



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 29, 2023 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, via Zoom. The following were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, Denham Ward, and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Erin Reinhard, Certification Coordinator; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Rose Marie Angell; Penny Bishop; Mallory Cook; Amy Johnson; Gerry Durgin; John Kraljic; Amanda Peterson; Fionna McDonnell; Cynthia Alexander; Don Denico; Vicki Wallack; Steve Bailey; Michael Bisson; and Gay Anne McDonald.

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 25, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the November 13, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Higher Education Update:

- Michael Perry has formed a higher education review team for the Husson University Educator Preparation Program. Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College, Dr. Linda Fuller of the College of the Atlantic, Prof. Krysten Gorrivan of the University of New England, and Prof. Shannon Sleeper of the University of Maine at Presque Isle have agreed to serve. The two non-voting observers will be Victoria Kornfield and Michael Perry.
- The next institutions up for review are Maine College of Art and Design, Syracuse University, and Beal University. Denham Ward will serve as the SBE observer for Maine College of Art and Design, Victoria Kornfield will serve as the SBE observer for Syracuse University, and Denham Ward will serve as the SBE observer for Beal University.

- The final rulemaking with the Federal Government US Education’s version on NC SARA was much more manageable than originally discussed.
- Conversation is beginning on bills slated for legislation.
- Michael and Erin are meeting with EPPs individually to determine an agreed list of approved programs and the potential date for their next review. The message going out to EPPs are the days of mixed messaging are over and internal logic only going forward. They are promoting better communication and customer service.
- Penny Bishop and Denham Ward have drafted a formal thank you letter for individuals who serve on these committees. Denham will make final edits and send the draft to Tom, Victoria, and Fern.

Husson University Educator Preparation Program Review Team:

Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College, Dr. Linda Fuller of the College of the Atlantic, Prof. Krysten Gorrivan of the University of New England, and Prof. Shannon Sleeper of the University of Maine at Presque Isle have agreed to serve. The two non-voting observers will be Victoria Kornfield and Michael Perry.

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the EPP team members for the Spring 2024 review of Husson University’s Educator Preparation Program. The motion passes.

Certification Update:

- 2,121 total applications were processed in October, which is a slight dip from the previous month.
- Processing time is between 3 - 3 ½ weeks on average. “Hold” time on phones is seven minutes.
- The MDOE plans to have two postings for certification specialists. One is a limited position depending on the budget.
- 1,485 violations exist currently, which is down from the previous month. Letters have been sent to Superintendents on the violation reports. The majority are CHRC.
- The certification team suggests removing specific grade levels in chapter 115 endorsements and changing the wording to “you must have an existing valid teacher certification”.

Chapter 115 Review and Discussion:

Following much discussion, it was decided that the Committee will hold a special meeting on Friday, December 1 at 9:00 AM to review and edit the draft L.D. 485 report.

Update from the Maine Educator Preparation Programs:

Dr. Kathleen Clements from St. Joseph’s College was unable to attend today’s meeting. No report was given.

Other Business:

No Other Business

At the December 20 meeting, we should review the Annual EPP Report format. We will consider St. Joseph's Interim Report along with EMCC and the University of Maine at Augusta's site visits.

The next special Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

The November 29, 2023, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist
Maine State Board of Education