



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on December 13, 2023, at Bangor High School and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; and Ryan Hafener.

Absent with Excuse: Phat Thai

Others Present: Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs; Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Sharon Littlefield; James Anastasio; Mallory Cook; Gerry Durgin; Eileen King; Gert Nesin; Andrew Dolloff; MK. Jurovcik; Gay Ann McDonald; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Roll call was taken by Sandra Bourget. Chair Desjardins declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Ryan Hafener: The vision of the Maine State Board of Education is that all students will receive a high-quality education leading to graduation with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be prepared for future learning, careers, and life.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and voted eight in favor with one abstention (Denham Ward) to accept the November 8, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Perry introduced his daughter, Lucy Perry, who is a freshman at Bangor High School.

Gerry Durgin, Executive Director, MIAAA, spoke of concerns he has with Athletic Director certification, which included middle level; title, content, and pedagogy of courses; not recognizing core courses and/or Cognia; skipping a certification level; and waivers.

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern attended the November 13, 27, and December 1 special meetings of the Certification and Higher Education Committee as well as their monthly meeting on November 29. She also attended the MSSA Executive Committee meeting with C&HE Committee Chair Tom Keller on December 7. Tom was invited to speak about the State Board’s study that he leads for L.D. 485, Resolve, 2023, Chapter 54 on Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel.
- She attended the November 17 meeting of Aroostook County Teachers of the Year with County legislators at the Caribou Community School. Teachers shared experiences in their teaching, what keeps them in the classroom, thoughts on recruitment and retention, and how we can work together to help today’s students.
- Fern attended the Public Hearing for Chapter 61 via Zoom on November 21. Details are provided below under the School Construction Committee report.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette attended the November 13 special meeting for the Certification & Higher Education Committee on L.D. 485.
- She attended the monthly CTE Committee meeting.

- Paulette attended the national ACTE Conference. Many of the challenges Maine is confronted with are being dealt with nationally.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on November 28.

- Laura Cyr, Federal and State Legislative Specialist, MDOE, provided an update on Chapter 61 Rulemaking. Only two people provided testimony at the public hearing held November 21. Kristin Bishop, Ed Morin, and Wendy Ault were the three SBE representatives who attended in person, as governed by 5 M.R.S. section 8052(2).
- Laura also provided an update on the study for L.D. 1415, Resolve, Chapter 462 *An Act to Expand School Construction Funding*. The draft is completed and being reviewed by DOE staff.
- Paula Gravelle, Director of School Finance, reviewed school construction financials and provided an update on debt service projections.
- The committee recommended the exhibit that will be taken up under New Business for the addition of project #8 RSU 53/MSAD 53 Manson Park School and project #9 Augusta Public Schools Lillian Parks Hussey School to the Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle.
- The next committee meeting will be held on December 29 at 9:00 a.m.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on November 29 preceded by two special meetings on November 13 and November 27. The committee followed up with another special meeting on December 1.

- The C&HE Committee received many comments from Maine educators and discussed revisions to the report the chair had prepared as a draft.
- The committee will make a motion later in the SBE meeting to accept the Husson University EPP Review Team including Victoria Kornfield as the SBE observer.
- The next institutions up for review are Maine College of Art and Design, Syracuse University, and Beal University. Denham Ward will serve as the SBE observer for Maine College of Art and Design and Beal University, while Victoria Kornfield will serve as the observer for Syracuse University.

- 2,121 total applications were processed in October by the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, a slight dip from the previous month.
- The “Live and Teach in Maine” initiative, funded with \$1M of pandemic relief money, also quantifies for the first time the number of educator vacancies in Maine: over 850.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 20.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on November 20.

- A person has been hired to serve as Perkins Grant manager. She will attend meetings in the future and provide updates on both Perkins V and Briggs Trust funds.
- State CTE Director, Dwight Littlefield, announced that the October enrollment was the highest it’s ever been for the month at over 10,000, and that more increases are expected by the end of the year. While all high school levels have grown, the most has been in exploratory programs among freshmen and sophomores. Non-traditional enrollments are also up, those being high skill occupations for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of those employed in each field of work. Dwight reported MDOE is working on a 3rd round of Maine Jobs and Recovery Program equipment grants, that they will have a \$20 million dollar bond RFA at the beginning of 2024, and they’ll be writing an early childhood RFA.
- Mercedes Pour from the Maine Community College System reported they saw a large increase in their fall census with free college and early college students driving the growth, and that they are creating a software system along with the University of Maine System to build pathways for programs.
- Dave Keaton with the Maine CTE Administrators Association reported that Mid-Coast School of Technology Director, Bobby Deetjen, held a pilot CTE Leadership Forum with MELMAC’s support, and that six schools with over 100 students participated. He said a MACTE Committee has been working on L.D. 436 An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions. Directors gave input regarding L.D. 485, and a document was being prepared for submission to the Certification & Higher Education Committee.

