



## **Certification and Higher Education Committee**

Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the September 25, 2019 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Jana Lapoint; Wendy Ault; John Bird; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Jaci Holmes, Federal and State Legislative Liaison; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; Kelli Deveaux, Communications Director; Jessica Nixon, Chief of Staff (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guest: Jill Adams, Executive Director of Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC); Holly Couturier, Executive Director - Professional Division, Maine Principal's Association (MPA); Steve Bailey, Executive Director, Maine School Management Association (MSMA); Eileen King, Deputy Executive Director, MSMA; Vicki Wallack, Director of Communications and Government Relations, MSMA; Cheryl Mercier, RSU18, President of MADSEC; Cynthia Alexander, CCSA Representative, RSU #5; Paula Voelker, Executive Director, Maine Education Association (MEA); Amy Johnson, Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) University of Southern Maine

Board Member, Jana Lapoint called the meeting to order at 9:42 AM. Chair of the Committee, Jane Sexton was unavailable to attend the meeting, so Jana will be turning the meeting over to the Chair of the Board, Wilson Hess to serve as chair pro tempore. Jana requested that introductions of those in attendance be made, then Chair Hess will start the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Waiting for the Chair of the Committee to review the minutes of the last meeting prior to approval. Minutes will be approved at the next committee meeting.

### **Certification Office Update:** *(Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

- Continue to see the benefits of the online system
- Three-week processing time for applications – currently processing at under two weeks
- Rolled out the new initial applications through the portal
- New support documents have gone out to various groups to assist people

## **Chapter 115 – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel:**

Introduction by Wilson Hess prior to welcoming public comments:

The Certification and Higher Education Committee work on Chapter 115 began back in June of 2018. The Department of Education does most of the staff work even though Chapter 115 is a State Board rule.

In September of 2018, the Committee reviewed the work the Department had done and made a recommendation to the full Board for its consideration. The Board approved a provisional rule that was then submitted to the Secretary of State to begin the APA process.

After some consideration, the Department looked at some issues and some changes that had taken place in the Department and asked that Chapter 115 rule be pulled back. The State Board concurred with that. The rule came back for further committee work and was resubmitted to the State Board in December and subsequently moved forward as a provisional rule.

Chapter 115 went through a public hearing but did not meet the original legislative filing deadline. Consequently, it was acted on late in the legislative year. A provisional rule with a Resolve added by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee went through the rest of the approval process. It was technically forwarded to the State Board on September 19<sup>th</sup> to take action within 60 days. The Board's action can only be to approve or deny the provisional rule (including the Resolve). The State Board cannot modify the rule at this point in the process.

The process the Certification Committee is now going through is its due diligence on the provisional rule's implementation.

*Today's meeting will only be considering the implementation language as it pertains to the Resolve.*

Another Committee meeting will be held next month to look at other issues about implementation. Ultimately, the choice the Board has is to vote to approve the provisional rule with the Resolve or to vote it down.

### **Public Comment:**

Wilson invited guest to make public comment at this time. He also invited guests to participate in the discussion of Chapter 115.

No public comment

## **Chapter 115 – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel:**

Jaci Holmes distributed a document *Refinements to Chapter 115 as a Result of Legislative Review* based upon the Resolve's language and its implementation. She led discussion on the points of the document and answered questions.

*“Refinements to Chapter 115 as a Result of Legislative Review”*

## **Part I**

Section 6 – Added “regionally” to accredited college/university (p.7)

*Impact: Regional accreditation allows transfer of credits from one institution to another.*

Added to the Interstate agreement the phrase “and has completed a bachelor’s degree or graduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.” (p.8)

*Impact: Should say “approved program” due to the NASDTEC agreement.*

Added “hours” to the renewal regarding in service training (p.13)

*Impact: Added clarity about the period of time for the in-service training.*

Added “and unpaid “to the exceptions for educational technicians having no interruptions in service. (p.13)

*Impact: Allows continuous employment even if an individual took a sabbatical, for example.*

## **Part II**

1.2 Elementary Endorsement – Added the sentence,” Beginning July 1, 2022, the endorsement must allow the holder to teach students in the grade span of kindergarten to grade 6.”(p.3)

*Impact: Provides for a phase in period for the new grade span implementation. However, the universities will need to determine the standard for each entering cohort of students based on the year they enter and the catalogue (a binding contract) the student entered under. Concerns have been raised in the field that the new grade spans will curtail the spans that people have been teaching.*

1.4 Secondary teacher – Under pathway 2 added the requirement, “Completed a minimum of six semester hours in foundations of literacy and literacy methods relative to the subject area.”(p.8)

*Impact: Adds additional coursework.*

1.4 Secondary Teacher – To include an endorsement 710 Junior Reserve Officer’s training Corps teacher.

*Impact: Development of an internal checklist, however requirements were not given.*

1.5 Endorsement Public Preschool -12 added in the Function section 700 industrial arts added “engineering and technology”(p.9)

*Impact: This reflects the type of course content in the UMO program. If an individual is teaching engineering, the individual can now have the endorsement. The field sees this as endorsing a university.*

1.12 Endorsement 092: Literacy Specialist in Pathway 2 and 3 added “encompassing course content” before Educational /Instructional Leadership, Instructional Supervision, Adult Learning Theory or Instructional Coaching Practices. (p.21)

*Impact: This was intended to not require additional courses, rather course content could include these areas. Puts the responsibility on the individual applicant to reflect evidence of the content area. The wording would have been better as knowledge areas, rather than encompassing course content, for the transcript analysis process.*

1.13 Certificate 215: Athletic Director added the course requirement of “Teaching the Exceptional Child”. (p.23)

*Impact: The athletic directors need to be aware of how to deal with students with disabilities.*

2.1 Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities under the Conditional Certificate for this endorsement added a new “iii. A conditionally certified special education teacher must participate in an alternative certification and mentoring program designed by the Department of Education” in pathways #1,2 and 3. (p.29)

*Impact: This provision was added as the result of a comment from MADSEC, because there is an alternative certification and mentoring program designated by the Department of Education. Concern has been received from field personnel that the only location for the current certification and mentoring program is at UMO.*

2.2 Endorsement 286 Teacher of Children with Severe Disabilities under the Conditional Certificate for this endorsement added a new “iii. A conditionally certified special education teacher must participate in an alternative certification and mentoring program designed by the Department of Education” in pathways #1,2 and 3. (p.30-31)

*Impact: This provision was added as the result of a comment from MADSEC, because there is an alternative certification and mentoring program designated by the Department of Education. Concern has been received from field personnel that the only location for the current certification and mentoring program is at UMO.*

Section 3 Professional Teacher Certificate Based on renamed the title “Authentic Field Experience”. Added in #2 the following requirements:

“iv. Three semester hours in educational assessment.

(D)Passed content area assessment in accordance with ME Dept. of Ed Reg.C.13; and

(E)Passed pedagogical knowledge and skills assessment in accordance with ME Dept. of Ed Reg. C. 13 or successful completion of an alternative professional studies program. “(p.45)

*Impact: These revisions required by the Resolve will require two tests to be taken, the PLT and the Praxis II.*

**NOTE:** Throughout Part II the Provisionally Adopted rule developed a consistent framework for Conditional Certificates or Endorsements

(End of inserted handout)

### Review

The Committee was assured that certification staff reviewed the Resolve comments and issues noted and provided input to this summary. The committee reviewed the document provided with staff and allowed questions from guests. After review, three (3) unresolved issues remained:

