



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 November 10, 2021 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; Greyson Orne; and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent: None

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 – “Knowledge” by Stuart Kestenbaum, a Maine poet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 13, 2021 minutes as presented.

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted five in favor with one member abstained (Wilson Hess) to accept the October 26, 2021 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lydia Pohl-Graham read a notice to the Board. Chair Desjardins asked Ms. Pohl-Graham to send a copy of her written notice to Mary Becker, secretary specialist to the State Board, for record. Ms. Pohl-Graham agreed to do so.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern Desjardins reviewed the business agenda for the November 10, 2021 meeting.
 - *Unfinished Business*
 - No Unfinished Business
 - *New Business*
 - Approval of the quarterly report of the Maine Carl D. Perkins Grant
 - Receipt of the University of Maine CAEP Review Team Report
 - Approval of the University of Maine at Presque Isle Review Team
 - Appointment of a State Board of Education Member to the Maine Charter Commission
 - Consideration of one student transfer appeal
- Fern stated that her biggest accomplishment on behalf of the State Board in the past month was her write-up of the Government Evaluation Act, Program Evaluation Report. MSBE is required to submit the report every eight years to the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee by November 1 with a follow-up presentation to the committee in February or March. Having been on the Board for only 3.5 years, she had to reach out to others for some information. She thanked Mary for her help; Hillary Risler with the Office of Policy & Legal Analysis at the Maine State Legislature for answering questions to get started on the report; Nicole Denis for the 10-year financial report; and DOE staff, Jessica Nixon, Scott Brown, Ann Pinnette, Jason Libby, and the amazing CTE team of Donna Tiner, Shawn Lagasse, and Dwight Littlefield who responded to emails for information.
- A highlight of her last month was a virtual meeting via Zoom with Governor Mills, Commissioner Makin, and Vice Chair Peter Geiger. Peter scheduled the meeting with the Governor's office, so she asked that he report out on the meeting.
- Fern mentioned that she has always benefited from the MSMA Fall Conference and this year was no different. Direct actions from having attended a few sessions will be a proposed amendment to MSBE's remote

participation policy in December and a review of the Board's public comment period.

- She attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meetings held October 20 and 27 and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) meeting on November 4.
- The Board Effectiveness Ad hoc Committee started meeting on November 5 with Paulette Bonneau chairing the committee. Work continued via Google Drive with the draft document shared in the Board's workshop this morning. Fern thanked ad-hoc committee members Paulette, Wendy Ault, and Tori Kornfield.
- Fern attended the Charter Commission meeting on October 14 and the monthly Board of Directors meetings for Harpswell Coastal Academy and the Maine Arts Academy.
- As Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), she attended a Board meeting on October 18 via Zoom and an in-person meeting of the Board of Directors, NASBE staff, and the incoming President/CEO Paolo DeMaria in Washington, DC November 8 and 9. This was the first in-person gathering of the Board since the October 2019 Annual Conference.

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- On October 20, Peter and Fern Desjardins had an opportunity to virtually visit with Governor Mills and Commissioner Makin to discuss education goals and the role of the State Board of Education. It was a 45-minute exchange. Clearly, the pandemic has impacted all areas of learning. We discussed the power of computer science and technology going forward. We spoke about the growing need for universal pre-K and the need to assist experiential learners. It was a positive opportunity to chat about education and the role SBE plays in moving forward.
- On October 23, the Department of Education, Educate Maine and the State Board hosted the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year (MTOY) luncheon. It was located at Geiger with food served by the LRTC – Green Ladle – students. Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta and Peter presented awards and honored Kelsey Stoyanova of Reeds Brook Middle School of RSU 22, the MTOY and all 16 2021 County TOYs.
- On October 28 and 29, Peter attended the virtual Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Fall Conference. There was a wide variety of topics offered. Peter focused on sessions dealing with diversity, student achievement, supporting mental health during challenging times, clean energy and safe water in schools. The event was well run by Steve Bailey, Executive Director, MSMA, and his staff.
- While not totally educational, Peter managed to celebrate Halloween on Sunday evening by handing out 6,850 king sized candy bars to 2,109 trick or treaters who arrived via 801 cars. He stated, "I know this surge of

sugar impacted education throughout Central Maine the next day for which I humbly apologize.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The School Construction Committee did not meet on October 29, 2021 as scheduled.

The next regular School Construction Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee (CHE) held their regular monthly meeting on October 27, 2021 as scheduled.

- Wendy Ault reported that the Committee made changes to Chapter 115 that required a second comment period. The Committee will meet next week and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta will give the Committee an update on the status of public written comments received. A public hearing is not required for the second comment period.
- The Committee will continue work on the Strategic Plan.