- State CTE Director Littlefield reported that because the SBE rolled a good portion of FY Perkins Reserve Funds along with FY 23 Reserve Funds, there may not be a lot of Reserve Funds available for projects this year. However, no FY 22 funds had to go back to the Federal Government.
- MACTE's Dave Keaton submitted the Briggs Grant midyear update, in which the Briggs funded fall conference had its largest number of attendees at 515.
- At the request of Certification & Higher Education Committee Chair Tom Keller, the CTE committee discussed CTE suggestions for possible changes to Chapter 115.
- James Ford, the State Board representative for the CTE Task Force, gave a brief update. He spoke of the need to address the waiting list at existing schools and the feasibility of a four-year program, including where it would be located and where the money would come from. The final CTE Task Force meeting is December 14. A final draft will then be created for January.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 21.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee has not met. Some hearings are already being scheduled in January. The committee will begin to meet mid to late January. Fern submitted four possible dates to Hillary Risler, Esq., Legislative Analyst, OPLA, for the State Board's presentation of their report on L.D. 485 to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

Student Voices (Ryan Hafener and Wendy Ault):

The Student Voices Committee met on December 11.

- Phat is unable to join today due to a death in his family.
- Phat lead a school dialog about the events that took place in Lewiston, and he is hosting a session on the conflict in Israel.
- Ryan was nominated and a finalist for the US Senate Youth Program, and he won the scholarship.
- Ryan spoke at an event on the need to finalize Title IV Rules in Washington, D.C. He had legislative visits and met with Senator Susan Collins one-on-one.
- Recently, he's attended the Educate Maine Symposium and Gala.
- The students have been working on outreach to youth groups.
- They have received 110 applicants for the Student Cabinet due to their extensive outreach efforts. It was noted they will need better outreach to rural communities in the future.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee did not meet in November. The committee is scheduled to meet on December 18.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield, Thomas Keller, and James Ford):

The Charter School Commission met on November 14 and December 12.

- Three Charter Schools made the top *US News and World Report* Best Schools in the Country.
- Working on creating a new application on a 10th school. We need to expand the thinking on what it may look like and expand the timeline to apply.
- The Board engaged in a self-assessment.
- Discussion took place around chronic absenteeism and how it connects to learning.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

The Professional Standards Board met on December 4.

- Denham spoke of the lack of members and the need to have a quorum.
- Had a discussion on the recommendations for addressing teacher retention issues in Maine that were made to the SBE in July.
- Talked about how the MDOE Certification Department has done a great job with the certification process.
- Will try to disseminate best mentoring practices across districts and discussed compensation for mentoring.
- Spoke of rebranding efforts of the education profession.
- Looking to get better data on four aspects/variables on recruitment and retention.
- Aiming to get SBE actual items from last year's recommendation report by the summer of 2024.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):

- On December 5, Fern attended NASBE's Webinar and Office Hours on *Chronic Absenteeism: A Look at New Data and Strategies for Reengagement*. Hedy Chang at Attendance Works and Bob Balfanz at Grad Partnership presented national data, root causes of the spike in

absences, variation in states' rates, and ways to bring disengaged students back to class. Education leaders, schools, and families need to work together to address root causes. Feelings of connectedness in school keep students coming back.

Government Affairs Committee (Thomas Keller):

- Met on December 5 and spoke of a new continuing resolution that has a two-tiered deadline for federal funding.
- MDOE and DHHS will have a pre-distribution of COVID-19 test kits beginning in December. The supply will be used to stock nurse's offices and to send test kits home with students for free.

Public Education Positions Committee (Paulette Bonneau):

- The committee is done meeting.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM – ADDITIONS TO THE APPROVED PROJECTS LIST FOR THE 2017-2018 RATING CYCLE

STATEMENT OF FACT: The State Board of Education approved the Major Capital School Construction Final Priority List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle on August 14, 2018. On October 9, 2019, the State Board of Education approved the Commissioner's recommendation to place the first three projects on the Major Capital School Construction Approved Projects List. On November 4, 2020, the State Board of Education approved the Commissioner's recommendation that projects 4 and 5 be added to the Approved Projects List. On September 14, 2022, the State Board of Education approved the Commissioner's recommendation that projects 6 and 7 be added to the Approved Projects List. The Commissioner has reviewed the current approved projects in relation to the statutory debt ceiling.

