



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 March 28, 2023 virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; and Denham Ward.

Absent with Excuse: Ryan Hafener and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent without Excuse: James Ford.

Others Present: Michael Perry, Acting Director of the Office of Higher Education and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

Chair Desjardins welcomed Dr. Denham Ward to the State Board of Education and asked members to introduce themselves.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by Edmond Morin: 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:

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF ONE ADDITIONAL MEMBER TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL SERVICES (NIFS) REVIEW COMMITTEE.

BACKGROUND: The National Institute of Funeral Services applied for degree granting authority in the State of Maine under Chapters 149 and 170. On October 12, 2022, the State Board of Education approved a review committee to consist of Dr. Lynne Coy-Ogan of Husson University to serve as the review committee chair, members Dr. Alicia Wilcox of Thomas College and Ms. Julie Ann Johnson of Conroy-Tully Walker Funeral Homes, and Thomas E. Keller as Observer for the State Board of Education.

On March 8, 2023, the State Board approved two additional individuals of Maine’s institutions of higher education to the review committee: Elizabeth Russell, EMCC President, and Aili Robinson, University of Maine at Augusta Executive Director of Financial Services and Administration.

To fill the seat of the fifth individual who will be representative of Maine’s institutions of higher education on the review committee, Richard Roberts, UMaine’s Executive Director of Academic Program Support and Online Learning for the Division of Lifelong Learning, has agreed to serve.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the addition of Richard Roberts to the NIFS Review Committee.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the addition of Richard Roberts to the NIFS Review Committee. The motion is adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next regular State Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building, Room 103 and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.

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