



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 26, 2025 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; and Denham Ward (Board Members). Fern Desjardins, Chair of the State Board of Education; Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Michael Perry, Director of Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; and Erin Reinhard, Certification Coordinator.

Guests: Gerry Durgin, MIAAA; Mallory Cook, MEA; Jon Doty, RSU 34; Megan London, EMCC; Dave Keaton, MACTE; Rose Angell; Sherry Pineau Brown, Colby College; and Erin Straine, UMaine.

Chair Thomas Keller called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. He welcomed all members and guests. Committee members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the February 10, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

Public Comment:

No public comment was given.

Higher Education Update: *(Michael Perry)*

Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, provided an update on 3 sections of a Dear EPP Director colleague letter he recently sent including:

1. The form for the Annual EPP report due April 7
2. A draft listing by EPP of program approvals/certifications/endorsements offered by each
3. A link to a form asking for EPP program approval reviewers. The form is at <https://forms.office.com/g/68GEWYDk6G>

He noted a proposed slate of reviewers for the upcoming Colby College review. Tori Kornfield moved to accept this slate, and Denham Ward seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. This next goes to the State Board of Education for its review and approval.

Under the topic “Pertinent legislation”, Michael Perry is reviewing lots of bills and highlighted several involving medical educations.

The topic of the newly aligned CAEP standards with the Maine standards and the implications of that was tabled.

Certification Update: *(Michael Perry)*

Michael presented the January 2025 numbers, highlighting that it was the busiest January for applications processed in the last four years. Denham Ward reported on the regional longitudinal data study, with round 2 starting with 14 SAUs involved.

TEAMe and EPP Report:

Dr. Sherry Pineau Brown from Colby College gave a report. She noted 4 items:

1. She thanked the committee on behalf of TEAMe for taking their advance and reducing the scope of the Annual Report.
2. Thomas College has held very successful new teacher academies and events.
3. UMPI as well has held very successful new teacher events.
4. Colby and Thomas are working with the surrounding SAUs and have formed the Central Maine Educators Consortium for collegial discussions and support.

Relative to LD 2222/Amending Chapter 115:

The remainder of the meeting focused on refining the language and definitions in a draft document related to credentialing and education.

Committee members were asked to review the final few pages of the draft document and to send suggested changes to Tom Keller by Friday, February 28. Tom will compile all of the changes and send them back out to the committee and to the full Board for review at the March 12, 2025 meeting.

Adjournment:

The February 26, 2025, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.