



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the April 30, 2025, Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 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 Daniel Chuhta; Michael Perry, Director of Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Erin Reinhard, Certification Coordinator; and Mary Becker, Temporary Staff, State Board of Education.

Guests: Gerry Durgin, MIAAA; Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent, RSU 34, MSSA/MCLA; Stacey Vannah, Health Ed Teacher, Brunswick High School; Mallory Cook, Director of Training and Early Educator Engagement at MEA; Jane Loxterkamp, EMCC; Gay Anne McDonald, MADSEC; Karen Bussell, Health Teacher, Skowhegan; Dr. Peter Lancia, Superintendent, Westbrook; Beth Linevitch, Portland Public Schools; Kathy Yardley, UMF; Katie Rybakova, Chair, LSOE Thomas College; Ezekiel Kimball, University of Maine; and Rose Angell, PhD Teaching and Administration of Physical Education programs.

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 Denham Ward, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted by those present to accept the February 26, 2025, and March 26, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

Public Comment:

No public comment was given.

Higher Education: *(Michael Perry)*

Michael Perry gave a higher education update and noted that the Roux Institute of Northeastern University would be undergoing a third review soon and that the slate of reviewers for Beal University is being formed. Regarding EPPs, there are three regular review visits planned for this fall including Maine

College of Art and Design, University of Maine at Augusta, and the University of New England with a CAEP review at UMF. Michael will send final dates and EPPS to Fern Desjardins and Tom Keller.

All of the EPP Annual Reports have been submitted to Michael. Review of the reports will begin soon.

Regarding pertinent legislation, Michael Perry noted the bill on paying student teachers and cooperating teachers, has been turned into a resolve to study the paying of student teachers. On the national front, there are many changes implemented or expected including amendments to the Higher Education Act.

Certification Update: *(Michael Perry)*

Michael Perry reported that there were 3,043 applications processed in March, including 464 initial or additional certification applications. The wait time on the phones was 5 minutes or less. A preference was stated to find an easier way to renew expired certifications.

Michael reported that there were 896 CHRC violation letters sent, which is down somewhat.

Denham Ward hopes to have a report on the Regional Longitudinal Data Study for the next meeting.

Report from TEAMe:

Dr. Katie Rybakova from Thomas College gave the TEAMe and EPP report. She noted that they too were watching LD 1327, the bill on paying student teachers and there were many questions such as if this only applied to UMS campuses and how the other EPPs could participate. She noted that they spoke about the local portfolio pathway to certification and had concerns about a baseline for that pathway (she suggested a bachelor's which is already required) and potential conflicts of interest that could be resolved by having the portfolio reviewed by other superintendents. Thomas College hosted a Teacher Academy which was attended by some 68 Maine high schoolers.

Stacy Vannah, a health teacher from Brunswick, then offered a public comment since all of her students had left. She spoke against 1.18 a combined teacher of health and physical education endorsement. She noted the extreme needs at present for a strong healthy education including mental, emotional, behavioral, and physical and that a dual endorsement meant a teacher would or could have two different roles. The rationale of serving small schools that perhaps could not afford two teachers was discussed. Stacy suggested that the dual endorsement identify specific course work and relevant teacher experience to gain the endorsement.

Amendments to Chapter 115:

Discussion ensued as the committee continued to work through proposed amendments to Chapter 115. There was much discussion about Middle Level endorsements including adding a middle level methods course, replacing the general human development course with an adolescent development course and reviewing the ESOL transitional pathway as a model for the middle level endorsement. Members were to review, and this is where the committee will start reviewing next time.

Adjournment:

The April 30, 2025, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.