



## MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

### STATE OF MAINE

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The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on November 4, 2020 virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Wilson Hess; Vice Chair Jane Sexton; Wendy Ault; John Bird; Fern Desjardins; Peter Geiger; Martha Harris; and Jana Lapoint.

Excused: Jaylee Rice and Casey Maddock

Vacant: One Member

Others Present: Greyson Orne, Student Member Designee; Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta; Dwight Littlefield, CTE Director; Donna Tiner, Perkins Grant Manager (Department of Education); and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair, Wilson Hess called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with Sec. G-1. 1 MRSA §403-A, Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19. Whereas the meeting is open to the public, all votes will be taken by roll call. Eight Board members attended virtually.

Roll call was taken by Mary Becker, Secretary Specialist. The chair declared a quorum present.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Read by student member designee, Greyson Orne: 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.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 14, 2020 minutes as written.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No Public Comment

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

### **Chair, Wilson Hess**

- Wilson reviewed the business agenda for the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Unfinished Business
    - Action Agenda for 2021: A revised action agenda was sent to all Board members. The Action Agenda is a carry-over from the October 14 Board meeting.
  - 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).
    - Request Approval to allocate Maine Carl D. Perkins Targeted Reserve Grant funds as authorized under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).
    - Major Capital School Construction Program – Additions to the Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle
    - Rule Chapter 115
- The Commissioner mentioned in her remarks at the MSMA conference that the funding for FY21 for general purpose aide looked to be supported with federal money. State revenue money for the FY22 and FY23 biennium budget is looking quite uncertain and there would likely be consideration for funding that is below the levels of the past years, particularly 2020 and 2021. Wilson has called attention to the Chair of the Legislative Action Committee (Peter Geiger) for the Board when in discussion of the action agenda, to consider favorably the notion of either Legislative or other policy action to help advocate for sustained levels of funding, if possible.
- Another item of long-standing concern is the Chapter 115 re-write. Wilson Hess thanked Deputy Commissioner Chuhta for his high-level presentation to the Board at the workshop session on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Wilson also thanked and commended the Certification and Higher Education Committee under the leadership of Wendy Ault for their work that has been conducted so far. The Committee has at least one more special meeting to be held. The Legislative timetable that the Board has

been trying to meet, which would include the filing of a provisionally adopted Rule Chapter 115 by January 8, 2021, is extremely aggressive. In the COVID environment there are lots of great reasons why the Board is where they are in the process at this point. At the end of today's meeting, the Board will have a brief discussion regarding a special meeting of the State Board of Education once the Committee has completed their work on Chapter 115.

- Wilson Hess shared a memento award he received from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) for his distinguished service work in education. At the awards ceremony, Wilson gave a quick quote from Theodore Roosevelt, updated from over 100 years ago, that stated effective leaders are successful as they choose good people to direct their efforts with good sense to not interfere with their work. Wilson is very appreciative of all the work from State Board of Education members.
- **Vice Chair, Jane Sexton**
- Jane attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference. She enjoyed attending sessions at the conference.
- She attended the Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Fall Conference. She enjoyed Vicki Wallack's presentation on what is going on in the State.
- She attended the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting on October 22.
- She attended the Agenda Review meeting with Wilson Hess and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta on October 28.
- She attended the School Construction Committee meeting on October 30.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### ***School Construction Committee (Martha Harris):***

The School Construction Committee met on October 30, 2020 as scheduled.

- The Committee received a presentation from Scott Brown which was the same presentation that the full Board received during the workshop session on November 4. The Committee unanimously recommended that the approved projects list for the 2017-2018 rating cycle be placed on the business agenda for November 4<sup>th</sup> and that the Board approve the two additional projects. Scott Brown assured the Committee that there will be plenty of money in the bonding for the two projects
- The Committee agreed to add a fourth bullet to the 2021 Action Agenda. Initially the Committee was discussing adding ventilation because of the COVID situation but decided it would be better to have a larger terminology. The fourth bullet that will be added to the 2021 Action Agenda – Advocate for infrastructure funding at federal and state level.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2020. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):***

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on October 28, 2020 as scheduled. The Committee held special meetings on October 26 and October 29.

