



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 28, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 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, MACTE, Debra McIntyre, Exec. Director MCLA, John Kraljic, TEEAME, Ezekiel Kimball, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine, Wendi Malenfant - UMPI EDU Program, Fiona McDonnell, Director of Educator Preparation/Accreditation, USM, Dolly Sullivan, Program Director, Educate Maine, Jonathan Moody, Superintendent, Connor Archer, CEO, The Courageous Steps Project, Gerry Durgin, MIAAA, Jon Doty, Curriculum Coordinator, Andrea Stairs-Davenport, USM, Rose Angell, Karen Robbie, J Nickerson, and Jane Loxterkamp, EMCC Department Chair of Education.

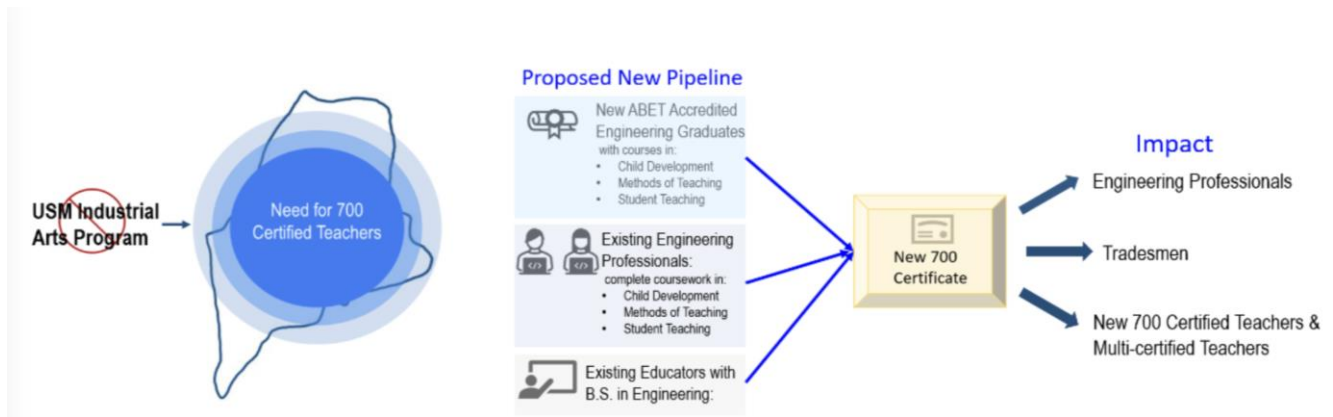
Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Approval of Minutes

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

Public Comment

John Kraljic spoke on behalf of the Maine Engineering Education Committee. They support the language change to the 700 technology and engineering endorsement. They would like to see a clear pathway for a 700 or 701 endorsement and submitted the graphic (see below) as an illustration of such a pathway and one that would allow engineering courses to satisfy the technical course requirement for the endorsement.



Higher Education Update -

- A. Upcoming visits - A team has been formed for the Thomas College review visit in September. Lane Clarke of UNE will chair the committee and Sherry Pino Brown of Colby, Flynn Ross of USM, and Shannon Sleeper of UMPI constitute the rest of the team with Paulette Bonneau as the State Board Observer along with Michael Perry of the MDOE. Denham moved and Tori seconded that the C&HE Committee send this slate of team members to the State Board for full approval at the next meeting. That passed unanimously.

Denham Ward reminded Michael of the drafted letter of appreciation that should be sent to review team members and their deans upon completion of their volunteer work.

Michael has met with Zeke Kimball of UM to prepare for their off cycle check in to add programs to their existing approval. This will be done in October with the team yet to be identified.

Other institutions up for review in 2024-25 are Syracuse University, UMaine Machias and Colby College.

- B. We reviewed and accepted for the file (Tori moved, Denham seconded and the vote was unanimous) Annual EPP Reports from UMPI, UNE and USM. The reports continue to surface interesting and relevant information. UMPI reported on course concentrations in ELA, math or science for their 020 Elementary Teacher candidates and the numerous and broad partnerships they have with other educational institutions. They have a strong connection to the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. In addition, Denham noted their Breton Forum programming and suggested to Wendi that UMPI professors consider subbing or getting into K-12 classrooms regularly to reconnect to schools and to assist in these times of shortages. The UNE report gave great detail on literacy courses which are a concern of this committee. We greatly appreciate their response. Their work in providing "...substitute teachers, resident interns (Biddeford), collaborate with field work, and help them recruit new teachers" is duly noted. We were disappointed that question 6, about laudatory programs, was left blank, perhaps by accident. This question is a wonderful opportunity for an EPP to brag a little and demonstrate their creativity. The USM report was the final one and provided detailed and valuable information about their program. It was interesting to note that they are starting up an undergraduate special ed major and have an existing Master's level program, since special ed is always a shortage area. Worthy of note are their Novice Educator Support Series 'to support 1st and 2nd year teachers across the state' and their Educator Preparation Advisory Council.