The next regular Certification and Higher Education Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021. 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 November 4, 2021. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom under the Board’s remote meeting policy due to COVID-19 surge.

- Wilson was not able to attend the meeting so he referred to Wendy Ault and Paulette Bonneau for a report.
- Wendy reported that Mary Becker drafted minutes and sent them to Wilson so he could see what was discussed at the November 4 meeting.
- The Committee accepted the Perkins quarterly report that Donna Tiner provided and recommended that the Board approve the quarterly report at the November 10 meeting.
- The Committee had a conversation about the Briggs proposal from MACTE. The Committee carved out an amount of money to dedicate to a retreat in February for CTE Directors to get together and strategize. State Board CTE Committee members will be invited to the February conference.
- Received an update from Educate Maine on where they are at with data

collection around CTE in the state. They will have a more solid presentation in December.

- Had a conversation with the Community College representatives regarding alignment across their seven schools with programming, dual enrollment and alignment with CTE schools.

The next regular CTE Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Wilson Hess):

The Legislative Action Committee's organizational meeting was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 virtually via Zoom under the Board's remote meeting policy due to COVID-19 surge.

- The Legislative Committee will meet in November.

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

- Wendy Ault reported that she is pleased that James Ford has joined the Student Voices Committee.
- An organizational meeting was held on November 9. All members were present.
- There was a swift process by the Department of Education in choosing the replacement of Student Cabinet members. Wendy is waiting to hear from Rachel Paling on how the Student Cabinet members and SBE student members can more effectively work together this year.
- James Ford stated that the meeting was to see what the role is as a committee and how they can get information from the Student Cabinet to student representatives to bring back to the full Board.
- James Ford suggested that the Committee meet once a month for students to say what is on their minds and Wendy and James can ensure that their voices will be heard.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission did not meet on November 9, 2021 as scheduled.

- The Charter School Commission met on October 14, 2021.
- Approved the Community Regional Charter School's Renewal Application for five years with conditions.
- Approved the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' Renewal Application for five years with stipulations.
- Cynthia Murray-Beliveau resigned from the State Board of Education leaving a vacant seat for a State Board member on the Charter School

Commission. The Board will vote to appoint a new member to fill the vacant seat during new business today.

Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) did not meet since the last Board meeting.

The Committee will meet virtually on December 2, 2021 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224)

As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224), requires a designated eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020. Further requirements are as follows:

SEC. 121. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ELIGIBLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of an eligible agency under this title shall include:

(3) convening and meeting as an eligible agency (consistent with State law and procedure for the conduct of such meetings) at such time as the eligible agency determines necessary to carry out the eligible agency's responsibilities under this title, but not less than 4 times annually;

The State Board of Education Chair has requested, in accordance with Title 20-A, Section 405, 7, that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team submits a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the first report for FY2022.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board or Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

RECEIPT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION (CAEP) REVIEW TEAM REPORT

BACKGROUND: The review took place December 13-15, 2020 concurrently with a review conducted by a state review team chaired by Dr. Andrea Stairs-Davenport from the University of Southern Maine. The board has previously (August 11, 2021 meeting) the state review team report.

The following programs were reviewed for approval renewal:

- Early Childhood, ages 0-5
- Early Elementary, K-3
- Elementary Education, K-8; and
- Secondary Education, 7-12 in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science, and Social Studies
- Physical Education, K-12
- World Language, K-12

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive The University of Maine CAEP Review Team report of findings.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Wilson Hess, and unanimously voted by those present to receive The University of Maine CAEP Review Team report of findings.

APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE REVIEW TEAM

BACKGROUND: The University of Maine at Presque Isle is scheduled for a review of its educator preparation programs in November 2021.

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

Linda Fuller, (Chair) College of the Atlantic
Christopher Nightingale, The University of Maine
Tim Surette, University of Maine at Augusta
Tracy Whitlock, Maine Department of Education

Additionally, the following are recommended to serve as State Board of Education observers:

Fern Desjardins
Tori Kornfield

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the proposed review team.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the proposed review team for the educator preparation program review at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

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

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present to appoint Victoria Kornfield to serve on the Maine Charter School Commission.

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's 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 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 requests 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 Peter Geiger, 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 MD 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 1:46 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:09 PM.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to overturn the Deputy Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for MD. The transfer is granted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- There is an opening for a State Board member to serve on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Sub-committee at the Department of Education. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, contact Chair Fern Desjardins.
- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled to be held at the Burton Cross State Office Building in Augusta on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 1:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

The November 10, 2021 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 2:16 PM.

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