



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 September 1, 2023, 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; and Denham Ward.

Absent with Excuse: Ryan Hafener and Phat Thai

Others Present: Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll call was taken by Sandra Bourget. Chair Desjardins declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by board member, Victoria Kornfield: 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

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' decisions 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 requests 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 nine 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 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 MC to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 9:08 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 9:22 AM.

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Thomas Keller, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in MC's best interest to disapprove a transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

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 PW and CM to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 9:25 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 9:30 AM to provide parent participation later in the meeting.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, 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 LB to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 9:32 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 9:51 AM.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Kristin Bishop, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in LB's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

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 PK to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 9:54 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 10:15 AM.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and voted unanimously that given the information the Board received, it was in PK's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, 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 AS to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 10:20 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 10:49 AM.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted eight in favor with one opposed (Thomas Keller) that given the information the Board received, it was in AS's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, 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 MY and JY to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 10:53 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 11:45.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted unanimously to table action on the transfer appeal for MY to the State Board's October 11, 2023 meeting.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted unanimously to table action on the transfer appeal for JY to the State Board's October 11, 2023 meeting.

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 PW and CM to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 11:49 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 12:14 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and voted five in favor with two opposed (Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins) that given the information the Board received, it was in PW's best interest to disapprove a transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and voted five in favor with two opposed (Wendy Ault and Fern Desjardins) that given the information the Board received, it was in CM's best interest to disapprove a transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

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 FD to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 12:19 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 12:29 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted six in favor with one abstention (Denham Ward) that given the information the Board received, it was in FD's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The next Board meeting will take place on September 13.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 PM.

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