



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 July 12, 2023, at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent with Excuse: Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau and Ryan Hafener

Others Present: Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs; Chris Howell; Bill Hansen; Dwight Anderson; Lance Whitehead; Sherry Littlefield; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

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

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Joshua Leinwand: 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 Kristin Bishop, seconded by Ed Morin, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the June 14, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jon Porter, Superintendent for RSU 50, introduced himself and thanked the State Board of Education for the work that they do for all kids across Maine.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF 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 Superintendents’ decisions on student transfer requests.

The Board will be considering requests for Board review of the Superintendents’ decisions 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 requests 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 seven 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 Superintendents’ decisions based on the record that was before them at the time they 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 Superintendents' 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 Kristin Bishop, seconded by Ed Morin, 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 CP and EP to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 12:46 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:08 PM.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted six in favor with one opposed (Denham Ward) and one abstention (James Ford) that given the information the Board received, it was in CP's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Denham Ward, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in EP's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Wendy Ault, 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 SR to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:14 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:32 PM.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted seven in favor with one opposed (Fern Desjardins) that given the information the Board received, it was in SR's best interest to disapprove a transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, 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 NB to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:35 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:49 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Tom Keller, and voted seven in favor with one abstention (Denham Ward) that given the information the Board received, it was in NB's best interest to disapprove a transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Ed Morin, 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 JC, LC, and MC to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:53 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:03 PM.

MOTION by Tom Keller, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in JC's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Tom Keller, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in LC's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Tom Keller, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in MC's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

➤ **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee Appointments/Board Representatives list was distributed to Board members. Chair Desjardins reviewed the list and spoke about the appointments, thanking members for their interest and willingness to serve in the various capacities. She also discussed Freedom of Access as it pertains to committees.

- Fern attended the June 25-27 Annual Commissioner's Conference in Bar Harbor with board members Paulette, Wendy, Kristin, Tom, and Ryan. Keynote speaker was Jack Schneider, Author of *A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of School*. She attended sessions on Legislation Updates with Courtney Belolan, Maine DOE, and Vicki Wallack, MSMA; an Educator Apprentice Program between the Gorham School Department, MDOL, SMCC, and USM for individuals to become Educational Technicians and eventually teachers; Driving a Positive Narrative on Public Education with Marcus Mrowka, MDOE, and MSMA staff; Integrating the BARR Model in Maine Schools by SAD 60 staff; and Superintendents Supporting Innovation in Brewer, St. George, RSU 34 and RSU 89 and the importance of incorporating new and innovative engagement strategies.
- Fern discussed the updated Coffee and Light Refreshments Policy and Pre-Approval Process with changes made after receiving feedback from Shirley Browne, Certified Internal Auditor, Deputy State Controller, DAFS. Members were given the option to vote on the draft under New Business, Item X.D below or at the August 16 meeting.
- More changes were made to the Functional Job Analysis for the potential Executive Director of the State Board after the June 14 SBE meeting. The process continues to move forward.
- Members were asked to review the draft of the brochure for the State Board and to provide feedback.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette is working on the State Board’s Annual Retreat. Hotel rooms have been reserved. She met with Dr. Andrea Stairs-Davenport to carve out the preliminary draft agenda. We are inviting public and private teacher prep programs to join us. There will also be time for committee work between Tuesday afternoon/Wednesday morning. We have the bones, now we just need to add to it. She thinks in the end, it will be a productive time.
- She attended the Commissioner’s Conference. Paulette enjoyed listening to Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jack Schneider’s, perspective on education, particularly his notion about education driving capitalism and economics.
- Paulette also attended the following sessions:
 - *Legislative Update* and heard about bills that the State Board has not been following and the impact those bills have on the daily functioning of schools. There were approximately 200 education bills this past year that were processed.
 - *Educator Apprenticeship Program*: between Gorham District, SMCC, and USM. It was a panel presentation including Jane Dolan, DOL Apprenticeship program; Mary Jo O’Connor, SMCC; and Walter Kimball, USM. This program supports the training of Ed Techs while working and taking classes at SMCC, and then moving to USM to participate in their teacher prep program.
 - *Developing Principals with Purpose: Good Intentions to Intentional Leadership*: Tim Matheney, South Portland Superintendent, interviewed 47 superintendents and assistant superintendents from 12 states and Puerto Rico. He developed three key components:
 - Building a culture of high expectations
 - Ensure great teaching
 - Creating internal effective systems to develop highly effective principals

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on June 30, 2023.

