



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 14, 2022 at Nokomis Regional Middle School and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Ryan Hafener; and Joshua Leinwand.

Others Present: Gay Anne McDonald, MADSEC; John Marchei, NWEA; John Kraljic, Technology and Engineering Educators Association of Maine; Mallory Cook, MEA; Jennifer Clarke; Moyasser Hussein; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist/Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

Roll call was taken by Chair Desjardins. The chair declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Joshua Leinwand: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

POEM READING:

Poem Read by Victoria Kornfield – “*First Snowfall*” by Megan Grumbling.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Item VIII.A. in Unfinished Business should read:

Consideration that the State Board of Education vote to authorize the use of the Briggs Grant in the amount of \$18,500 to MACTE for a special project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the November 9, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Kraljic, retired educator and member of Technology and Engineering Educators Association of Maine, asked that the Maine State Board of Education work with the Department of Education and the University of Maine System to develop new pathways for earning a 700 industrial arts/technology education endorsement.

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

➤ **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- Wilson resigned as Chair of the Legislative Action Committee. Paulette Bonneau was appointed Chair of the committee.
- Fern attended the MEPRI Steering Committee meeting on November 16. The committee received an update on the work plan projects for FY23 and talked about topics of interest for future research. Teacher shortage challenges were also discussed.
- Nicole Denis, Director of Finance, forwarded questions from the Budget Office on the State Board’s request of \$50,000 for contracted services personnel to perform data gathering, research, and facilitation of stakeholder groups. Fern thanked and acknowledged Tom Keller for the response.
- On December 2, Fern was informed that the request for an Executive Director in the Board’s biennial budget cleared the internal approval workflow and was sent to Human Resources. We are now waiting for HR to respond and submit the new position to BHR. Approvals for Functional Job Analysis (FJAs) are currently taking longer than usual.

- Fern attended the Certification & Higher Education Committee meeting on November 16 and Board Effectiveness Committee meeting on November 28.
- She met with Tom and Paulette to discuss results of the survey Tom sent in an email to Board members. Good suggestions were made for future workshop agendas.
- Sandra's 3-month probation report was due to the Bureau of Human Resources on November 28, 2022, so Fern worked on it with Paulette.
- NASBE
 - Office Hours on November 14 included a conversation on states' adoption of a Portrait of a Graduate and national trends in competency-based learning.
 - Office Hours on December 5 was about midterm elections and upcoming NASBE work. Attendees also had the opportunity to discuss their state's priorities for 2023.
 - Attended an Executive Committee meeting (11/14), Board of Directors meeting (12/12), and a Finance & Audit Committee organizational meeting (11/29).

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette attended the Board Effectiveness Committee on November 28.
- She attended the Career & Technical Education Committee meeting on November 17, 2022 and continued working on the MACTE proposal that will be voted on today.
- She attended the Educate Maine Symposium on December 9, 2022. Wilson Hess and Mercedes Pour did a fantastic job presenting, and the conference was well attended.
- She has been busy with Board work but not specific to certain committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in November, but Fern has had a number of conversations on the Chapter 61 provision for emergency projects and the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility project on the Approved Projects List.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee (C&HE) met on November 16, 2022.

- Wendy acknowledged Eileen King for organizing the Superintendent's panel for today's workshop.
- Thomas Keller attended a meeting on December 5, 2022 regarding engineering and 700 certification. This seems to be mismatched and needs to catch up with a more modern version.

Career and Technical Education (Wilson Hess):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on November 17, 2022.

- Reviewed the current Briggs Fund balance, the balance remains at \$146,827.07.
- Received a report on the Reserve Fund Grant not to exceed \$983,958 in funding secondary CTE centers and regions in the amount of \$41,682. The deadline for completing applications is Friday, December 16, 2022. We anticipate 19 of the 27 eligible entities to ask for those funds. There will be funds available for a second administration.
- The committee unanimously voted to approve the MACTE proposal with amended points and conditions contingent upon seeing a new proposal beforehand.
- Wilson presented at the Educate Maine Symposium and thanked Mercedes Pour.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Committee's first meeting will be Friday, December 16, 2022.

