



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 20, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Tom Keller, Victoria Kornfield and Denham Ward, Committee members, and Emily Cummins supported the meeting. Fern Desjardins, chair of the SBE, also attended.

Participants: Michael Perry, MDOE, Heather Perry, Gorham, Jane Loxterkamp, EMCC, Dolly Sullivan, Educate Maine, Jon Doty, RSU 34, MCLA and MSSA, Mallory Cook, MEA, Rachel Somerville, MECA&D, Karen MacDonald, Educate Maine, Gay Anne McDonald, MADSEC, Connor Archer, The Courageous Steps Project, Scott Harris, Maine School Counselor Association, Sarah Howorth, UM, Rebecca Edelman, Maine School Counselor Association, Jonathan Moody, MSDA54 and MSSA, Matt Nelson, Sanford, Cynthia Alexander, RSU5 and CCSA Liaison, Tina Nightingale, USM, Deb McIntyre, MCLA, and Beth Linevitch, Portland.

1. Call to Order - Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:33 am. Tori and Denham introduced themselves, as did Tom and Fern.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Tori Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward and unanimously voted by committee members to accept the October 16, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

4. Higher Education Update - as reported by Michael Perry

- A. Michael reported that the team report for Thomas College was presented to the State Board for its formal review at its next meeting. The graduate program needs to take a different route to approval and he was working on that.
- B. Beal University would welcome a review visit team. He has confirmed that they have authorization at the bachelors level. Beal has submitted an application for masters level degrees and was given temporary approval by the MDOE.
- C. There was a UM off cycle review on October 30. Tori served as the SBE Observer and reported that the faculty at UM were very willing to participate in the review and anxious to find ways to improve if needed.

- D. The UMaine Machias review will occur Fall of 2025, unless it is determined by CAEP and UM that UMM will fall under UM's approval status. Michael is monitoring this.
- E. UMPI has asked for an off cycle review and Michael attempted to schedule this earlier this month but team members were not available. Fern is likely to serve as the SBE Observer with Tori as backup observer.
- F. Michael's staff is preparing a listings of certifications offered by each EPP but this list is not ready at this time.
- G. The Roux Institute of Northeastern University has submitted an application to the MDOE for program review of new programs they hope to offer. Michael is assembling a team to review these and hopes to move forward with the review in December.
- H. Michael noted that a new institution offering a degree in architecture was in the beginning stages of applying under chapter 149 at the October meeting but no mention was made of this at the November meeting.
- I. No information on pertinent legislation was related.

5. Certification update - as reported by Michael Perry

- A. Michael supplied the committee with the usual slides on application processed last month as well as cumulative data. In September, 2,942 applications were processed. In October, 2,801 applications were processed including 282 initial teacher certificates.

We continue to have a small number of retired teachers take advantage of legislation to regain their certification. Processing time has increased a little and now averages 3 to 3.5 weeks. This is a big improvement over the recent past when it was over 4 weeks.

- B. Due to considerable interest and many questions and answers that took time to compile, the deadline has been pushed back.
- C. There were 1,344 CHRC violation reports generated and sent to superintendents.
- D. Regarding Certification violation reports, schools have an October deadline and Michael assumes he will have a snapshot of the data in December.
- E.
 1. Denham reported that work is coming to conclusion on the Regional Longitudinal Data Study.
 2. 57 applications were received for the temporary certification position.
 3. Tom suggested that the certification team review the notes and recordings of the regional feedback on chapter 115 sessions, to consider ways to improve services. Michael indicated that they had already begun this.

6. EPP and TEAMe Update - Dr. Rachel Somerville, MECA&D

Rachel noted that both Michael and Tom were invited to and attended the TEAMe meeting. They appreciated the updates on the chapter 115 feedback sessions and certification issues. She noted the workforce shortage issue.

Rachel indicated that TEAMe had reviewed the draft of the annual EPP report and would be providing their feedback as a proposed template after reviewing the chapter 114 requirements and past reports.

She noted that MECA&D had a MAT program and was moving to offering courses and programs on-line.

7. LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 - Tom Keller

Tom read the following statement: “Today the State Board of Education is providing an opportunity to deliver feedback on the current Chapter 115. This is not an opportunity for discussion, rather a neutral environment through which the public may provide feedback on the current version of this rule. The Board may ask clarifying questions, but will not be able to answer questions from the public at this time. If you have written copies of your comments available, please email those to laura.cyr@maine.gov and tkeller.sbe@gmail.com. All comments will be collected and reviewed before the revision process begins.

Public feedback on this rule will continue to be collected through December 2024 here at the CHE meetings.” He mentioned that eight feedback sessions had been held around the state, organized and facilitated by Laura Cyr from the MDOE, that were face to face and over zoom.

Several people made comments and provided feedback on Chapter 115 including Jon Moody, Heather Perry, Jon Doty, Connor Archer, Matt Nelson, Gay Anne MacDonald, Scott Harris and Rebecca Edelman. All at the meeting were asked to submit their comments in writing to Laura and Tom.

While some discussion ensued, it was generally using the given comments to provide clarity on the issues being identified. Important concepts noted included:

- Use of portfolios or rubrics such as the HOUSS (high objective uniform State standard of evaluation) for initial certification, and who evaluates them
- Special education certifications
- School counselor certifications
- A 3 year emergency pathway

8. Other business - the next meeting date is December 18, at 10:30 am as usual.

9. Adjournment - with no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Attachments:

Slides from Michael Perry on September certification applications