



Certification and Higher Education Committee  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the June 26, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Tom Keller, Victoria Kornfield and Denham Ward, Committee members, and Emily Cummins supported the meeting.

Participants: Michael Perry, Laura Cyr and Daniel Chuhta, MDOE; Kathy Yardley, Elizabeth Andersen, Liz Guillemette, Dave Keaton, Mallory Cook, Megan London, Wendi Malenfant, Gerry Durgin, Deb McIntyre, Patricia Waters, Cindy Dean, Lane Clarke, Kevin Lavoie, Rose Marie Angell, Sherry Brown, Jonathan Moody, Gerry Durgin, Katie Rybakoba, and Rose Marie Angell.

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

#### Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimous vote by committee members to accept the May 22, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

#### Public Comment

Liz Guillemette and Elizabeth Andersen spoke to issues regarding the Certificate 071: Library Media Specialist. There seems to be some confusion on the ALA/AASL/CAEP School Librarian Preparation Standards and standards for school librarians, the former being program approval and the latter pertaining to individual skills and knowledge's necessary for school librarians. In addition they cited a new requirement for a portfolio and they must be referring to the 36 or 24 graduate semester hour requirement. This requires further exploration.

Dave Keaton from MACTE noted issues with CTE certifications including that there are no endorsements for the EPS-funded positions of Student Services and Career Counselors. These are issues for the CTE team headed by Ed Morin and Paulette Bonneau to consider.

#### Higher Education Update -

Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College submitted a letter dated January 16, 2024 requesting a delay to the state EPP approval visit. She asked that the Fall 2025 visit be deferred to Fall 2027. She cited extenuating circumstances including (1) at least one (of a total of 4) faculty members on leave for part or all of 24-25, 25-26 and 26-27, necessitating faculty searches in addition to having absent

faculty members; (2) an internal decadal review extending through AY 24-25; (3) additional internal initiatives to deepen their curriculum goals under new Bates regulations for courses to be tagged for the designation of “Race, Power, Privilege, and Colonialism”; and (4) an initiative to establish a 9<sup>th</sup> semester program within the next couple of years. Bates is projecting 2 program completers for 2023-24. Based on all this information, Denham moved, Tori seconded and all voted in favor to recommend the deferment to the full State Board. Michael Perry should prepare an exhibit for the next State Board meeting.

EPP Annual Reports from Eastern Maine Community College, Husson University, the Maine College of Art and Design and St. Joseph’s College were reviewed. Tori motioned and Denham seconded that the reports from Eastern Maine Community College, Husson University, and the Maine College of Art and Design be accepted and placed on file. A unanimous vote ensued. The report from St. Joseph’s will be reviewed after some clarifying information is added.

#### Certification Update - Michael Perry

In May, 2,974 applications for certification were processed including the first one for a retired teacher to regain their certification. Michael provided a pie chart and table of recent activity. Tori again expressed concern about rural areas probably having more conditional and emergency certified teachers, but has no data on this. Michael indicated he is in contact with the database’s vendor and will attempt to get parsed data.

Relative to the CHRC violations report, 1,292 people have been found to be in violation which is a pretty consistent month to month. These data as well need to be broken down but the issue is usually one of a paperwork error or miscommunication between the NEO system and the MEIS system, with the finger printing process and reports as the main culprit.

Michael attended the US ED Regional Convening on Teacher Workforce issues. Others on the Maine team were representatives from the MEA, MSSA and the State Board.

Denham reported that the Regional Longitudinal Data Study was progressing, and the pilot underway.

#### Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update - Cindy Dean, UMA

Cindy provided an update on TEAMe which was light since they had not met and members were finalizing semester duties. Dr. Dean did describe a new UMA program for an MAT program in Whole Child Education (see attached flyer) and a successful partnership among UMA, UMPI and UMM in sharing courses for special ed teachers.

#### LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 - Tom

Input was taken and discussion ensued on 1 topic - Chapter 115, Part 1.

There is a need to check and be consistent with statutory changes. For example, Chapter 115, Part 1, page 14 (top of the page), is there still an “Emergency Educational Technician” designation? Megan London has some thoughts on this.

Current violations reports seem to be without effect. What are reasonable penalties?

Mallory Cook has gathered considerable information and would like to meet with Tom to discuss the implications.

Dan Chuhta mentioned that the process we are using may need some revision as per Sarah Forster. There may be a concern that soliciting feedback may not be inclusive enough. Note that there are over 40 people and organizations that receive notification of these meetings.

It was noted that there is a big jump from an Ed Tech I (requiring just a high school diploma) to an Ed Tech II (now requiring 60 semester hours). It was posited that an Ed Tech II could be 45 hours, which is half of the 90 needed for an Ed Tech III but may be incentive for more Ed Tech IIs.

Laura Cyr said she would prepare a strikeout version of Chapter 115. Thank you so much for this support.

#### Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. Next meeting is July 24 (the fourth Wednesday), 2024 at 10:30 am.

#### Attachments:

Slides from Michael Perry on certification applications.  
Flyer from Cindy Dean on UMA's MAT program.  
EPP Review Calendar and Current EPP Approvals