A quick discussion was held as to implications of these reports and the format of this report for next year. One specific thought is that the suggestion of using a table for Question 1 may limit comprehensive reporting. Six general thoughts-

1. Do we/should we/could we provide incentives for teachers going into shortage area certifications?
 2. Data analysis from the vacancy study under the Regional Longitudinal Data Study is greatly anticipated. We hope there will be broad dissemination of the study and its findings.
 3. Mentoring needs continue to be great. Mentoring for emergency, conditional and new teachers, for student teachers, cooperating/supervising teachers, and university faculty, and for new administrators. We look forward to Christine O'Neal's work in this area.
 4. We as a state need to investigate the teaching of math in a parallel way to our questioning of the teaching of reading. Student performance is unacceptably low in these areas, as well as science. In 2023, 57% of high school students scored below proficiency on the Maine Educational Assessment in math.
 5. USM's Novice Educator Support Series deserves a closer look. Is this unique to USM? Is it well used across the state? Is it effective?
 6. What can the State Board and the Certification and Higher Education Committee do to support EPPs?
- C. Michael reported the status of the Roux Institute's program approval. He said that the chapter that spells out degree granting authority in Maine allows for a full degree granting authority to be sought by an institution or individual program by program approval. That latter track is where Roux has currently opted for their approval in Maine. So each of their discrete degree programs is under State Board Review rather than as an institution.

There have been 2 votes that have been undertaken for groups of programs to be approved. The rule states that the initial approval of programs is only for 4 years, and then at a renewal, the State Board has the freedom to set any number of years they see fit for approving that program into the future. And so the hope is that as we have the 1st tranche of programs that are having their initial approval period come up for renewal. And then we know that there's at least a second group of programs coming up for approval, that as the renewals are being approved, they can be set to a timeline where all of their programs would be coming up at the same time rather than having a thousand different review dates for the same institutions programming. They also have a few programs that they're launching. So they will need fresh reviews of programs that haven't been approved in either vote. In either bucket of programs they have submitted the initial paperwork indicating they're seeking new approvals and an overview of those programs. And so the next step is for Michael to convene another review team for those programs. And that will be bunched together with the renewals that are coming up from the 1st vote, so that those could all be taken in one State board exhibit and rule dictates that Michael would go back to the previous review team and ask them to serve again. And if they're able to, we have our review team.

- D. Michael then reported on the Beal University status. He needs to review the State Board files one more time to be clear on what was voted in, which will determine when the next review will be.
- E. Michael described current federal legislation impacting institutions that offer degree programs for out of state students via distance education programs that will result in licensure. This has resulted in a deluge of work for the Certification Office in response to EPPs from across the country providing programs of study and asking for Maine approval.

Certification Update - Michael Perry

In July, 2,439 applications for certification were processed. Michael provided a pie chart and table of recent activity.

The Certification software is going out for RFP and they hope to have more capabilities such as breaking out which initial applications were pathway 1 versus pathway 2.

Relative to the CHRC violations report, 1,637 people have been found to be in violation which is pretty consistent month to month (last month it was 1,634). 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.

A new transcript evaluator has joined the Certification team, Michelle Yates, a former registrar at Thomas College.

Denham reported that the Regional Longitudinal Data Study was progressing, and this will be a major presentation and part of the State Board retreat in September.

Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update - Dr. Andrea Stairs-Davenport, USM

Everyone is gearing up and starting the school year now, so not much to report. Bowdoin will be hosting the next TEAME meeting in the fall.

She did note the tremendous amount of work due to the new federal regulations for distance education and obtaining a teaching certification.

She offered to take back any questions to the group and Tom asked that they consider the Annual Report and what questions or data they would like asked.

LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 - Tom Keller

Tom described the actions underway for traditional or conceptual conversation rulemaking. At each meeting of this committee, there will be an opportunity for gathering input at a high level. In addition there will be at least 3 regional meetings in the fall for the same purpose. The State Board will then prepare the rules during their March and April meetings with the goal of getting a final version to the Attorney General's office for a 30 day review period prior to a 30 day public hearing and comment period probably in August, 2025. Also, teams will be addressing two specific topics, Career and Technical Education certification and Special Education certification. Paulette Bonneau, Vice Chair of the State Board, has agreed to lead the CTE team and she and Laura Cyr will co-chair the Special Education team. The goal is to have an approved rule submitted to the Legislature by January, 2026.

Any questions, concerns or ideas can be sent to Tom Keller or any committee member.

The MDOE does host a rulemaking specific web page for this type of information (<https://www.maine.gov/doe/about/laws/rulechanges>). Information is updated periodically. Denham suggested starting webpages with at least a link to the rule under change.

A question was raised as to the impact of the bill on Wabanaki studies and chapter 115. That will be taken under review.

The next meeting is September 25 at 10:30 am. We will continue to take input on what is working and what is not, especially regarding but not limited to Chapter 115, Part 2, section 1.1 through 1.7. This includes the 029 Early Elementary Teacher endorsement, 020 Elementary Teacher endorsement, Middle Level Teacher endorsements, Secondary Teacher endorsements, Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 Teacher (All Subjects Other than Art and Music) endorsements, Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 Teacher (Music and Art) and World Language Teacher endorsements.

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 pm. Next meeting is September 25 (the fourth Wednesday), 2024 at 10:30 am.

Attachments:

Slides from Michael Perry on July certification applications

DRAFT