



**Certification and Higher Education Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the December 1, 2023 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held an in person and virtual special meeting on Friday, December 1, 2023 in Augusta, Maine. The following were present: Chair Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Denham Ward; and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; 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; Amy Johnson; Gerald Durgin; Holly Blair; Dr. Andrew Dolloff; Vicki Wallack; Donald Denico; Mallory Cook; John Kraljic; Gert Nesin; Jason Fuller; Steve Bailey; and Michael Bisson.

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

**Agenda Format:**

The focus of the December 1, 2023, meeting was stated: This meeting is a work session for the committee. We've been gathering input since August, both verbal and written. Our goal: We all want the best possible educational outcome for kids, as well as social outcomes. These are rules that address a wide variety of schools and situations. We will do our best to create rules that move us forward and provide the best process. This draft report will go to the full State Board of Education for discussion, deliberation, a potential vote, or a postponement.

**Chapter 115 Review and Discussion of Draft L.D. 485 Report:**

During this all-day meeting, the Certification & Higher Education Committee had substantial and significant conversations amongst themselves, going line by line on this draft report. The committee asked MDOE attendees, individuals, and organizational representatives for their opinions, for clarification, and for direction. Deputy Commissioner Chuhta was in attendance and was able to share the Department's opinions and ideas.

Edits and revisions will be made to the working document and sent to committee members, who will review for accuracy. This will then go to the full State Board of Education for review, discussion, and a potential vote at the December 13, 2023, meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The December 1, 2023, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.

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