



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 January 20, 2026 virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Paulette Bonneau; Vice Chair Thomas Keller; Wendy Ault; Victoria Cohen; Fern Desjardins; James Ford; Edmond Morin; and Denham Ward.

Absent with Excuse: Victoria Kornfield; Cedar Worster; and Abbey Hamilton

Others Present: Commissioner Pender Makin; Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools MSAD54/RSU54; Mallory Cook, Maine Education Association; Gerry Durgin, Gorham; and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Interim Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

Roll call was taken by Chair Bonneau and she declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by board member, Edmond Morin: 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.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 2026-2027:

Pursuant to the provisions of 20-A M.R.S.A., Section 15689-C, the Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall certify to the Governor and the Bureau of the Budget recommended funding levels for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve. The funding levels recommended herein were developed based on proposed amendments to the Essential Programs and Service Funding Act, 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the following motion:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the certified funding level for FY 2026-2027 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade twelve at \$2,871,373,510 requiring a local contribution amount of \$1,292,118,080 and a state contribution amount of \$1,579,255,430 to be distributed as General Purpose Aid for Local Schools. These amounts shall be distributed per the parameters of the Essential Programs & Services Funding Act, 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B, as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Mary Becker by the 15th day following the month the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The January 20, 2026 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mary Becker, Interim Office Specialist
State Board of Education