- The committee recommended the exhibit that will be taken up under New Business to grant Site Approval to RSU 14 for the new Middle School construction project.

- They also unanimously agreed to a recommendation on the School Construction Program. It is part of the Exhibit for Item X.B under New Business.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 25 at 9:00 a.m. The July 28 meeting is cancelled.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on June 28, 2023.

- The July meeting will take place on August 2. It will be the last meeting Wendy Ault chairs.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on June 29, 2023.

- CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported that Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan projects are moving forward including those in Biddeford, Lincoln, Oxford Hills, and Mexico. Dwight reported that next year will be a big year for the MJRP Equipment Grant. While most CTE's got their equipment this year, DOE will be monitoring and visiting the locations to see what impact pieces have on programs in the state. In addition, the department is working on end of year reports and data collection. Perkins applications are coming in and being finalized for this year and, they are working on applications for next year.
- Mercedes Pour reported that the Community College System was doing its year end wrap up, that the Aspirations Program, which is funding from the state that flows through MDOE and funds the majority of dual and concurrent enrollment across the state, is running over budget and that there are discussions with DOE about restructuring the program to make it more sustainable. Mercedes notes that CTE's account for 60% of dual and concurrent enrollment. She gave a big shout out to MACTE, Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education, for its Tech Updates. In particular, she mentioned one that took place in health sciences at last October's CTE conference, and that the Davis Grant program is going well with a focus on intentional course taking with regards to dual enrollment.
- MACTE Executive Director, Dave Keaton, reports that L.D. 436 An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation completed in CTE Centers and Regions was signed into law by Governor Mills. He says that MACTE is putting final

touches on the summer conclave, which will be held later this month at EMCC in Bangor. They started meeting to discuss the fall conference and are looking into break-out sessions on Artificial Intelligence. MACTE President, Julie Kenny, who directs the Bath Regional Career and Technical Education Center, reports that she's finishing her term as MACTE president. Amanda Peterson from the United Technologies Center in Bangor is taking on that role, and there's a new executive board and new members who will be taking on new responsibilities. Under new business, Dave Keaton presented the FY23 MACTE Final Report that was funded through the George Briggs Trust. The CTE Committee oversees the Briggs Trust. While the CTE Committee has asked for more documentation for Brigg's recipients going forward, the MACTE report for FY23 was not under those guidelines. Nevertheless, the report, which has been handed out to all SBE members, contains a lot of the detail which will be sought from Briggs Trust grantees in the future. In addition, MACTE came in under budget for both its activities budgets and the Briggs funded research project it's been undertaking, a report that both the CTE Committee and the full board will be hearing more about in the near future, including action items that stem from the report.

- In a written report, Educate Maine's Jason Judd reports that organization staff continue to develop both pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities. That Educate Maine, in partnership with Unum, UNE Online, and the Maine Principals Association just facilitated the closing retreat of Education Leaders Experience that is "a program which offers educators a professional development opportunity to engage with community, business, and policy leaders from across Maine." On December 8, Educate Maine will host the annual Education Symposium at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2023. The July 27 meeting is cancelled.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee has not met.

- The 131st session is still active. L.D. 258 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025 (EMERGENCY) (GOVERNOR'S BILL) (Biennial Budget)

still has to go the Governor for final approval. No details or dates to report.

- There are several education bills sitting on the Special Appropriations Table.
- The DOE Legislative team has recently hired Jennifer Belanger who will serve as the new Legislative & Constituent Services Specialist.

Student Voices (Joshua Leinwand and Wendy Ault):

The Student Voices Committee met on July 10, 2023.

- Ryan is excited to work with Phat in leading the Student Cabinet next year.
- Phat Thai's term begins on July 22, 2023.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on June 21, 2023.

- Continued to discuss differences between Ad Hoc and Standing Committees.
- We have begun and continue to work on the State Board's Student Transfer Appeal Policy. This work is on the agenda for our next meeting.
- The next meeting will be held on July 17, 2023.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield and Thomas Keller):

The Charter School Commission met on July 11, 2023.

