



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 6, 2020 Special Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Peter Geiger; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Karen Kusiak, Director Legislative Affairs; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guests: Donna Wolfrom, Superintendent, Cape Elizabeth; David Murphy, Superintendent, MSAD 44; Jane Stork, Principal, RSU 19; Shelly Mogul, Curriculum Director, Auburn Schools; Rhonda Sperrey, Superintendent, RSU 64; Carol Pelletier, Career Coordinator, Camden Hills; Paula Callan, Assistant Principal, RSU 18; and Vicki Wallack, Communications Director, Maine School Management Association

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Chapter 115 Update:

Commissioner Chuhta reviewed his memorandum dated October 5, 2020 and distributed to the Certification and Higher Education Committee members:

The Chapter 115 Consensus-based Rulemaking Committee, composed of educators from across the state in various roles, has been meeting weekly since May 28 (except for one week off for the July 4th holiday) and they have covered much ground! They began by reviewing the documentation shared with the State Board this past spring. The Department is striving for a rule that would be enduring and hold high expectations for educators yet would also address the need for a diverse educator workforce. Additionally, the new rule should be clear, simple and flexible. The Committee explored ways other states (and provinces) address their certification rules, identifying areas to embrace and avoid. They undertook a view of the current rules and other rules that interact with Chapter 115. Finally, they discussed the differences between credentialing criteria, employability characteristics, and ongoing skill development.

The Committee then broke into smaller groups to begin authoring a new Part II. The groups focused on certificates that fall under the categories of administrator, special education, teacher, and career and technical education. The full Committee also heard presentations from groups representing school psychologists, school library media specialists, and career and technical education. The Department has retained the responsibility for addressing changes to the education specialist certificates/endorsements, as well as Part I of the rule.

An aggressive rulemaking timeline was then discussed considering the complexity of certain components of the rule, and the following dates were proposed:

10/6: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Overview
- Admin

10/8: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Ed Specialists
- CTE

10/14: State Board of Education meeting

Deputy Commissioner will present an overview of the conversations, issues and general proposals; C&HE Committee Report

10/26: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Special Education
- Part I

10/29: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Teacher

11/4: State Board of Education meeting – seeking adoption

11/5 or 11/6: File with Secretary of State of Maine

11/11: Post in Secretary of State Newspaper ad and a DOE Priority Notice

12/1: Public Hearing

12/14: Comment period ends

12/28: Respond to all comments and make any changes to the rule based on comments

TBD/If needed: Emergency State Board meeting if changes

12/28: Submitted to the Attorney General's office for review of form and legality

1/8/2021: File with Secretary of State as Provisionally Adopted

Deputy Commissioner Chuhta expressed his appreciation and acknowledged that this would not be possible without the committed and dedicated involvement of the committee members, who will continue to meet weekly for the foreseeable future and the State Board of Education Certification and Higher Education Committee members. For reference, the majority of the committee members are also members of the Professional Standards Board.

The Certification and Higher Education Committee agreed to proceed with the timeline contingent upon the Committee having the opportunity to fully review the proposed Chapter 115 rule with adequate time for comments and questions.

SECTION 4: Administrator Certificates Review

Shelly Mogul reviewed the changes to section 4 – Administrator Certificates

There was discussion.

It was requested that prior to the next meeting, that the C&HE Committee members receive the proposals in advance for review. Also, members would like to receive strike through copies of each proposal, that show the changes, as the section 4 administrator certificates draft proposal did at this meeting. It is important to see what has been removed and what has been added. The highlighted overview and format of the proposal worked very well for C&HE Committee members.

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Section 4: Administrator Certificates – draft proposal
- 3) Chapter 115 Consensus-based Rulemaking Committee Member List
- 4) Overview Memorandum dated October 5, 2020 from Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Special Committee meetings scheduled to review Chapter 115:
October 8, October 26 and October 29, 2020 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM
All meetings will be held via Zoom.

Adjournment:

The October 6, 2020 Special Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM.