



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 March 9, 2022 virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Wendy Ault; Paulette Bonneau; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Victoria Kornfield; and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent with Excuse: Greyson Orne

Others Present: Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Joshua Leinwand: 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 – “Magic Show” by Mary Ann Tupper, a Maine poet.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the February 9, 2022 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern Desjardins reviewed the business agenda for the February 9 meeting.
- Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:
 - February 13-16, she worked with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and Jaci Holmes in responding to questions from the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on testimony given at the hearing for LD 1933, Chapter 115 on February 8.
 - February 17, Wendy Ault and Fern attended the Work Session for LD 1933. It resulted in a vote of Ought to Pass as amended by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.
 - March 7, she listened to Confirmation Hearings for Thomas Keller, Kristin Bishop, and Mark Balfantz nominated by Governor Mills to the State Board of Education. All three were recommended for confirmation by the Senate.
- On February 10, Fern met virtually with Jennifer Chace, Executive Director, Education Action Forum of Maine. Fern invited Jennifer to the March 9 Board workshop to talk about the work of the organization.
- On February 14, she attended a Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) meeting:
 - Members had an opportunity to share ideas in Google doc ahead of time for topics MEPRI could study next school year. More ideas were generated for next year's work plan at the meeting. Notes of the meeting were sent to all committee members. Janet Fairman and Amy Johnson, co-Directors of MEPRI, organized the comments by topic to help identify common interests.
 - In the next couple of weeks, they will share back with committee members a list of potential project topics for members to prioritize. They will then share a revised list with members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to vote on and rank their top choices.
- On February 11, 18, and March 4, Fern attended Legislative Action Committee meetings which will be discussed by Committee Chair Hess under Standing Committee Reports.

- On February 25, she attended a School Construction Committee Meeting which will be reported on by Committee Chair Geiger under Standing Committee Reports.
- On March 3, she attended the Board Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Committee Chair Bonneau will report on it.
- On February 15 and March 8, Fern attended Maine Charter School Commission meetings.
 - February 16, she attended Harpswell Coastal Academy's Board of Directors meeting.
- National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE):
 - February 9 and March 7 – Office Hours
 - February 9 – Christine Pitts from the Center for Reinventing Public Education and Heather Schwartz from RAND Corporation shared the latest polling data from the American School District Panel. One of the topics covered was the new data on teacher shortages.
 - March 7 – Received program plans for the Legislative Conference. Reg Leichty from Foresight Law and Policy provided a quick federal update and some tips to help registrants prepare for the Capitol Hill visits at the Legislative Conference. Participants had the opportunity to share what is happening in their states.
 - Fern reminded Board members that registrations are still open for the Legislative Conference, March 27-29, and that they should contact Mary if interested in attending.
 - February 18 and 24 – Finance Committee meetings
 - February 22 – Executive Committee meeting:
 - Received conference, program, and committee activity updates.
 - Now leaning toward in-person, mid-late June, New Member Institute.
 - Reviewed the reframing of NASBE's Strategic Plan
 - March 1 – Government Affairs Committee:
 - Appropriations for FY 2022 and Discussion of FY 2023
 - Early Childhood Education, IDEA and Title 1 increased funding – issues of equity
 - Mental health investments
 - COMPETES Act

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- On February 11, he attended the Legislative Action Committee meeting chaired by Wilson Hess.
- On February 15, as follow-up to earlier testimony on LD 1935, Peter attended the work session along with Scott Brown and Jaci Holmes from the DOE and answered questions or concerns. The measure passed 7 to

2. The concern was that we only had a comment period vs. a public hearing on ventilation in schools. Therefore, there is a divided report coming out of the Committee.

- On February 17, he listened to the work session on LD 1933, Rule Chapter 115. Discussion points were narrow given the depth of the document and the Committee voted approval as amended.
- On February 25, he attend the Legislative Action Committee meeting and chaired the School Construction Committee meeting.
- On February 28, he attended an Agenda Review meeting with Fern Desjardins and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta for the March 9 Board Meeting.
- On March 3, he attended the Professional Standards Board meeting.
- On March 4, he traveled to MeANS Academy to present on the Farmers' Almanac and winter weather folklore to seniors. The SBE held a meeting at this school in October 2016, so it was nice to return and engage with the senior class. MeANS has a unique mission but Peter was more than impressed with the energy exhibited by the staff and the students. It was a great presentation. They are currently tapping maple trees to make syrup. They also have an interesting project cutting ice from the pond. They put the harvest in a wooden box covered with sawdust in a very hot greenhouse to determine how long the ice can last.
- On March 7, Peter had an opportunity to listen to the confirmation hearings at the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Peter welcomed Tom Keller, Mark Balfantz and Kristin Bishop to the Board's ranks. It will be nice to see everyone in person at the April 13, 2022 Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The School Construction Committee met on February 25, 2022 as scheduled.