- The month of October was consumed by reviewing Chapter 115 with several special meetings of the Committee.
- The next special meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19. The Committee will review documents and language from previous meetings and continue review of the teacher aspect of Chapter 115. Praxis is yet to be discussed. There is yet a lot of work to be done.
- Wendy Ault thanked Committee members Jana Lapoint and Fern Desjardins for their commitment in helping to move Chapter 115 along. She also thanked Wilson Hess and Peter Geiger for attending the special meetings.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Career and Technical Education (John Bird):***

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on October 22, 2020 as scheduled.

- The Committee had a robust conversation and a productive outcome at the October meeting.
- The State Board of Education has a responsibility for allocating Perkins funds. It is a tough time for schools with the COVID situation. The Committee was planning to continue funding pilot programs for grades 9 and 10 with a round two with Perkins money available for 2020 for this year but shifted gears and asked CTE Directors what would help them the most. The Committee had a discussion at the September meeting and continued the discussion at the October meeting, and came to an agreement. In all funding that has come from the government and how it has been divided up with the CTE regions and centers. The regions have had a better flow of money coming their way. The regions have agreed to forgo anything from the Perkins money and let it go to the 19 centers. There are 8 regions and 19 centers. It is great to see the CTEs working together and helping each other. The resolution says we have \$353,309.00 and maybe \$200,000.00 more.

- The November 19 Committee meeting will be canceled. John Bird may be moving the December 17 meeting to Thursday, December 10 depending on Committee members availability.

The next Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting will be either December 10 or December 17 - Date to be determined. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Legislative Action (Peter Geiger):***

The Legislative Action Committee last met on September 26, 2020.

- The Committee is getting ready for the new Legislative session. Now that elections are over, we will soon know who is assigned to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.
- There will be discussion today to add an item to the 2021 Action Agenda regarding funding.
- The Committee will begin meeting in a few weeks and will discuss the best date and time to meet weekly during the Legislative session.

***Student Voices (Casey Maddock and Wendy Ault):***

- Wendy Ault reported that she and Casey Maddock spent a day and a half reviewing applications with DOE staff for the Commissioner's Student Cabinet. Cumberland County had the most student applications. There were 113 applications received in the first round. Due to not receiving applications from some counties, it was opened for a second round. Hoping to be wrapped up by mid-November. Recommendations from the first round have been sent to Commissioner Makin.

***Charter Commission Representatives (Jana Lapoint):***

The Charter School Commission met on October 6, 2020 as scheduled.

- The Charter Commission has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting will be held on November 10.
- Jana Lapoint reported that the Commission held a retirement party via Zoom for Bob Kautz. Bob has agreed to stay on with the Charter Commission until an Executive Director is in place.
- Fern Desjardins and John Bird reported on the interviews they have been conducting, along with Shelly Reed (Commission member), for a new Executive Director position to replace Bob Kaultz who is retiring. The Commission is very fortunate to have received over 30 applications for the Executive Director position and a really good pool of candidates. They have made their way down to their finalists after interviews and the process needs to continue. They are extremely hopeful and every

indication is that they will have a very good person to help them. The Committee has been meeting diligently a few times a week to get the work done. The hiring of a new Executive Director to replace Bob Kautz is progressing well.

***Professional Standards Board (Peter Geiger):***

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) held its second meeting on October 19 and the third meeting on November 2, 2020.

- Peter Geiger commended Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and Wilson Hess for their skills, patience and work on the Chapter 115 work. Because of the COVID-19, it took awhile to get the PSB up and going.
- The Professional Standards Board Chair, Kristen Levesque is doing a really nice job running the meetings.
- The duty of the PSB is to advise the State Board of Education on a variety of matters.
- Eighteen members of the Professional Standards Board serve on the Chapter 115 Consensus-based Committee. The chair and vice chair of the PSB do not serve on the Chapter 115 consensus-based committee.
- The Chapter 115 Consensus Committee has been going through the different sections of Chapter 115 and the PSB is getting an opportunity to sign off on the revisions to each section of Chapter 115.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16 and will be held via Zoom.

**UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:**

2021 ACTION AGENDA

Wilson Hess distributed the State Board of Education revised draft Action Agenda for 2021.

At the October 14, 2020 Board meeting, the Board voted to move the 2021 Action Agenda for consideration to the November 4, 2020 meeting.

The Board added one item to school facility construction and renovation and one item to the Legislative action.

- Advocate for infrastructure funding at federal and state level.
- Be an active voice in advising on General Purpose Aid Funding

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the 2021 Action Agenda as written.

**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 submit a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the first report for FY2021.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

REQUEST APPROVAL TO ALLOCATE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS TARGETED RESERVE GRANT FUNDS AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224).

The State Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Committee recommends to the State Board of Education the FY21 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds, and unused FY20 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds, be

allocated to Maine's secondary CTE eligible recipients to reduce burdens created due to the COVID pandemic.

- FY21 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated is \$353,309
- FY20 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated will be determined after the conclusion of the FY20 fiscal year, December 31, 2020 and will not exceed \$200,000.

Funds will be used in accordance to, section 112 (c) of the Perkins V Act and will supplement and not supplant current resources. Funds will be distribution to help create more equity in federal COVID support among the secondary CTE schools.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board Education approve the allocation the FY21 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds, and unused FY20 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated to Maine's secondary CTE eligible recipients to reduce burdens created due to the COVID pandemic. Total amount allotted will not exceed \$535,309.

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the allocation the FY21 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds, and unused FY20 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated to Maine's secondary CTE eligible recipients to reduce burdens created due to the COVID pandemic. Total amount allotted will not exceed \$535,309.

#### MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM – ADDITIONS TO THE APPROVED PROJECTS LIST FOR THE 2017-2018 RATING CYCLE

STATEMENT OF FACT: The State Board of Education approved the Major Capital School Construction Final Priority List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle on August 14, 2018. On October 9, 2019 the State Board of Education approved the Commissioner's recommendation to place the first three projects on the Major Capital School Construction Approved Projects List. The Commissioner is now recommending that an additional two projects, projects 4 and 5, be added to the Approved Projects List. In accordance with Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 5 Approved Projects List, "Placement on the Approved Projects List is an acknowledgement that the pupils in the rated facility have a significant need to be housed under improved circumstances." Placement on the Approved Projects List will allow the Department to work with the school districts in developing recommendations and timelines for each project.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the attached Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. It is further recommended that Section 6.2.F., Time Limitations, ¶1, be waived by the State Board of Education until a workable plan



for Concept Approval has been developed by the Department and the designated school systems. The Department will provide the State Board with periodic updates on the status of progress toward Concept Approvals of the designated projects.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On October 30, 2020, the School Construction Committee recommended that this exhibit be placed on the November 4, 2020 meeting agenda and that the State Board of Education approve the attached Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. It is further recommended that Section 6.2.F., Time Limitations, ¶1, be waived by the State Board of Education until a workable plan for Concept Approval has been developed by the Department and the designated school systems.

MOTION by Martha Harris, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the attached Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. Project #4 is Young School in Saco and project #5 is the Windham Middle School in RSU 14. It is further recommended that Section 6.2.F., Time Limitations, ¶1, be waived by the State Board of Education until a workable plan for Concept Approval has been developed by the Department and the designated school systems.

#### RULE CHAPTER 115

When the November 4, 2020 business agenda was drafted, it was anticipated that the Chapter 115 revisions would be ready for approval by the Board. Since Chapter 115 is not ready to go before the Board, no action was taken.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- Wilson Hess requested input from Board members in the idea of scheduling a special State Board of Education meeting sometime before the regularly scheduled Board meeting on December 9, 2020 and after the November 19, 2020 special meeting of the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting for approval of the Chapter 115 Rule.
- The next Board meeting is currently scheduled to be held at the Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 1:00 PM.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

The November 4, 2020 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.