In accordance with Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 5 Approved Projects List, "Placement on the Approved Projects List is an acknowledgement that the pupils in the rated facility have a significant need to be housed under improved circumstances. It does not assure replacement of the facility(ies) that received the rating." Placement on

the Approved Projects List will allow the Department to work with the school districts in developing recommendations and timelines for each project.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the attached Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. The Commissioner further recommends project #8 RSU 53/MSAD 53 Manson Park School be designated for Concept Approval in calendar year 2025 and project #9 Augusta Public Schools Lillian Parks Hussey School be designated for Concept Approval in calendar year 2026.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On November 28, 2023, the School Construction Committee recommended that in accordance with Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 5 Approved Projects List, that this exhibit be placed on the December 13, 2023, meeting agenda and that the State Board of Education approve the attached Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. The Committee further recommends project #8 RSU 53/MSAD 53 Manson Park School be designated for Concept Approval in calendar year 2025 and project #9 Augusta Public Schools Lillian Parks Hussey School be designated for Concept Approval in calendar year 2026.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted that in accordance with Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 5 Approved Projects List, that the State Board of Education approve the attached Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle, and further recommend that project #8 RSU 53/MSAD 53 Manson Park School be designated for Concept Approval in calendar year 2025 and project #9 Augusta Public Schools Lillian Parks Hussey School be designated for Concept Approval in calendar year 2026. The motion was adopted.

HUSSON UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM

BACKGROUND: Husson University’s Educator Preparation Program (EPP) is reaching the end of its current approval cycle. The program has indicated its desire to renew its State Board approval and has prepared self-study materials in advance of an in-person review to be scheduled in early February 2024. State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education

Personnel lays out the process by which educator preparation programs are approved in Maine. The definitions in that chapter states that a review team shall be “A team of educators recommended to the State Board of Education by the Commissioner”. Subsection 3.4 (“Preparation of the Self-Assessment”) further explains that a “Review Team will consist of 4-5 team members, plus the MDOE consultant and a State Board of Education Observer”.

The following individuals have agreed to serve on the Husson University EPP Review Team: Anita Charles, PhD, Director of Secondary Teacher Education, Bates College (Chair); Linda Fuller, PhD, Co-Director of Educational Studies & Teacher Cert. Officer, College of the Atlantic; Krysten T. Gorrivan, MS Ed, Assistant Teaching Professor, University of New England; and Shannon Sleeper, M.Ed, Assistant Professor of Education, University of Maine at Presque Isle.

The two non-voting observers of the Husson University EPP Review will be as follows: Hon. Tori Kornfield, State Board of Education and Michael T. Perry, Maine Department of Education.

Pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.5(a), the review team members have been submitted to Husson University, who have indicated there are no known conflicts of interest. Now, per the same subsection of rule, this visitation team is hereby “submitted to the State Board for approval prior to visitation”. Upon the State Board’s approval, the above review team shall receive Husson University’s self-study materials and thus begin the review process stipulated by Rule Chapter 114.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.5(a), approve Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College, Dr. Linda Fuller of the College of the Atlantic, Prof. Krysten Gorrivan of the University of New England, and Prof. Shannon Sleeper of the University of Maine at Presque Isle to serve as team members for the Spring 2024 review of Husson University’s Educator Preparation Program, with Dr. Anita Charles serving as chair.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Edmond Morin and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.5(a), approve Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College, Dr. Linda Fuller of the College of the Atlantic, Prof. Krysten Gorrivan of the University of New England, and Prof. Shannon Sleeper of the University of Maine at Presque Isle to serve as team members for the Spring 2024 review of Husson University’s

Educator Preparation Program, with Dr. Anita Charles serving as chair and Victoria Kornfield as the State Board observer. The motion was adopted.

L.D. 485, RESOLVE, 2023, CHAPTER 54

The State Board of Education discussed and made changes to the draft report. Michael Perry, MDOE, was asked for the department’s opinions, ideas, and to provide clarification. After much discussion, the Board decided to have a special meeting on December 18 at 8:30 AM to continue working on the draft report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.
- Chair Desjardins wished everyone a joyful holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist
State Board of Education
