



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 January 11, 2023 at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Ryan Hafener; and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent with Excuse: Chair Fern Desjardins and Wendy Ault.

Others Present: Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta; Representative Barbara Bagshaw of Windham, District 106; Representative Edward Polewarczyk of Wiscasset, District 47; Titus O'Rourke; Liv Birnstad; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist/Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll call was taken by Vice Chair Bonneau. The vice chair declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Ryan Hafener: 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 – "Early Morning Trumpet" by George V. Van Deventer.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No adjustments to the Agenda

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the December 14, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the December 22, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- On December 16th, Fern attended the first Legislative Action Committee meeting with Paulette as Chair.
- On December 19th she attended the Board Effectiveness Committee meeting.
- She worked with Attorney Emily Atkins to prepare for the December 22 special meeting for student transfer appeals and with Attorney Sarah Forster to make plans for a 1-hour workshop session on February 8. Attorney Forster will be attending the workshop with Attorney Anne Macri who was recently assigned to assist the State Board on issues arising from student transfer appeals.
- On January 4th, she attended a MSSA School Construction Committee meeting. This meeting was MSSA’s follow up to the State Board’s School Construction Committee meeting of October 24 at which six superintendents, MSSA Executive Director Eileen King, and DOE staff members attended.

NASBE

- Office Hours on January 9 was with the National PTA. Attendees learned about National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. Presenters were Helen Westmoreland, Director, Family Engagement and Daniel Ehrenpreis, Manager, Family & Community Engagement.
- The Board of Directors provided feedback to President DeMaria on the first draft of a *Handbook for Area Directors & The New Member Representative*. The handbook will be helpful to area directors and the new member representatives for gaining a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- The January 2023 issue of The State Education Standard will come out in the next couple weeks. The issue is on leading and governing. State boards play varying roles in the governance of their state education systems. This issue reviews the state governance landscape, explores effective practice in state education governance, and examines the skills boards need to lead, collaborate effectively, and engage in effective strategic planning.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette participated with Chair Desjardins in Sandra Bourget's 3-month evaluation and will have another evaluation for her 6 month.
- She held the first Legislative Action Committee meeting on December 16. We were joined by Dr. Laura Cyr, DOE's Legislative and Constituent Service Specialist. We are seeing the bills come in, and the next meeting is Friday, January 13 at noon.
- She attended the December 22 special meeting for Student Transfer Appeals. Chair Desjardins shared important information regarding the procedure.
- Paulette attended the Board Effectiveness Committee meeting on December 19. The next meeting is January 30, 2023. We are working on coordinating time between the Education & Cultural Affairs Chairs and the Board. Teacher of the Year Matt Bernstein and Superintendent of the Year Jeremy Ray will be joining us for our February Workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education (CHE) Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is January 25, 2023.

- Committee Member Thomas Keller stated on January 20, there will be a virtual site visit for a new degree-granting institution in the state for the National Institute of Funeral Services. They have submitted a 143-page self-study. This is a new and interesting opportunity.

Career and Technical Education (Wilson Hess):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is January 26, 2023.

- Received a DOE report on the Perkins Reserve Grant Funds. They were awarded on December 16, 2022, for approximately \$625,000.00, which represents 64% of the funds. CTE will discuss and make a recommendation, but we anticipate a second round of funding.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee's first meeting was on Friday, December 16, 2022.

- The bills are coming in, and a watch list has been formulated with DOE. Some of the bills are very interesting and some are repeats.
- The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Board is very experienced.

Student Voices (Joshua Leinwand and Ryan Hafener):

The Student Voices Committee met January 9, 2023.

- Recapped the Student Cabinet meeting and discussed plans for today's presentation. They plan to meet next month before the State Board Meeting and will do work to prepare for upcoming Student Cabinet Meetings.

- The students will be meeting with Sarah Forster, Commissioner Makin, Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, Chair Fern Desjardins, and Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau regarding increasing student voice.
- Ryan said he received a comprehensive report and Student Engagement Collaborative with NASBE will be starting up again.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on December 19, 2022.

- We are working on coordinating time between the Education & Cultural Affairs Chairs and the Board. Teacher of the Year Matt Bernstein and Superintendent of the Year Jeremy Ray will be joining us for our February Workshop.
- Next meeting will be on January 30, 2023.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission met on January 10, 2022. The next meeting is February 14, 2023.

- Received an update on the status of Harpswell Coastal Academy's non-renewal process. They are being diligent in their work.
- Received an update from Maine Arts Academy. They purchased the former Maine Veteran's Facility. They may move in before the end of the year.
- The Ecology Learning Center in Unity asked permission to occupy a new annex. We are waiting for final report from the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Executive Committee has been authorized to grant the approval if there's a clean report from the State Fire Marshal.
- We are in the process of beginning the search for a new Executive Director. Thomas Keller is on that committee. The process is likely to begin around the first of February.
- Received Budget vs. Actual Report.
- Received Annual Monitoring Reports from eight of our Charter Schools.
- The Performance Assessment Committee did a very thorough job.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met on December 12, 2022. The next meeting is February 13, 2023.

- By the February 13th meeting, terms of 20 of the 22 members will have expired. We presume they will stay on until they are replaced, but we will have to wait and see.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 2023-2024

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S.A., Section 15689-C, the commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall certify to the Governor and the Bureau of the Budget recommended funding levels for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve. The funding levels recommended herein were developed based on proposed amendments to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the certified funding level for FY 2023-2024 for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve (including total operating allocation, total debt service allocation, total adjustments, total targeted education funds, total enhancing student performance and opportunity costs) at \$2,545,271,841; a local contribution amount of \$1,145,097,328, and a state contribution amount of \$1,400,174,513 to be distributed per the parameters of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B, as amended.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Wilson Hess and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the certified funding level for FY 2023-2024 for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve (including total operating allocation, total debt service allocation, total adjustments, total targeted education funds, total enhancing student performance and opportunity costs) at \$2,545,271,841; a local contribution amount of \$1,145,097,328, and a state contribution amount of \$1,400,174,513 to be distributed per the parameters of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B, as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- Thomas Keller is serving on the NASBE Award Committee.
- The next regular State Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building, Room 103 and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by James Ford, seconded by Kristin Bishop and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

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