- The School Construction Committee held an informational meeting on February 25. Scott Brown updated members on projects that will be coming before the Board within the next few months. Scott provided slides giving a history of Major Capital Statutory Debt Service Limits, number of school projects per year, and costs per square foot. There are three main cost drivers for construction including (1) new and expanded programing; (2) increases in energy, conservation and building codes; and (3) current construction cost headwinds. It was a sobering look at what we will face going forward.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 25, 2022 and will be held in Room 500 at the Burton Cross State Office Building in Augusta. 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 February 23, 2022 as scheduled.

- Chapter 115 is close to Senate and House action and is nearing the end of the process.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 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 February 24, 2022 as scheduled. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19.

- The Committee received reports on the Perkins Reserve Fund balance and Briggs balance. The balance for the Perkins Reserve Fund is \$530,051 which the Board has discretion over awarding. The Committee is hoping to bring a recommendation to the SBE in April.
- Received updates from the Director of Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education (MACTE) related to a report from MEPRI on CTE and their on-going work on LD 313 resolve. Directors are hoping to seek changes in Certification CTE statute or rule, related to credentialing of CTE instructors.
- Received an update from Educate Maine which is operating under a board approved contract to look at issues related to funding, data collection and systemic barriers to CTE.
- Received an update from the Maine Community College System on the great work that they are doing to try to align secondary CTE programs with Community College programs. There has been significant success on their guided pathway approach with some of the CTE schools and others that are coming along with this important work.
- The MACTE Director also reported that they met with Commissioner Makin regarding short comings with the supply chain. She is seeking pathways to find the funding. MACTE will be holding their winter retreat this month in Rockland.
- The Committee reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Community College System. The MOU is not an actionable item for the SBE.

The next regular CTE Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Wilson Hess):

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

- LD 1933: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115, Credentialing of Education Personnel.
 - Voted OTP-AM.
 - There was an attempt to reconsider the passage and make modifications but that attempt failed. Moving forward for consideration by the House and Senate.
- LD 1935: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and Portions of Chapter 125: Basic School Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Education and State Board of Education.
 - Voted OTP-AM. Waiting for minority report.
- LD 313: An Act to Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine.
 - Education and Cultural Affairs Committee received a report from MEPRI on CTE funding.
 - Indicated that the recommendations they were making had to do with distribution of funds.
 - A report from the CTE work group is due on March 15, 2022 to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.
- LD 680: Resolve, To Re-establish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System.
 - CTE umbrella situation to take up the burden of LD 313.
 - Received an OTP recommendation. Passed by the House and Senate.
 - Legislative Action Committee recommended to the SBE Chair that two members of the SBE CTE Committee be nominated to serve the two seats on the task force. Wendy Ault suggested that Wilson Hess and Paulette Bonneau be nominated. The Chair of the SBE will reach out to the Senate President and Speaker of the House with the two nominations.

The next Legislative Action Committee meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM virtually via Zoom.

Nomination and Election (Peter Geiger):

The Committee is comprised of Fern Desjardins, Wilson Hess and Peter Geiger. The mission is to put forth a candidate to fill the soon to be vacated Vice Chair position. The cut off for nominations was March 4, 2022. The Committee received two forms supporting the nomination of Wendy Ault as vice chair starting April 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022. The committee unanimously nominates Wendy Ault. An election will take place at the April 13, 2022 State Board meeting.

Student Voices (Wendy Ault, James Ford, Greyson Orne and Joshua Leinwand):

The Student Voices Committee met on March 8, 2022.

- Wendy Ault reported that the Committee had a lively discussion.
- James Ford reported that the Committee charged Joshua Leinwand to reach out to other State Board student members to see what their roles are on their board.
- Joshua reported that he is reaching out to students in other states regarding the power of votes on the State Board they serve on. He is emailing students in other states to see what their roles are in their state.
 - Talking to Paulette Bonneau, Chair, Board Effectiveness Committee regarding revisions of the Mission and Vision Statement and student involvement on those revisions.
 - He attended the Commissioner’s Student Cabinet Meeting. The students broke into 3 groups, each of which brainstormed questions regarding areas such as mental health issues and marginalized communities in schools to discuss with panels to be assembled by the DOE. Joshua thought they were a little vague on what the panel would look like, how they would pose the questions, and what the responses would look like. The problem is that they have students from 5th grade to 12th grade, so they cannot cater to the more involved students in the upper grades.

