



## **MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

### STATE OF MAINE

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The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on July 13, 2022 at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Thomas Keller; and Ryan Hafener. Wendy Ault attended the meeting virtually via Zoom.

Absent with Excuse: Victoria Kornfield and Joshua Leinwand  
Absent without Excuse: Mark Balfantz

Others Present: Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

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

Roll call was taken by Mary Becker, Secretary Specialist. The 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.

### **RECOGNITION TO MARY BECKER:**

Chair Fern Desjardins presented a gift to Mary Becker for her years of service staffing the State Board of Education. Mary Becker will be retiring on July 29, 2022 after 14 years as secretary specialist for the State Board.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

No Adjustments were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION by James Ford, seconded by Thomas Keller, and voted six in favor with one member abstaining (Wendy Ault) to accept the June 15, 2022 minutes as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Donald Bresnahan, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Building Infrastructure Management Solutions, Portland, Maine spoke to the Board about LD 705: “Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine Public Schools”. Mr. Bresnahan spoke about his concern with the dollar amounts released in July of 2022 for the Revolving Renovation Funds for calendar year 2022-2023.

**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’ 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 five 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 AG 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 1:16 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:33 PM.

MOTION by Thomas Keller to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for AG. There was no second to the motion. The motion failed.

MOTION by James Ford, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for AG. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by James Ford, 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 AF 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 1:37 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:46 PM.

MOTION by James Ford, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for AF. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by James Ford, 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 AD and WD 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 1:49 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:12 PM.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for AD. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for WD. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by James Ford, 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 CS 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 2:15 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:25 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for CS. The transfer is granted.

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

### **Chair, Fern Desjardins**

- Fern reviewed the business agenda for the July 13 meeting.
- **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**
- The Committee Appointments/Board Representatives list was distributed to Board members electronically. Chair Desjardins reviewed the list and spoke about the appointments, thanking members for their interest and willingness to serve in the various capacities.
- She thanked everyone who attended the June 22 recognition evening for Mary Becker for her 14 years of service as secretary specialist and to Peter Geiger for his 13 years of membership on the State Board. Paulette Bonneau was recognized for taking care of all the logistics for the gathering.
- Fern attended the Commissioner's Conference June 26-28 in Bar Harbor along with Paulette, Wendy, Victoria, and Wilson. Deputy Commissioner Chuhta held a session on Chapter 115, which provided another opportunity for educators to become informed and to ask questions on the changes in effect as of June 10. The keynote speaker was Shawn Achor, author of "The Happiness Advantage" and "Big Potential". Fern appreciated the five concurrent workshop sessions that she attended, but she especially enjoyed her ride to downtown Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island's quiet electric school bus.
- Mary's position was advertised as an Anticipated Vacancy at the DOE and Bureau of Human Resources websites on July 8 with a deadline for applications on July 22. The position has been reclassified from the current position of Secretary Specialist, Range 20 to Office Specialist II, Range 20.
- She attended the Board Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee meeting (6/21), Career and Technical Education Committee meeting (6/22), Certification & Higher Education Committee meeting (6/22), held the monthly SBE agenda review with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and included Paulette in her first meeting as Vice Chair (7/5), and two meetings as a member of the Maine Charter School Commission.
- Annual Retreat plans are underway with Paulette, Wendy, and UMF. Samantha Warren has been instrumental in coordinating members from the UMS. Paulette Bonneau briefed the Board on plans for the retreat and lodging information for those needing overnights.
- Fern and Kristin met with the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and Director of School Construction Programs at the DOE to gain a mutual understanding of the school construction emergency provision, priority list of the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle, strategic plan for the next priority list, and debt ceiling for school construction.

