



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 May 10, 2023, 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; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; Ryan Hafener; and Joshua Leinwand.

Others Present: Donald Bresnahan; J. Clarke; Mallory Cook; 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, 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.

POEM READING:

Poem Read by Victoria Kornfield – *"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"* by William Wordsworth.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted seven in favor, two abstentions (Wendy Ault and Edmond Morin) to accept the April 12, 2023 minutes as amended. The minutes were approved as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

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’ decision(s) 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 one transfer request.

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 Paulette Bonneau, 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 EF to review the Superintendents’ decision to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:17 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:55 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted six in favor with three opposed (Paulette Bonneau, Victoria Kornfield, and Thomas Keller) to approve a transfer for EF. The transfer is granted.

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Title 20-A §405(3)(D) states:
D. Review, when necessary, decisions made by the commissioner on applications for additions to, dissolution of, transfers among, withdrawals from and closing of schools in school administrative districts and community school districts.
Board packets included a “Certificate of Withdrawal of Richmond from Regional School Unit No. 2” and “Amended Certificate of Organization of Regional School Unit No. 2” for members to review.
No action is required by the State Board.
- Fern testified Neither For Nor Against L.D. 1333 An Act to Protect Children by Modernizing Internet and Digital Media Filtering Requirements for Education;

Against: L.D. 1089 An Act Regarding the Authorization of Public Charter Schools;

Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 957 An Act Requiring Water Bottle Filling Stations in New and Renovated Public Schools;

In Support of: L.D. 193 An Act to Provide Excess General Fund Revenue to the School Revolving Renovation Fund and the Education Stabilization Fund;

In Support of: L.D. 1185 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund; and

Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 1415 An Act to Expand Access to School Construction Funding.

She attended the work sessions for L.D. 1018 An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing;

L.D. 1333 An Act to Protect Children by Modernizing Internet and Digital Media Filtering Requirements for Education; and

listened to a number of public hearings and other work sessions in person and virtually.

- She attended the “Great Things Happen In Our Public Schools!” interactive showcase sponsored by the Kennebec Valley Superintendent’s Association at Cony High School on April 13. Students and teachers from 15 school systems had displays to speak about some of their programs in CTE, alternative education, special education, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs. The theme “All Children Can Learn” was evident in speaking with students. Their pride and sense of accomplishment was clearly visible.
- The MEPRI Steering Committee met on April 14 to identify specific questions related to the topics identified for potential workplan projects next year. The list of topics includes school construction finance, COVID pandemic impacts, school schedules, special education, school curriculum, instructional practices, and educational outcomes. The MEPRI report on *Factors Driving Undergraduate Students’ Choice of a College Major and Perceptions about Teaching as a Career Choice* was released at the beginning of April.
- Attended the Board Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee meeting with Joe Marro, Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Affairs, Office of Governor Mills, for a discussion on Governor Mill’s education priorities and her expectations of the State Board of Education.
- Attended the April 27 CTE Committee meeting and weekly Legislative Action Committee meetings.

- Attended a meeting followed by emails with Matthew Vaughan, Resource Administrator, Contract & Grant Specialist at the MDOE, on the State Board's initiative for an Executive Director position.
- The Annual Commissioner's Conference will be held June 25-27 at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel & Events Center in Bar Harbor. State Board members are invited to attend. Lodging arrangements are to be made through Sandra Bourget.
- NASBE
 - Fern chaired the Finance & Audit Committee meeting on April 18. The 1st Quarter revenue and expenditure reports along with the balance sheet were all positive. The committee approved a new dues structure for 2024 based on 2020 student counts from the National Center for Education Statistics for resident populations of 5-17 year olds by state. Dues have not increased since 2013. A revised Accounting Manual was approved by the committee and is ready to move forward to the Board of Directors.
 - Attended the Executive Committee meeting on April 24. The committee received updates on NASBE's finances, publications, office hours, member technical assistance in various states, member dues proposal, accounting service transition, committee meetings, and President & CEO DeMaria's evaluation.
 - May 1 – Office Hours
The Center for Assessment presented the first of a learning series on state assessment and accountability, from development and design, to scoring, reporting, and communicating results to the public.
 - New Member Institute for state board members seated in the last 18 months will take place virtually on June 28, July 26, and August 30, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
 - The May 2023 issue of the State Education Standard on “High Schools That Matter” is out. All members should have received a link to the open-access PDF. Print copies will be mailed only to those who ask by emailing the Editorial Director, Valerie Norville.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- On April 3 and May 2, 2023, Paulette attended agenda review meetings.
- She participated in Denham Ward's State Board of Education Orientation.
- Paulette attended the NASBE Public Education Positions Committee meeting on April 18, 2023.
- This year's SBE Retreat will be held at USM. More information to follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on April 28, 2023.

