



**Certification and Higher Education Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the October 20, 2021 Special Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, virtually via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Wilson Hess; Victoria Kornfield; and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Angel Loreda, Director of Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; Jaci Holmes, Federal State Legislative Liaison (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Secretary Specialist.

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

**Introductions:** Chair Ault welcomed all members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

The focus of the October 20, 2021 special meeting was stated:

- Continue the review of Statement of Factual and Policy Basis and Summary of Comments/Responses – State Board of Education Chapter 115, Part I Standards and Procedures for Credentialing, Part II Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Chapter 115 Comment/Response Review:**

- The Committee continued review of comments and responses for Chapter 115. 43 sets of written comments were submitted by September 15, 2021 (comment deadline).
- The Committee determined that three substantive changes need to be made to the rule. Substantive changes require that the State Board provides 30 days of public comment. The topics included in changes are as follows:
  - Refine grade spans
  - Reinstatement of Adaptive Physical Education (APE) endorsement
  - Revise language per P.L.2021, Chapter 348, which requires that rules which used the term ‘hearing impaired’ be changed to ‘deaf or hard of hearing’
- Deputy Commissioner Chuhta will edit the document and send the updates to Committee members. He will send Part I and Part II of Chapter 115 to Mary Becker to send out to the full Board for the October 26, 2021 special Board meeting.
- Jaci Holmes will prepare the following documents for the October 26, 2021 Board meeting:
  - An exhibit from Committee Chair Wendy Ault.
  - The MAPA 3 fact sheet for Chair Desjardins to sign following the Board meeting.

The Committee recommends that the State Board of Education vote to authorize the filing of the substantive changes in Chapter 115 rules and the Administrative Procedures Act forms with the Secretary of State's Office immediately following the October 26, 2021 Special State Board meeting.

**Meeting Handouts:**

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Chapter 115 Comments and Responses

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

**Adjournment:**

The October 20, 2021 Special Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson Becker  
Secretary Specialist,  
Maine State Board of Education