- Paulette has invited Dr. Laura Cyr to attend the meeting. She is new to the Department of Education.
- Meetings will be held on Fridays at 12:00 PM.

Student Voices (Joshua Leinwand and Ryan Hafener):

The Student Voices Committee met December 12, 2022.

- The students will be meeting with Commissioner Makin and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta on December 21, 2022 regarding Student Leadership and expanding those opportunities.

- Looking at the statutes for the Student Selection Committee. Spoke about the selection process for students. Students will be doing research and will have a proposal in 2-3 months on what they would want to see.
- Ryan said the Student Engagement Collaborative with NASBE is finished. He will continue meeting once per month with NASBE staff and students unofficially.
- He spoke of trying to create social media accounts for the student members of the State Board of Education, which would allow for greater outreach.
- Ryan will present the Student Engagement Action Plan to the Board in Quarter 1, 2023.
- They spoke about the roles of student members on the State Board of Education and of creating a platform in which other students could submit questions for SBE student members to bring to the full Board.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on November 28, 2022.

- The committee would like to eliminate member reports in the workshop meeting to make more efficient use of that time. Members will be able to report out on their respective committees during the business meeting.
- Next meeting will be on December 19, 2022.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission met on December 13, 2022.

- Reviewed the leadership transition plan. We welcomed Lana Ewing back as interim Executive Director through June of 2023.
- Received presentations on annual third-party evaluations for the two virtual charter schools' additional reporting requirement.
- Received an update on the status of Harpswell Coastal Academy's non-renewal process. We approved changes to the Student Academic Efficiency Amendment to align with DOE reporting requirements.
- Considered a request from the Ecology Learning Center in Unity to add an additional facility, which is an annex. We are waiting for important documentation from the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- We had a professional development session for our board members since we have many new or almost new members.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met on December 12, 2022.

- Participation is not what we'd like to see with only 8 of our 24 board members attending. Many members are teachers and are very busy.
- Course acceptance was mentioned. Spoke of how the title of the course should match the title of the standard.
- Talked about elevating the profession. This is one of their 5 goals. The chair may create a report to bring to the State Board of Education. They are looking to inform the Board on teachers' views.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE BRIGGS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,500 TO MACTE FOR A SPECIAL PROJECT.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Edmond Morin and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education authorize the use of the Briggs Grant in the amount of \$18,500 to MACTE for a special project.

NEW BUSINESS:

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Wendy Ault and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education adopt the Vision and Mission Statements as presented.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF COMMISSIONER DECISIONS ON STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Fern Desjardins, Chair of the Board, read a procedure for the Board when going into executive session to review requests for review of the Commissioner's decisions on student transfer requests.

The Board will be considering requests for Board review of the Deputy Commissioner's decision regarding requested transfers of students to another school district, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205(6)(F). The Board will be going into executive session to consider the request because each one involves reviewing and discussing information contained in student records made confidential by the federal law known as FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The parents and any attorney representing a parent are welcome to attend the executive session for the discussion of their particular student's transfer, as are the Superintendents of the school districts involved in that requested transfer. The Board will review each of the transfer requests in separate executive sessions. Today, the Board has three transfer requests.

After the Board comes out of executive session, the Board will entertain a motion and take a vote on the disposition of the request in public session.

The Board's role in these proceedings is to review the Deputy Commissioner's decision based on the record that was before him at the time he made the decision. Although the statute directs the Board to "communicate with" the parties involved, which the Board has done, the Board cannot accept any new evidence pertaining to a transfer request that was not considered or not available in the record at the time of the Deputy Commissioner's decision.

The Board provides for public comment which was explained earlier in the meeting. In the executive session the same rules apply for public comment and there will be a three-minute time limit for comment. This is not a time for debate or a time to introduce new evidence. It is a time for families to highlight the things they want the Board to consider in the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from DAA, DIA, and WA to review the Deputy Commissioner's decision to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 2:08 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:41 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and voted eight in favor, one abstention (James Ford) to table the decision until the next Board Meeting. The motion is adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building, Room 103 and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 2:47 PM.

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