- Harpswell Coastal Academy is officially closed. They are ending with a positive balance, which will go back to the state.
- Community Regional Charter School is going off their two-year improvement plan. We are still concerned with their 40% chronic absenteeism rate.
- Norman Higgins is the Chair and Leigh Weisenburger-Albert is the Vice Chair of the Charter School Commission.
- Victoria Kornfield will continue to chair the School Performance Committee with Jim Handy and Tom Keller.
- Leigh Weisenburger-Albert will chair the Finance Committee with James Ford and Brian Langley.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

- Professional Standards Board Chair, Andrew McCullough, presented in the morning's workshop session on *Barriers and Recommendations for Teacher Retention in Maine*.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):

- The first session of the New Member Institute took place on June 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Fern spoke on strategic planning, was a facilitator for the breakout sessions, and served on an "expert panel" answering questions from President and CEO Paolo DeMaria. Fern thanked Denham Ward for attending the session. Session 2 will be held July 26, 1:00-4:00 p.m. It will include Parliamentary Procedure Training and Leading with Evidence.
- Fern attended the Northeast Regional Meeting on July 6. It was scheduled by NASBE's northeast regional liaisons, Joey Hedger and Winona Hao, to give states an opportunity to provide an update on their activities related to each of NASBE's five priority areas: early childhood and elementary education; assessment and accountability; recruiting and retaining high quality educators; student and staff wellness; and high school redesign.
- She attended Office Hours on July 10. State Boards in three states were engaged in NASBE's Healthy School Facilities Network – Indiana, Guam, and the District of Columbia. Office Hours featured the project in Indiana where they raised awareness about the impact of a healthy school building on students' academic outcomes and overall health.

Awards Committee (Thomas Keller):

- The committee is meeting today, July 12.

Government Affairs Committee (Thomas Keller):

- The committee did not meet in July.

Public Education Positions Committee (Paulette Bonneau):

- Paulette attended the PEP meeting on June 20. We focused on redesigning high schools. To formulate a position paper, we discussed the following ideas: What are the skills needed? College for everyone? Competency-based assessments? Performance assessments vs paper/pencil assessments? Parents and community stakeholder involvement to redesign high schools?

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; SITE APPROVAL CONSIDERATION FOR RSU 14 NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent Christopher Howell requests that the State Board of Education approve a site in Windham for a new 1,200 student middle school. The existing Windham Middle School (grades 6-8) rated 5th on the Final Priority List of the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle.

RSU 14 hired Lavallee Brensinger Architects (LBA) to complete a New vs. Renovation analysis of the existing Windham Middle School and conduct further studies of the other elementary and middle school buildings in the district. This analysis resulted in a recommendation for new construction of a grades 5-8 Middle School which would include students from the Jordan Small Middle School (grades 5-8) in Raymond. This recommendation would allow for universal Pre-K programming in the district.

LBA hired Stantec to assist in the evaluation of the current Windham Middle School site as a possible site for the new school. Windham Middle School shares the site with Windham High School and Windham Primary School. The evaluation concluded that the site would not support the new school project.

A comprehensive search was conducted to find a site that could support the needs of the new middle school. The process was led by Stantec and evaluated over 100 sites that exceeded 35 acres in Windham and Raymond. The evaluation identified 9 potential sites which were then reduced to 1 site using established criteria on their Site Selection Matrix. The selected site is in the Windham Center Growth Area, is within 2 miles of the Windham High School/Primary School Campus, and a plan for utility and transportation infrastructure is in place. Site investigations and environmental studies have been conducted and have not revealed any issues of significance.

Two appraisals for the 43.49 acre property fell within the 25% variance allowed by Chapter 61 State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

In a public meeting on June 29, 2023, constructing a new middle school on this site was endorsed by a straw poll vote of 41 in favor, 3 opposed.

The completed Site Application is on file with the Department of Education and all the appropriate state agencies have been involved and an option to purchase the property has been signed.

