



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a special meeting on January 17, 2024, at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; Ryan Hafener; and Phat Thai.

Absent with Excuse: Thomas Keller

Others Present: Commissioner Makin; Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Paula Gravelle, Director of School Finance; Erin Frazier, Director of Office of Special Services Birth-22; Melissa O'Neal-Low, Director of Special Projects; Jonathan Moody; Gerry Durgin; Penny Bishop; Eileen King; MK. Jurovcik; Andrew Dolloff; Rose Marie Angell; Mallory Cook; Becki Dodge; Gay Anne McDonald; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 3:00 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following individuals provided public comment: Rose Marie Angell, Becki Dodge, Gerry Durgin, and Gay Anne McDonald.

Comments centered around AD certification, Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, and Endorsement 515: Adapted Physical Education Teacher.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 2024-2025

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 were developed based on the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B.

Commissioner Makin reviewed and answered questions on the *Commissioner’s School Funding Recommendation FY 2024-2025* slides that had been emailed to Board members.

The funding level for FY 2024-2025 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-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 \$2,621,942,627; a local contribution amount of \$1,179,874,182, and a state contribution amount of \$1,442,068,445 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 Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the Commissioner’s Recommended Funding Level for FY 2024-2025. The motion was adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

The State Board discussed and made changes to the Certification & Higher Education Committee’s draft report of 01082024.

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted by those present, pursuant to Title 20-A, M.R.S., subsection 13011(1), and with the Legislature’s passage of LD 485, *Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Study Educator Credential Requirements* (Resolve, 2023, Chapter 54), and a subsequent letter addressed to the State Board of Education from the Chairs of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, that the State Board of Education accept the report of the Certification & Higher Education Committee with the changes made in today’s meeting and to include the additions that will be made by agreement between the Certification & Higher Education Committee and MDOE on Section 1.12 Certificate 075: School Counselor. The motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chair Desjardins thanked the Certification & Higher Education Committee and State Board members for their hard work on the L.D. 485 report, which will be presented to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on January 23.
- The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee will hold a work session on January 24 for L.D. 19 *An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Services to Grant Associate Degrees*. Chair Desjardins and Tom Keller will attend the session.
- The next regular State Board business meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

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