- MSAD 53 Superintendent Sharon Littlefield, Director of Operations Shawn Knox, and other representatives of MSAD 53 provided information on the condition of Manson Park School (#8) and Vickery School (#11) on the Major Capital School Construction Program Priority List, and they expressed their concerns on the possibility of not being approved in the current 2017-2018 Rating Cycle.
- The committee discussed bills in the Legislature on school construction and renovations.
- The committee reviewed and updated the draft *Fact Sheet, MSAD 33 & RSU 1 Fires*. MSAD 33 Assistant Superintendent Gisèle Dionne and School Board member Lisa Bernier joined in the review process.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on April 26, 2023.

- Chair Ault thanked Mallory Cook and Cynthia Alexander for their help putting together a panel to discuss Workforce Shortage Challenges.
- Michael Perry is creating an annual site visit calendar, which will include EPPs.
- Discussing how to move forward with the Roux Institute.
- Waiting for the site visit review report for the National Institute of Funeral Services (NIFS).
- UMF has requested an extension to their EPP approval. More to follow at June's SBE Meeting.
- UMM EPP site visit has been delayed. Given their new relationship with UMaine, we need to determine if there must be a separate site visit.
- State Board observers will be needed for the following upcoming visits at Beal University and Syracuse University.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2023.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on April 27, 2023. It was Ed Morin's first time chairing a CTE Committee meeting. Participants included those who regularly attend the meetings.

- MDOE Perkins Grant Manager Donna Tiner reported that she'll have the next Perkins report for the May meeting and that she's waiting on invoicing from some schools on the Reserve Grant. She says the Reserve Grant Fund for Integration has been extended through the summer and that these FY22 funds need to be invoiced by September 30th.
- The Community Colleges are reporting that they are moving ahead with their Data Sharing Agreement with MDOE.
- On behalf of the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education, Executive Director Dave Keaton testified Neither For Nor Against the same two bills Ed testified, the same way on behalf of the SBE, L.D. 1283, A Resolve to Establish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Technical Education and L.D. 1158 which would have tweaked CTE funding in the School Funding Formula. Along with several other bills that were looking at changes to Essential Programs and Services, this was rolled into L.D. 1160, which is designed to conduct a study on the Equity of the State Education Subsidy Formula. Mr. Keaton notes that there's no mechanism for equipment in the Essential Programs and Service funding for CTE.
- On April 28, MACTE, along with the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, held a professional development session at CMCC, which brought together several education professionals interested in CTE. The session was to explore how to begin the work of supporting school systems and CTE schools in awarding core graduation credits for work completed in CTE programs with an eye toward current legislation, L.D. 436, which would do that. The following day, MACTE held its CTE Student of the Year Celebration.
- MACTE President, Julie Kenny, reported that schools were busy finishing the enrollment process, but that because in some cases almost twice as many students applied for programs than there were available spaces, many students didn't get into the program of their choice. She notes that CTE is expanding as more people recognize its importance.
- Educate Maine's Jason Judd reports that they've been approached by the Manufacturers Association of Maine to have a formal partnership centered on apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship, that Educate Maine has kicked off an experiential learning program centered on college students interning at aquaculture employers, and that they are trying to

include high school students. In addition, Educate Maine is recruiting for an experience to bring educational leaders from across the state to different counties to teach them about different parts of the economy.

- MACTE has requested Briggs Grant funding to pay for several professional development and other activities for the coming year. The State Board will be looking at this measure later today.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2023.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee meets every Friday at noon.

- We testified on L.D. 1217 Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program for Alternative Teacher Certification.
- There have been two work sessions for L.D. 485 Resolve, to Amend the Rules Regarding Athletic Director Qualifications.
- There are several bills relating to certification, possibly to address the issues of workforce shortages.

Nomination and Election (Kristin Bishop):

The Nomination and Election Committee met on May 7, 2023.

- Chair Bishop thanked everyone who submitted nominations to the committee.
- April 14, 2023, all SBE members received an email with a copy of the nomination and election policy and procedure document along with the nomination forms for the upcoming term of service.
- A reminder email was sent out on May 1, 2023.
- The committee met May 7, 2023, to review all the nominations that were submitted. The committee was presented with one name for chair and vice chair.
- The following single slate of nominees is: Fern Desjardins for Chair and Paulette Bonneau for Vice Chair.
- Self-nominations are due by 5:00 PM on May 31, 2023.

Student Voices (Ryan Hafener):

The Student Voices Committee met on May 8, 2023.

- Joshua Leinwand has committed to Swarthmore College and will receive a full scholarship for all four years.
- They will be attending the NASBE Student Engagement Collaborative.
- Ryan will be writing for NASBE in their Student Voice Column for the

- September issue of the State Education Standard.
- MDOE Student Cabinet's last meeting will be May 17, 2023. After the all-day meeting, students will meet with the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to discuss student mental health and other issues.
 - Discussed testifying on non-controversial student specific legislation.
 - Ryan will be attending the Teacher of the Year Ceremony at the Hall of Flags on May 11, 2023.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on May 2, 2023.

- The committee met with Joseph Marro, Governor Mill's Educational Policy Analyst and Liaison and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, on May 2, 2023. Our objective is to begin to build a relationship and communication pipeline with the Governor's Office. Another goal is to hear what Governor Mill's education priorities are and determine if we are in alignment with those priorities. In addition, we asked if the Governor had any specific expectations or outcomes that she wants to see SBE achieve or follow through with. Joseph will follow up with us on that question.
- Governor Mill's priorities are workforce shortage across all roles, expanding and improving Pre-K education, Career and Technical Education, and mental health care for students and staff in schools.
- When the DOE comes to the SBE with an idea or issue, it has already been vetted with the Governor's Office and they are aware of what the DOE is doing. Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and Joe Marro talk almost daily regarding the DOE.
- The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2023.

Student Membership Committee (Edmond Morin):

- On May 1, the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee strongly endorsed Deering High School sophomore Phat Gia Thai to become the next student member of the Maine State Board of Education. The vote was 12 to 0 with one member absent.
- Phat showed great poise during his Education Committee hearing, as did current student member Ryan who testified in support of Phat's proposed board membership.
- As an added bonus, Missy O'Neal-Low encouraged the full committee to gather in front of the horseshoe for a picture with Phat and his dad. That made a very special day even more special.

- Phat was confirmed on May 2, 2023, in front of the Maine Senate.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield and Thomas Keller):

The Charter School Commission met on May 9, 2023.

- Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences had made a request for a yurt to be placed on a nearby orchard for kindergarten and/or first grade. The committee has great concerns, and they have withdrawn their request.
- We have found quite a bit of discrepancy between data from the DOE and data from the schools. It's upsetting because the Performance Committee penalizes them if they don't meet their standards, only to find out there are discrepancies.
- With a new school coming in Skowhegan in two years, perhaps they should concentrate on grades 5-12.
- Maine Arts Academy will be moving into their new building at the former Veteran's Home in Augusta soon. They are working hard to integrate with the Augusta community.
- Met with the robotics team from Baxter Academy for Technology and Science and spoke of their wins. They also showed us what the robots need to do in order to get recognition.
- Many students who attend Charter Schools have had bad experiences in public schools. The focus of Charter Schools, which once was social emotional learning, has now shifted to social emotional learning and academics, as one is as important as the other.
- Victoria Kornfield is the chair of the Nomination and Election Committee of the Maine Charter School Commission.
- We have a financial consultant to assist with the closure of Harpswell Coastal Academy. We want to make the transition as easy as possible.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) has not met since April 12, 2023.

- They have drafted a document of recommendations for increasing teacher retention. This will be the main focus of the June 12 meeting, after which they intend to present this to the SBE and the DOE.
- The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2023.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE MAINE ADMINISTRATORS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FY24 GEORGE BRIGGS GRANT AWARD

BACKGROUND: The State Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Committee recommends to the State Board of Education any and all pertinent materials so that the State Board may perform its duties, including its fiduciary responsibilities, as the agency responsible for the administration and oversight of the state career and technical education (CTE) program.

The committee oversees the George M. Briggs Award. It reviews proposals to make recommendations for the approval of programs to enhance career and technical education to the State Board of Education. The committee requires the following testimonial statement be included verbally and in printed materials associated with events and activities supported by George Briggs Trust funding: “The George M. Briggs Trust was established in February 1948 through the generosity of the late George Millett Briggs of Turner for the purposes of supporting the field of career and technical education and thereby enabling the young people of Maine to become self-supporting and useful citizens of the State. The State Board of Education is pleased that Mr. Briggs’ memory and purposes can be furthered through activities such as awarding MACTE funds to support CTE Directors, Staff, and Students through professional develop and recognition events in order to advance career and technical education in Maine.”

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board approve the FY24 George Briggs grant award to the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education to support CTE Directors, Staff, and Students during FY24 through professional development and recognition events. This award is \$34,500 and may be subject to terms and conditions as set forth in the award letter.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and voted eight in favor, one abstention (Thomas Keller) that the State Board of Education approve the FY24 George Briggs grant award to the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education to support CTE Directors, Staff, and Students during FY24 through professional development and recognition events. This award is

\$34,500 and may be subject to terms and conditions as set forth in the award letter. The motion is adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- Distributed a handout from Thomas Keller’s report of activities.
- Members expressed interest in hearing from certain directors of the DOE.
- The next regular State Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building, Room 103 and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.

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