



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 24, 2021 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Chair Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

Introductions: Chair Ault welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

The focus of the March 24, 2021 meeting was stated:

- Approval of Minutes
- Public Comment
- Certification update from Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator
- Higher Education update from Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist
- Review draft revisions to Chapter 115, Part II

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the February 23, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the March 1, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the March 3, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the March 4, 2021 minutes as presented.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Certification Office Update: *(Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

Status Update:

- Applications – Two to three-week turn around for complete and Re-opened applications
- Phones – An average of 100 calls a day – wait time between 0 and 20 minutes
- Priorities of certification office staff is phones, emails and processing

Quarter 3 Processing Update:

Stephanie shared processing data from January 1 to January 31, 2021.

Stephanie Fyfe responded to questions from the February 24, 2021 Committee Meeting:

Disposition of certification fees (§13007):

- \$75,000 in each fiscal year to be credited to the National Board Certification Scholarship Fund.
- Pay no more than \$335,000 in each fiscal year to be credited to the National Board Certification Salary Supplement Fund.
- All other funds to be credited to the General Fund.

Deputy Commissioner Chuhta shared the following information:

- Scholarship fund is \$75,000. Salary supplement fund is \$335,000. This comes from the Certification fee fund and \$307,551 from GPA.
- §13013-A. Salary supplements for national board-certified teachers
<https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec13013-A.html>

Emergency Certification Data with Special Education Consideration:

- 213 educators were issued at least one emergency certificate which ends September 1, 2021.
 - 89 were issued an emergency 282.
 - 24 do not hold a BA.
 - 6 of the 24 were issued an emergency 282.
 - 1 was issued a 292.
 - 3 were issued a 286.

- Of all requests for emergency certificates, 107 cannot be issued waivers because either they do not have a BA or they currently have a 282.
- Of the 89 people issued an emergency 282:
 - 10 are not employed in a Maine public school.
 - Only 16 are working in Special Education.
 - 8 hold other teacher endorsements.
 - 15 have a BA and may have finished their 9 semester hours to qualify for a conditional 282.
 - This leaves one educator working under a 282 without a BA.
- The 1 person issued a 292 is working as an Ed Tech III.
- Only 1 of the three people with an emergency 286 is working and will also need the 9 semester hours for a conditional 286.
- This leaves a total of 17 people potentially negatively impacted, only 1 of which is certainly impacted because she doesn't have a BA.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

Annual reports for Chapter 114 approved programs

- Reports are being submitted (due by April 7).
- The Committee will review the reports in April and/or May.

Review Team schedules

- College of the Atlantic (COA) review is scheduled for the first week in April. Wendy Ault is the Board Observer.
- Bates College review is scheduled for the last week in April. Peter Geiger is the Board Observer.
- Colby College Interim Report – the Committee has requested that Colby representatives be present when that report is reviewed.

Rule Chapter 115 Review:

The Committee reviewed draft revisions to Part II, *Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements*, with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta.

The Committee started with page 71 and ended with page 76.

Following much discussion, it was decided that the Committee will need additional meetings to continue Part II revisions. In addition, a meeting to approve the final draft of the Chapter 115 document will be scheduled. Special Meeting dates to be determined.

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – February 23, March 1, March 3, March 4, 2021
- 3) Chapter 115, Part II
- 4) Certification News from Stephanie Fyfe

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the March 24, 2021 Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting at 11:51 AM.