



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the September 25, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 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, chair of the SBE, also attended.

Participants: Michael Perry, Christina O'Neal, Laura Cyr and Daniel Chuhta, MDOE, Chris Indorf, Saco and Dayton, Dave Keaton, MACTE, Debra McIntyre, Exec. Director MCLA, Patty Waters, St. Joseph's College, Mallory Cook, MEA, Dr. Kathleen McGovern, USM, Flynn Ross, USM, Rose Marie Angell, Justin Dimmel, the University of Maine, Rachel Brown-Chidsey, USM, Dolly Sullivan, Educate Maine, Jonathan Moody, Superintendent, Tonya Arnold, Superintendent, Kathy Yardley, UMF, Gerry Durgin, MIAAA, Jon Doty, Curriculum Coordinator, and Jane Loxterkamp, EMCC Department Chair of Education.

1. Call to Order - Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Tori and Denham introduced themselves, as did Tom. Later in the meeting Fern was recognized and asked to introduce herself.
2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Tori Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by committee members to accept the August 28, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

4. Higher Education Update - as reported by Michael Perry
 - A. A review visit is underway at Thomas College. Lane Clarke of UNE is chairing the committee. All is going well.

A review visit to Colby College is on the docket for March.

The MDOE will be undertaking a special review of specific programs at UMaine.

Michael noted the work of review team members as volunteers, Laura Cyr's assistance as an MDOER observer and reaching out to the Maine Teacher of the Year organization for teacher members of future EPP review teams.

Michael Perry provided an update on the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) summit, explaining the benefits of NC-SARA membership for institutions offering distance online learning. Denham Ward inquired about the state not part of NC-SARA, and Michael Perry confirms it is California. Michael discussed the complexities of physical presence requirements for online adjuncts and internships. And he highlighted the University of New England as the highest user of NC-SARA in the state for medical students.

The chair failed to ask the status of reviews for Syracuse University and UMaine Machias and the status of Beal University's authorization.

- B. Committee members drafted an Annual Program Updates for EPPs. There was some discussion on as a very preliminary document. Our goal is to meet the requirements of the rule (Chapter 114) and make the report as useful and easy as possible. The drafted version was sent to Dr. Patrica Waters, who was representing TEAMe at today's meeting with a request to review this at their next meeting and provide feedback.

In an allied effort, Paulette Bonneau who is serving as the SBE Observer on the Thomas College visit noted their program requirement of 200 hours. She said "The students have to do 200 hours of preservice before they can do their student teaching. This can include coaching, substitute teaching, conferences, to name a few options." And asked if other Maine program require this. The C&HE Committee does provide the opportunity for an EPP to describe e program attributes that are exemplary and worthy of replication on the Annual Program Update. But due to lack of staff and resources, we do not catalog these. If we had an Executive Director or even an intern, we could compile these and distribute them to all EPPS. The reports continue to surface interesting and relevant information.

- C. No action items
- D. No action items

5. Certification Update - Michael Perry

- A. In August, 3,277 applications for certification were processed. Michael provided a pie chart and table of recent activity.

With the Certification software going out for RFP, we should identify capabilities we would want such as breaking out which initial applications were pathway 1 versus pathway 2. Should this be an agenda item or a special meeting with interested parties? Educate Maine and the Maine Education Association are most likely interested in providing input as well.

- B. Michael noted a slight uptick in appeals of reported CHRC violations. There are a handful this month but they take a great deal of staff time.

Relative to the CHRC violations report, 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., which should be in October.

C. Denham reported that the Regional Longitudinal Data Study was progressing. The SBE received a major presentation at the State Board retreat earlier in September.

6. Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update - Dr. Patricia Waters, St. Joseph's College of Maine

The first TEAME meeting of this academic year is scheduled for November 15 at UNE. Thus there is little report from this group.

Patty did describe the NSF Noyce Fellows grant that St. Joseph's received. It is very exciting and focused on preparing STEM teachers. She noted that with the current free community college degrees and the fellowship paying for the second two years, a person could become a teacher without any tuition needed.

7. LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 - Tom Keller

Tom read the following statement: "Today the State Board of Education is providing an opportunity to deliver feedback on the current Chapter 115. This is not an opportunity for discussion, rather a neutral environment through which the public may provide feedback on the current version of this rule. The Board may ask clarifying questions, but will not be able to answer questions from the public at this time. If you have written copies of your comments available, please email those to laura.cyr@maine.gov and tkeller.sbe@gmail.com. All comments will be collected and reviewed before the revision process begins.

Public feedback on this rule will continue to be collected through December 2024 here at the CHE meetings and in a series of dedicated conversations that will begin in October. Those dates will be available at the next CHE meeting and will be published online."

Several people made comments and provided feedback on Chapter 115 including Patty Waters, Rose Angell, Jon Doty, Jon Moody, and Tonya Arnold. All were asked to submit their comments in writing to Laura and Tom.

While some discussion ensued, it was generally using the given comments to provide clarity on the issues being identified. Important concepts noted included:

- Multiple (and more) pathways
- Use of performance assessments
- Use of portfolios, and who evaluates them
- Keeping K-8, especially for rural and isolated communities
- The recognized need for both guard rails and trust
- The value of high quality educator driven professional development in districts and how to account for this in initial and additional teacher certification
- The idea to focus more on outputs (e.g., performance, testing) versus inputs (e.g., college credit).

Many participants submitted written comments which are invaluable.

8. Other business - the October meeting date has been changed to October 16, at 10:30 am as usual.

9. Adjournment - with no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Attachments:

Slides from Michael Perry on August certification applications