



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 1, 2023 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, via Zoom. The following were present: Wendy Ault, Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, Megan Welter, and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Mallory Cook; Cynthia Alexander; Rose Angell; Dave Keaton; Amy Johnson; and Steve Bailey.

Chair Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the November 16, 2022, and January 25, 2023, minutes as amended. The motion passes.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Higher Education:

- Michael Perry is the Acting Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services.
- The Committee supports reconvening the EPPs. Penny Bishop will be invited to attend Certification & Higher Education Committee Meetings to provide regular updates.

Certification:

- Violation reports continue to improve. Almost 900 CHRCs have been clarified and addressed.
- Data, certification, and CTE teams have met to discuss the mismatch of courses and endorsements. A problem has been identified with CIP codes. The teams are working to correct the problem.
- A recent MEIS report identified people that are certified as an Educational Technician but are in a teaching role.

- Six Special Educators identified with emergency certification do not have a Bachelor’s degree.
- Discussed LD 67 – An Act to Increase the Number of Educational Professionals by Accepting Out-of-State Certification.
- Chapter 114 does not have statutory authority. A revision is necessary to give the State Board of Education statutory authority. Clarification will be requested from the Attorney General.

Consideration of Additional Members to the National Institute of Funeral Services (NIFS) Review Team:

Two individuals from Maine’s institutions of higher education joined the review team: Elizabeth Russell, EMCC President and Aili Robinson, Executive Director of Financial Services and Administration at UMA.

There was discussion.

Other Business:

- A panel to discuss educator workforce challenges will be included on the agenda at a future meeting.
- Clarification is needed regarding additional degrees in Chapters 149 and 170.
- Megan Welter reported there are two bills regarding EMCC’s Learning Facilitator Program. One is related to funding. The other is related to addressing the questions that arose from LD 1207 last year.
- Efforts are underway to recruit and retain qualified people in the field of education. An example is a partnership with the Department of Labor to study nationally recognized best practices, apprenticeships, and Grow Your Own Programs. A group of stakeholders has been convened for this purpose.
- Tom solicited comments from a variety of stakeholders and presented a draft of the Annual Report that EPPs are required to submit to the State Board of Education.
- Beal University site visit – A new team needs to be created.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

The March 1, 2023, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM.

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