- 1) Part II, Sec. 1.2 -- The new span for Elementary Endorsement (K-6) has implications for other endorsement spans which are not specified in the Resolve.
  - The Department will need to identify how this issue can be mitigated. A report is expected at the next CHE meeting which will address unresolved implementation issues from the Provisional Rule.
- 2) Part II, Sec. 1.4 – JROTC pathway adds additional coursework, but DOE needs to develop an internal checklist without requirements being listed in the Resolve.
  - The Department will need to identify how this issue can be mitigated. A report is expected at the next CHE meeting which will address unresolved implementation issues from the Provisional Rule.
- 3) Part II, Sec. 1.2 – Literacy Specialist Endorsement added “encompassing course content” that could be housed within courses. This becomes a matter for transcript analysis and puts the burden of responsibility on individual applicants. DOE staff recommend “knowledge areas” as the appropriate term for transcript analysis.
  - The Department will need to identify how this issue can be mitigated. A report is expected at the next CHE meeting which will address unresolved implementation issues from the Provisional Rule.

**Comments:**

Comment from Steve Bailey (MSMA):

Some of the issues and inconsistencies that have been raised are issues for the field – the overlapping confusion, if there were opportunity to take the time to do it well and do it right, it would be appreciated and helpful to the field.

Response from Wilson Hess (SBE):

“I had extended conversations with Commissioner Makin last week hoping we would have the “patches” that the DOE can deal with in place before us. Simply too many moving parts to review. Hopefully all those moving parts will come together to produce a series of recommendations. The State Board of Education has no authority, at this time, to change the actual rule. Its only options are to act to approve or deny approval on the provisional rule. It is up to the DOE to find work-arounds to the extent that they can. This gives the field some notion of where the staff from DOE thinks the issues are”.

Comment from Jill Adams (MADSEC):

“Clarifying for myself, today – Discussion today is only issues in the Resolve”? Wilson Hess confirmed that a number of issues will be reviewed at the next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting.

Comment from Holly Couturier (MPA):

“I want to echo what Steve’s words and concerns were. I want to show appreciation with any work that has taken the field’s thoughts into consideration when looking at not just the resolve but the entire Chapter 115 rule and how it will directly impact all

the educators and potential educators coming into the State”.

**Higher Education Update:** *(Jason Libby)*

*Northern Vermont University Team Report*

- Wendy Ault was the Board Observer.
- The Committee reviewed the report of findings and recommended that the full Board receive the report at the October 9 meeting.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present for the Committee to accept the Northern Vermont University Team Report and recommend that the full Board receive the Review Team Report of Findings at the October 9, 2019 Board meeting.

*Beal College Team Report*

- John Bird was the Board Observer.
  - John reviewed the team report and attended the Committee meeting to comment on the review – being his first team review while serving on the State Board.
- The Committee reviewed the report of findings and recommended that the full Board receive the report at the October 9 meeting.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present for the Committee to accept the Beal College Team Report and recommend that the full Board receive the Review Team Report of Findings at the October 9, 2019 Board meeting.

*Eastern Maine Community College Team Report*

- Fern Desjardins was the Board Observer
  - Jason Libby read an email with comments from Fern as she was unable to attend the Committee meeting.
- The Committee reviewed the report of findings and recommended that the full Board receive the report at the October 9 meeting.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present for the Committee to accept the Eastern Maine Community College Team Report and recommend that the full Board receive the Review Team Report of Findings at the October 9, 2019 Board meeting.

**Strategic Plan – Discussion on Goals for the Upcoming Year:**

The Committee chose to postpone the discussion on goals for the upcoming year to the next meeting when the Committee Chair is present to lead the discussion.

**Meeting Handouts:**

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Refinements to Chapter 115 as a Result of Legislative Review

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Burton Cross State Office Building.

The October CHE meeting will consider:

- a comprehensive briefing from the Department on recent imperfections discovered in the Provisional Rule 115 language which passed through SBE review and Legislative review & how the Department would implement measures to mitigate them and . . .
- a comprehensive briefing from the Department of the effects on Rule 115 and necessary mitigation should the Board fail to pass the Provisional Rule.

It is hoped that, together, the information from these two briefings would place the CHE Committee in a position to make an informed recommendation on the decision the Board faces to adopt or reject the Provisional Rule within the 60-day time limit.

**Adjournment:**

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.