➤ NASBE

- June 29 – New Member Institute, Session I: “The Role of a State Board Member, State Board Levers of Authority, and How to Lead for Lasting Change.” Tom, Kristin and Fern attended. NASBE President Paolo DeMaria asked Fern to speak about Maine’s strategic plan and its importance to the work of the State Board.
- Reminder: Student Engagement Collaborative starting in August for all student members of state boards of education. The Collaborative will provide 6-months of virtual cross-state collaborative opportunities, training in policy analysis and action plan development, and technical assistance to support participants. Board members are needed to serve as mentors to student members participating in the Collaborative.
- Facilitated three Executive Committee meetings (6/20, 7/10, 7/11)
- July 8 – Attended a webinar with the U.S. Department of Education, White House COVID Response Coordinator, and experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the importance of improving air quality in schools. They discussed the health and academic benefits of improving air quality, using the summer to assess school needs and make improvements, and the federal funds that could be used to make those improvements.
- July 11 – Office Hours – Kathleen Ethier, Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discussed the new Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey (ABES) data that highlight the impact of the pandemic on student mental health and other key indicators.

**Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau**

- She attended the monthly CTE Committee meeting on June 22.
- Paulette attended the Agenda Review meeting on July 5.
- She attended the NASBE Government Affairs Committee (GAC) meeting on July 5, 2022. Summary of the Meeting:
  - *Congressional Outlook:*
  - FY 2023- \$87 billion dollar budget with a 13% overall increase  
Appropriations: <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2023-labor-health-and-human>
  - Senate Hearing on Learning Recovery: Senate Hearing - Supporting Students and Schools: Promising Practices to Get Back on Track: <https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/supporting-students-and-schools-promising-practices-to-get-back-on-track>

- COMPETES Act: Grants for computer science programs, STEM Pathways, hands on learning opportunities
  - Bipartisan Safer Communities Act: Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (CT Sen. Summary):  
[https://www.murphy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/bipartisan\\_safer\\_communities\\_act\\_one\\_pager.pdf](https://www.murphy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/bipartisan_safer_communities_act_one_pager.pdf)
  - *Federal Communications Commission:*
  - Emergency Connectivity Fund Update: NASBE is working with Senator Markey and others to replenish the fund.
  - *U.S. Department of Education:*
  - Charter School Grant: 1. Maintain fiscal transparency (about 15% didn't open schools yet received funds); 2. Listen to public comment; 3. Support local and state diversity (ELL, special education); 4. Improve State's monitoring of money. Grant applications are issued and there is a 30 day turnaround.
    - Priorities: Charter School Grant Priorities: Overview blog post - [https://blog.ed.gov/2022/07/supporting-high-quality-charter-schools-and-their-success/?utm\\_campaign=Weekly%20Brief&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=218393644&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9hnIUa4hx7fFH8p2a7138xFWWhROVA\\_AVVE98bjDi3gG3UxMncgTZ2DLpOEKwYfzgTSLqIUUjEm4KASFO8VBzqa4gljw&utm\\_content=218393644&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://blog.ed.gov/2022/07/supporting-high-quality-charter-schools-and-their-success/?utm_campaign=Weekly%20Brief&utm_medium=email&hsmi=218393644&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9hnIUa4hx7fFH8p2a7138xFWWhROVA_AVVE98bjDi3gG3UxMncgTZ2DLpOEKwYfzgTSLqIUUjEm4KASFO8VBzqa4gljw&utm_content=218393644&utm_source=hs_email)
    - National Parents and Families Engagement Council: relatively new. National Parents and Families Engagement Council: <https://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement/council#:~:text=Launched%20in%20June%202022%2C%20the,are%20recovering%20from%20the%20pandemic>
  - *U.S. Supreme Court:*
    - Carson v. Makin Decision Read the court opinions here: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1088\\_dbfi.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1088_dbfi.pdf)
- She attended the NASBE Public Education Positions (PEP) Committee meeting on June 14, 2022. The Committee met again a week later. At the first meeting the Committee drafted a position statement regarding administrator/superintendents challenges, recruiting and retention challenges and possible strategies to deal with challenges. The second meeting, the Committee did a final review of the position paper that will go before the NASBE Board for review.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):***

The School Construction Committee did not meet on Friday, June 24, 2022 as scheduled.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Agnes Gray School, RSU 17 in Oxford. Agnes Gray School is listed as #6 and the Oxford Hills Middle School as #7 on the priority list of the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle for the Major Capital School Construction Program. The reason Construction Committee Members are going to Oxford is to tour the following four schools:

- Agnes Gray School
- Oxford Hills Middle School – two campuses
- Paris Elementary School

Following the school tours, Scott Brown will be talking to committee members about debt service and going over various charts with members.

The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):***

The Certification and Higher Education Committee (C&HE) met on June 22, 2022 as scheduled. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

- The Committee received certification office updates from Stephanie Fyfe.
- Received an update on Higher Education from Angel Loredó.
- Reviewed several college annual reports. The Committee will continue review of annual reports at the next regular monthly meeting.
- The Committee has received the CAEP report for the University of Southern Maine (USM) and will review it at the next meeting.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2022 and will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Career and Technical Education (Wilson Hess):***

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on June 22, 2022 as scheduled. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

- Received funding updates on Perkins and Briggs Trust fund.
- Received a report from the State Director for CTE. Attention was brought to the following:



- Request for Application Process is now open. Twenty-million dollars for infrastructure and equipment grants for CTEs. Now waiting for contracts.
- RFAs for applications on infrastructure are released for the Fall due date.
- Report for LD 313 task force was released on June 15, 2022.
- LD 680 task force - Paulette Bonneau has been appointed to the task force by the Speaker of the House and Wilson Hess has been appointed to serve on the task force by the Senate President.
- Received an update from the Maine Community College System. Free college for students that meet the qualifying requirements. Staff is overwhelmed with applications for student free tuition. Planning a state-wide math pathways conference.
- Received an update from the MACTE Director. Their summer conclave will take place at UNUM in Portland on July 26 and 27. Considering a summit/workshop in the Fall.
- Report from Educate Maine - On behalf of the CTE Committee, a proposal was submitted to present at the Educate Maine Symposium to be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland on Friday, December 9, 2022. The presentation is related to the Board's initiative to increase congruence between CTE coursework and district-wide graduation requirements and standards, as part of the Board's strategic plan.
- Wilson reported the authorization that the SBE approved at the June 15, 2022 Board meeting related to the congruence project request for application was released last week and sent out to all CTE units. Projects to be considered will address systemic barriers related to high school graduation requirements, such as innovative pathways that better align district graduation requirements with CTE programs. Develop credit-bearing core courses for students to enroll in during school breaks. Offer core graduation courses in subjects like math or English at CTE centers and regions, etc. The total funding is \$917,009.00 with a minimum award per school of \$33,963.00.

The next regular CTE Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2022. The Committee will meet in-person at the Cross State Office Building, Room 538. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Legislative Action (Wilson Hess):***

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) last met on March 18, 2022 virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19 surge.

The next Legislative Action Committee meeting will be held as needed.

***Student Voices (Ryan Hafener):***

The Student Voices Committee did not meet on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 as scheduled.

The next Student Voices Committee meeting date is to be determined.

***Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):***

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on June 21, 2022 virtually via Zoom.

- The Committee confirmed the July 13, 2022 meeting speakers and planned the panel discussion held at the workshop session this morning.
  - Steve Bailey, Maine School Superintendents Association (MSSA)/Maine School Boards Association (MSBA); Gay McDonald, Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC); Grace Leavitt, Maine Education Association (MEA); and John Doty, Maine Curriculum Leaders Association (MCLA).
- At the next Committee meeting, members will prepare the draft vision/mission statements to share with the Board at the August retreat. The retreat will be held at UMaine Farmington on Monday, August 15 and Tuesday, August 16.

The next Board Effectiveness Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM virtually via Zoom.

***Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):***

The Charter School Commission did not meet on June 14, 2022 as scheduled. The Commission met on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

- The following Commission Committees met. Wilson Hess briefed the Board on reports received from each committee. The Committees are as follows:
  - *Executive Committee*
  - *School Performance Committee*
  - *Finance Committee*
- Press release slated to go out on July 14, 2022. Executive Director, Jeremy Jones will be leaving to take a position in Arizona. Gina Post will take on duties as the executive director for one year.
- Received a presentation from the Maine Connections Academy.
- Considered approval of some funding to amend the leadership structure at Maine Arts Academy.
- Considered and approved a new contract for Community Regional Charter

- School.
- Approved some processes for the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences.
  - Adopted a budget.
  - Received a report on enrollment.

***Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):***

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met virtually via Zoom on May 17, 2022.

- The PSB meets five times a year so did not meet since the last SBE meeting.
- Tom met with the chair of the PSB. There are 23 members appointed by the Governor in addition to the State Board Representative and a DOE designee. All their terms end in January of 2023. The terms are not staggered for members.
- The Chair of the PSB is very interested in helping new teachers and mentoring teachers. During his leadership as chair of the PSB, Tom believes members will focus on induction and mentoring.

The next PSB meeting has not been scheduled. A doodle poll for the next meeting date will be sent out to members.

**UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:**

No Unfinished Business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

APPOINTMENT OF A STATE BOARD MEMBER TO THE MAINE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted six in favor with one member abstaining (Thomas Keller) to appoint Thomas Keller to serve on the Maine Charter School Commission for a three year term.

Wilson Hess, Chair of the Charter Commission, thanked Fern Desjardins, outgoing member, for her exemplary leadership while serving on the Charter Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ROUX INSTITUTE REVIEW TEAM

**BACKGROUND:** Northeastern University through the Roux Institute of Portland is expanding academic offering to include the following program and have filed the appropriate documentation to the Maine Department of Education. The review of

these new programs is scheduled for July 18 and 19, 2022 at the Portland campus.

- Master of Science in Real World Evidence in Healthcare and Life Science
- PhD in Population Health
- Graduate Certificate in Information Design and Visualization
- PhD in Interdisciplinary Design and Media
- PhD in Chemical Engineering
- PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering
- PhD in Computer Engineering
- PhD in Electrical Engineering
- PhD in Industrial Engineering
- PhD in Interdisciplinary Engineering
- PhD in Mechanical Engineering
- Master of Science in Management
- PhD in Network Science
- PhD in Computer Science
- PhD in Cybersecurity
- Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Compliance
- Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property

The Review Team is as follows:

Joan Ferrini-Mundy	Chair, UMaine President
Josh McIntosh	VP Student Affairs, Bates College
Dana Humphry	Dean of Engineering, UMaine
Jeannine Uzzi	Provost, USM
Matthew Orlando	SVP for Finance, Bowdoin College
Tom Keller	State Board Observer
Wilson Hess	State Board Observer Alternate

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the Roux Institute Review Team.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Roux Institute Review Team.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting. All vouchers should be submitted to finance by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month of expenses.
- The DOE 2022 Educator Summit will be held on August 9 and 10 at the Augusta Civic Center. Board members who wish to attend cannot register until after July 15, 2022. If you are planning to attend and are in a school district, you should register yourself, as schools will be reimbursed for any expenses.
- The next session (Session 2) of the NASBE New Member Institute will be held on July 27, 2022. Session Two Topic: “Parliamentary Procedure Training and Demonstration and Leading with Evidence”. There is no fee for members to attend. Members interested in attending will need to register to receive the Zoom Link to join the New Member Institute Session.
- The next regular Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 1:00 PM, following the Board’s annual retreat to be held Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday morning, August 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at the University of Maine at Farmington.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The July 13, 2022 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Mary Johnson Becker, Secretary Specialist  
State Board of Education