Project Information:

Project: RSU 14 New Middle School Construction Project

Superintendent: Christopher Howell

Architect: Lance Whitehead, Lavallee Brensinger Architects

Engineer: Dwight Anderson, Stantec

Schools to be closed: Jordan Small Middle School and Windham Middle School

Total number of acres: 43.49±

Total number of acres Eligible for State Support: 37

Purchase cost: \$1,500,000

Averaged Appraised Value: \$1,410,000

Amount Eligible for State Support: \$1,199,628

Local Only Amount: \$300,372

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU 14 for the new Middle School construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On June 30, 2023, the School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the July 12, 2023, State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Site Approval to RSU 14 for the new Middle School construction project as presented.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU 14 for the new Middle School construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND: July 25, 2021 – A fire at the Dr. Levesque Elementary School in RSU 33/MSAD 33 led to students in grades 1-6 being relocated to join grades 7-12 at Wisdom Middle/High School in St. Agatha. Grades PK and K are located in one, double classroom modular building, requiring that students walk outside to get to the library, music, art, physical education, lunch, therapy (OT, PT and speech), nurse’s office, principal’s office, and assemblies located at Wisdom Middle/High School.

The Adjuster General for Sedgwick deemed the Dr. Levesque Elementary School a total loss.

Insurance: Insured for replacement basis that does not include code upgrades and emergency services (i.e., for all work required to restore the building to its pre-loss condition) with Trident Public Risk Solutions, Argonaut Insurance Company (the carrier).

Adjusted Loss as Determined: \$8,673,521.59

Minus Depreciation \$1,250,088.65

Actual Cash Value \$7,423,432.94

Minus Deductible \$1,000.00

Claim on Insurance \$7,422,432.94

Received to date: \$5,391,348.73

Expected future payments: \$2,031,084.21

Statement from Supt. Benjamin Sirois: “Due to generous donations to help MSAD33 relocate into the Wisdom Middle/High School building, MSAD33 will have spent \$0 (zero) of the insurance claim and is expected to have the full \$7,422,432.94 to go towards a rebuild effort.”

Ratings on the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle, Major Capital School Construction Program Priority List:

No application was submitted for Dr. Levesque Elementary School or Wisdom Middle/High School for consideration in the 2017-2018 rating cycle; therefore, no comparison can be made with other schools that were rated.

Note: MSAD 33 partnered with MSAD 27 and the Madawaska Public Schools to apply for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle, Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility and were rated as priority #1 on the list. The rejection of the vetted site by MSAD 27 “derailed this project.”

Enrollment: Dr. Levesque Elementary School:

PK – 14 K – 18 1 – 19 2 – 23 3 – 16 4 – 13
5 – 13 6 – 24

Total: 140

Wisdom Middle/High School:

7 – 13 8 – 13 9 – 19 10 – 18 11 – 18 12 – 20

Total: 101

Total enrollment PK-12: 241

June 2022 – Fire at Dike Newell School in RSU 1 destroyed 60% of the school. Grades PK-2 have been relocated to the previous Bath Regional Technical Center (BRTC).

The library, music, physical education, and cafeteria have been relocated to the old Morse High School. The buildings are now owned by the city of Bath. RSU 1 has an annual lease with the city of Bath.

The school is close to the main road, which poses security and safety issues. BRTC was built in 1995. The building has passed code inspections and been approved by the State Fire Marshall Office.

Insurance: Insured for \$12,575,520 with Liberty Mutual Insurance Building (\$11,636,103) + All Other Personal Property (\$939,417) = \$12,575,520
Statement from Supt. Patrick Manuel: “The final insurance settlement is \$11,441,286. Out of this final settlement, some payments were made by Liberty Mutual to outside vendors, and the district has spent considerable insurance monies that were designated by insurance to renovate the current DN location and replace contents - leaving approximately seven million to help replace the school.”

Ratings on the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle, Major Capital School Construction Program Priority List:

Dike Newell School: #50 (rating was prior to the fire)

Note: The Fisher Mitchell School in RSU 1 (grades 3-5) is rated #22.

Supt. Manuel advocates for building a PK-5 school to replace both the Dike Newell School and Fisher Mitchell School.

Enrollment: Dike Newell School:

PK – 40 K – 72 1 – 80 2 – 74

Total: 266

Fisher Mitchell School:

3 – 55 4 – 63 5 – 62

Total: 180

Total enrollment PK-5: 446

Maine State Board of Education 5-Year Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Priority 4 – School Construction & Renovations, Goal 4: The Maine State Board of Education will establish a new rating cycle for the Major Capital School Construction Program by the spring of 2026.