The next Student Voices Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 12:00 PM virtually via Zoom.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee held their first official meeting on March 3, 2022.

- The Committee established the timeline of tasks to accomplish by December.
- Tori Kornfield is reaching out to Samantha Warren, UMaine System Director of Government and Community Relations, to present to the Board on April 13, 2022.

- Discussion on Vision and Mission Statements. Paulette invited Joshua Leinwand to send her any ideas he has for the statements.

The next Board Effectiveness Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 9:00 AM virtually via Zoom.

Student Membership (Paulette Bonneau):

- The Committee met and conducted their application review in person at the DOE on March 7. It was Greyson's first experience of doing Board work in person. She, James and Greyson with the help of Mary Becker reviewed 15 applications and narrowed it down to 6 semi-finalists. Interviews will be held for the 6 students on March 15 via Zoom. The Committee will select 3 student finalists to send to the Governor to appoint a student to the SBE.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission met in person on March 8, 2022 as scheduled.

- The Commission approved Safety Care Training grants for Community Regional Charter School and Maine Arts Academy.
- Harpswell Coastal Academy presented its renewal considerations based upon:
 - Dealing with pandemic impact
 - Its financial model of 3 locations may not be sustainable and consolidation to a single school is a possible option.
 - The community has been very supportive about the essential role that the school plays in the lives of the community.
- A featured presentation was given by the National Charter Schools Institute. The focus was on the Commission's primary role "maintain(ing) policies and practices consistent with nationally-recognized principles and professional standards for authorizing public charter schools."
- Received a school spotlight presentation by the Ecology Learning Center in Unity.
- Received a school spotlight presentation by the Maine Arts Academy.
- Executive Director reported on:
 - Progress on MeANS Charter Renewal
 - Progress on CRCS Charter Renewal
 - Updates on Changes to the Performance Framework for FY23
 - Strategic Plan Update
 - Legislative Update
- The Commission adopted a Committee Structure of Commission Members document.
- Commission Actions:
 - Accepted new Governing Board Members at the Ecology Learning Center

- Tabled consideration of the FY22 Budget vs. Actual YTD
- Received the monthly School Portfolio/Data Report and reviewed the Enrollment/Catchment Area Project.

The next Charter Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met on March 3, 2022 virtually via Zoom.

- Deputy Commissioner, Dan Chuhta, provided an update on Chapter 115.
- Peter spoke about issues involving the State Board of Education, including a committee that will evaluate the Career and Technical Education structure.
- The group focused on teacher mentorship. The attrition of new teachers from the profession is of concern and there was talk about how different districts are handling mentoring. They agreed that work could be done by the PSB members in consultation with the DOE and possibly produce suggestions for a better system and maybe develop legislation.

The next PSB meeting will be held in late April or early May.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 114

BACKGROUND: The state review team was chaired by Dr. Linda Fuller of the College of Atlantic. The virtual review took place November 15-19, 2021. The review team reviewed the institution’s self-study using Chapter 114 standards.

The following certification programs, all undergraduate, were reviewed:

- Elementary Education (K-8)
- Physical Education (K-12)
- Middle (5-8): English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Secondary Education (7-12): English, Life Science, Mathematics, Physical Science, and Social Studies

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the University of Maine at Presque Isle Review Team report recommendation that University of Maine at Presque Isle Educator Preparation Program, be granted full five-year approval by the Maine State Board of Education from Fall 2021 to Fall 2026.

Additionally, the unit should share progress regarding recommendations within the annual report as stipulated by Chapter 114.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the University of Maine at Presque Isle Review Team report recommendation that University of Maine at Presque Isle Educator Preparation Program, be granted full five-year approval by the Maine State Board of Education from Fall 2021 to Fall 2026. Additionally, the unit should share progress regarding recommendations within the annual report as stipulated by Chapter 114.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED TEAM MEMBERS FOR ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION REVIEW

BACKGROUND: The St. Joseph's College will undergo a Chapter 114 review of its educator preparation programs in March 2022.

The following individuals are recommended to serve on the review team:

Erin Connor (Chair), University of Maine at Farmington
Pamela Thompson, Thomas College
Rachel Somerville, Maine College of Art and Design
Elaine Hughes, University of New England
Wendy Ault, SBE Board Observer

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the proposed review team for St. Joseph's College Educator Preparation Review.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the proposed review team for St. Joseph's College Educator Preparation Review to include an amendment of the Chair of the review team.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled to be held on April 13, 2022. The meeting will be held in person. The Board will meet at the Burton Cross State Office Building in Augusta, Room 103.

ADJOURNMENT:

The March 9, 2022 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.

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