



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the July 24, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 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 also attended.

Participants: Michael Perry, Laura Cyr and Daniel Chuhta, MDOE; Dave Keaton, Mallory Cook, Gerry Durgin, Jonathan Moody, Katie Rybakoba, Doris Santoro, Sarah Howorth, Jon Doty, Eileen King, Holly Blair, Suzanne Gilbert, Zeke Kimball, Joo Young Lee, John Kraljic, Dolly Sullivan and Cynthia Alexander.

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:39 am, following some connection difficulties.

Approval of Minutes

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

Public Comment

Jon Doty referred to an email he has sent earlier to committee members. His suggestions included shifting certification toward a proficiency-based model by emphasizing the current language about using portfolio evidence documenting equivalent knowledge/competencies and putting language similar to that in Gifted/Talented endorsement into 660 ESOL. In addition to supporting testing to demonstrate proficiency in content areas for middle level certification, he asked that that be considered for secondary and adult ed as well. In addition he suggests that conditional requirements be shifted to something like 2/3 or more of the specific coursework be required.

Zeke Kimball of the University of Maine introduced himself as the Interim Dean for their College of Education. He is both a product of Maine public schools and a huge fan. Welcome, Dr. Kimball!

Higher Education Update -

- A. Upcoming visits - Thomas College has submitted a draft schedule to Michael. Other institutions up for review in 2024-25 are a UMaine off-cycle, Syracuse University, UMaine Machias and Colby College.
- B. We reviewed and accepted for the file (Denham moved, Tori seconded and the vote was unanimous) Annual EPP Reports from St. Joseph's (revised version), Thomas College (updated version), UMA and UM. The reports continue to surface interesting and relevant information.

UMA, for example, now has a Whole Child MAT program, the reading instruction question is resulting in a view different from the NCTQ report or perhaps has shifted practice to more science of reading methods, and Thomas College received funding from the MDOE for a new chemistry lab.

A quick discussion was held as to the format of this report for next year. Tori mentioned that getting data on methods of instructing teachers to teach math would be of value considering that Maine's student performance in mathematics is as disappointing as in reading.

- C. Michael reported on new federal legislation that impacts institutions of higher education (IHEs) in Maine took effect July 1. He said he would forward pertinent details to all those present and to IHEs in Maine.
- D. It was suggested that people review the Teach in Maine website at <https://www.liveandworkinmaine.com/teach>.

Certification Update - Michael Perry

In June, 2,976 applications for certification were processed (in May, it was 2,974) including two more retired teachers applying to regain their certification. Michael provided a pie chart and table of recent activity. Phone wait time is 5 minutes or less and applications are taking 4 weeks to review due to summer being a busy time for renewals. He has not yet utilized the staff overtime option and on August 5, a new transcript analysis specialist will come on board.

Relative to the CHRC violations report, 1,634 people have been found to be in violation which is pretty consistent month to month (last month it was 1,292). Regarding certification violations, there is difficulty in gathering the data from the MEIS and NEO software systems. Plus certification violations are reported once a year in the fall, CHRC violations are more year round. Tom asked for the certification violations list as soon as it is available, by school or SAU.

Denham reported that the Regional Longitudinal Data Study was progressing, and the pilot underway. He will present more details in the August meeting.

Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update - Dr. Doris Santoro, Bowdoin

Bowdoin has 3 faculty members who are both education experts and engage in research. She showed a YouTube on the very impressive Bowdoin Teacher Scholars program. They are moving toward adding a 9th semester postgraduate program in education.

Doris mentioned that they are looking into curriculum relative to Wabanaki studies (LD 1642) and are having a national speaker provide a lecture on October 17 and a workshop on October 16 on this topic.

In addition, Doris shared concerns from TEAME including:

1. Online issues with the MEIS regarding grade 6-12 vs 7-12 application. Michael is aware of this and changes have been made but if issues exist, contact him directly.
2. Dealing with AI in education - what are expectations in schools? Should there be an AI in education task force?
3. Within TEAME a discussion was held on helping unsuccessful teacher candidates.
4. They greatly appreciate the peer review portion of the approval process.

LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 - Tom

A discussion ensued as to how best to proceed to rulemaking. Dan noted that a consensus group should be formed immediately with the development of basic priorities and principles for consensus. Considerable discussion continued with a proposal within the committee to move from consensus based rulemaking to traditional due to the time and budget expectations with consensus-based, establishing a representative group when educator certification impacts so many constituencies, and going the traditional route allows us to gather input from anyone 'at the 40,000 ft level' whereas consensus based is centered on the consensus group. Traditional is the route that Paulette and Ed took with recent changes to CTE rules.

Laura suggested an article be written for the MDOE newsletter on the process. She also has templates for both consensus-based and traditional rule making and said she would send the traditional ones to Tom. She also would send out the URL for the state's rulemaking page.

Tom will talk with Fern about using the traditional rulemaking process rather than the consensus-based one, and complete a new plan and timeline.

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm. Next meeting is August 28 (the fourth Wednesday), 2024 at 10:30 am.

Attachments:

Slides from Michael Perry on June certification applications