on the day
- Applications are 2 to 3-week turnaround
- Stephanie presented a handout with an example of daily data that is tracked.

Falls under Executive Order

- Waiving PRAXIS, time consuming but going very well.
- Extension for conditionals is essentially being resolved with PRAXIS waivers.

- CHRC (background check) temporary been more challenging to implement in system than expected, but we're on top of it. Temporary will expire 30 days after conclusion of civil emergency, so we are preparing to make lots of calls to educators to explain that when the time comes.

Chapter 115 Update: (Angel Loredo for Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta)
Chapter 115 – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel:

The DOE has convened a group of about 25 people that are working with the Department for consensus-based rule-making of Chapter 115. The group meets every Friday and have been breaking out into groups. Stephanie Fyfe presented to the group on the format used and how important it is even if the content is different. Angel Loredo presented on the importance of how Chapter 115 interfaces with Chapter 114 and Chapter 13 and they had a brief conversation on Chapter 180. Deputy Commissioner Chuhta presented the nuances that the Commissioner's Office would like to move forward on.

Deputy Commissioner Chuhta joined the meeting and also reported out on Chapter 115:

The Committee of about 25 people continue to meet every week on Friday mornings. The group is laying the ground work and had a conversation on synthesizing separately three different categories of skills which is important to do. The skills are -

- Credential criteria
- Employability characteristics
- On-going skill development

The Committee broke into small groups for conversations about the skills. It was a good conversation amongst the groups. They try to have conversation on two topics per meeting. Angel Loredo presented a visual overview of how different rules interact with each other.

The Committee had a conversation on what the current format is and how they want to simplify it to some degree. They discussed what other state's rules are. It is important to get well grounded and have a good foundation on what they want to build on.

Higher Education Update: (Jason Libby)

Update on Team Reports:

- *Northeastern University* – Received Degree Granting Authority team report from Northeastern University. Wendy Ault was the Board Observer for the review which was conducted virtually.
- *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 COVID-19 and what folks will be doing when September rolls around and the possibility of a second wave of the virus.
- The Committee had a discussion on drafting a letter to send to each college scheduled for reviews in the Fall. A letter to each unit to make a proposal to the State Board was suggested. Jason Libby will draft a letter for the Committee to review at the next meeting.
- College of the Atlantic (COA) has submitted a formal written request for a virtual visit of their Fall review.

Rule Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel

- a) Standards – Analysis of Colby report, one standard at a time
 - i. Standard Two – Jane Sexton
 - ii. Standard Three – Jana Lapoint
 - iii. Standard Four – Wendy Ault

Northeastern University Team Report:

The Committee received the Northeastern University Team Report prior to the June 24, 2020 meeting. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 to review the report so as to place the report on the July 15, 2020 business agenda as an action item, recommending receipt and approval by the State Board.

Jane Sexton requested that Mary Becker schedule a Zoom Committee meeting for July 1st and send an invitation to the full Board for those interested in attending the meeting.

Mary Becker will send the Northeastern report to the full Board for review, along with Jason Libby’s addendum.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to send the Northeastern University Team Report to the full Board on June 24, 2020 with a notice that the Committee will hold a special meeting on July 1, 2020 to review the report. The Committee will recommend that the State Board of Education receive and approve the report of findings at the July 15, 2020 Board meeting with additional recommendations in the exhibit following the Committee’s review of the report on July 1st.

Review of Annual Reports:

The Committee reviewed the annual reports received.

Annual Report – Due date was April 7, 2020:

- 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:

| Annual Report From: | Date Received: |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |

July 1, 2020 Special Meeting Topics:

- Review of the Northeastern University Team Report

July 22, 2020 Meeting Topics:

- Annual Report Update
- Upcoming Team Review Schedule
- Review of Draft Letter – Upcoming Reviews

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Certification News from Stephanie Fyfe
- 3) Northeastern University Team Report
- 4) Annual Reports received to date

A special meeting of the Committee will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment: The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.