Emergency Provision – Chapter 61

1. In Definition #20 on p. 3, “Emergency Project”
“Emergency Project” - Any school construction project requiring the replacement of all or a significant portion of a school facility, resulting from an unanticipated and sudden natural or human disaster, and which is declared uninhabitable by an authorized local, state or federal government agency or individual (e.g., the State Fire Marshal’s Office).
2. In Categories of School Construction Projects, p. 5
B. Emergency projects will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate-by the State Board.

Considerations & Summary of Findings:

- Past Practice with projects designated as “emergency projects”
 - Fact Sheet developed by the School Construction Committee in collaboration with RSU 1 and RSU 33/MSAD 33
 - Communications of interested parties with School Construction Committee
 - 2017-2018 Major Capital School Construction Program Final Priority List
 - Chapter 61 – Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects
1. The process for approving major capital school construction projects outlined in Chapter 61 has worked.
 2. There is a favorable response from SAUs approved for school construction projects to consolidate schools within their SAUs after consideration of their facility assessments and projected enrollment data.
 3. It is cost effective to do what is right for the long-term within SAUs by building schools that communities can afford to insure, maintain, and meet projected enrollment needs.

4. There are a number of significant initiatives that could impact the future of school construction projects and they should be considered in moving forward:
 - L.D. 1415 - The convening of a stakeholder group for the purpose of making recommendations on researching and identifying alternative pathways or revenue sources to finance school construction needs in the State AND that the next round to apply for funding a school construction project take place in fiscal year 2024-25.
 - Anticipation of revisions to Chapter 61 in the 131st Maine Legislature.
5. The health and safety of students is paramount in decision-making on which schools should be moved to the Approved Priority List or approved for school construction.
6. There is much support for exploring the acceleration of the next rating cycle Priority List. Moving the timeline forward would accommodate those who want to apply and the SAUs that had fires destroying their schools. It would be a positive response to this past Legislative session and to meeting the needs expressed by superintendents and the Department of Education in School Construction Committee meetings of the State Board of Education and the Maine School Superintendents Association.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The School Construction Committee recommends that the State Board of Education work with the Department of Education in moving forward the timeline for establishing a new rating cycle for the Major Capital School Construction Program; that the Dike Newell School and Dr. Levesque Elementary School which were partially and completely, respectively, destroyed by fires apply for school construction under the new rating cycle; that the State Board follow the protocol in place in honoring the existing priority list; and that revisions to Chapter 61 be initiated for the new rating cycle.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Ed Morin, that the State Board of Education work with the Department of Education in moving forward the timeline for establishing a new rating cycle for the Major Capital School Construction Program; that the Dike Newell School and Dr. Levesque Elementary School which were partially and completely, respectively, destroyed by fires apply for school construction under the new rating cycle; that the State Board follow the protocol in place in honoring the existing priority list; and that revisions to Chapter 61 be initiated for the new rating cycle.

Denham Ward moved to amend this motion by inserting the words “by at least six months” before “for establishing a new rating cycle.” The amendment was seconded by Tom Keller and adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

The motion was then adopted with a unanimous vote as follows: “that the State Board of Education work with the Department of Education in moving forward the timeline, by at least six months, for establishing a new rating cycle for the Major Capital School Construction Program; that the Dike Newell School and Dr. Levesque Elementary School which were partially and completely, respectively, destroyed by fires apply for school construction under the new rating cycle; that the State Board follow the protocol in place in honoring the existing priority list; and that revisions to Chapter 61 be initiated for the new rating cycle.”

RECEIPT OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION by Tom Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education receive the Professional Standards Board Annual Report. The motion was adopted.

COFFEE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS POLICY AND PRE-APPROVAL PROCESS

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the Coffee and Light Refreshments Policy and Pre-Approval Process as presented. The motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The State Board’s Annual Retreat is scheduled to be held August 15-16, 2023, at USM in Portland.
- Chair Desjardins and members of the board recognized and thanked Joshua Leinwand for his two years of outstanding service and dedication as a student member on the State Board of Education. They presented him with a framed certificate and acknowledged some of his many contributions to the board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

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