



Certification and Higher Education Committee
MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the March 25, 2026 Meeting

Minutes of March 25, 2026, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting.

Members present: Victoria Cohen, Denham Ward, Tom Keller, and Mary Becker, Interim Staff and Craig Flowers, Staff for the State Board of Education.

Others present: Sherry Pineau Brown, Colby College, Mallory Cook, MEA, Erin Straine, UM, Jon Moody, Superintendent and MSMA liaison to the SBE, Dan Chuhta, MDOE Deputy Commissioner, Michael Perry, MDOE.

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Chair Keller. Committee members, staff and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

II. It was moved by Denham to accept the minutes, seconded by Vicky and voted unanimous to accept.

III. No public comments were offered.

IV. Higher Education update

A. UMS Student Teaching Stakeholder Report 2025 - discussion centered on if this should be brought to the full Board and what the outcome of that might be. Members thought paying student teachers and cooperating teachers is a great idea but costs a lot of money. This also raises the issue of equity, especially supporting public university students vs private university students. Vicky wondered if this was coming from the student teachers themselves, have they been saying it's a financial hardship? Sherry said it was since they are seeing interns in other fields being paid. Compensating cooperating teachers is also a need although Sherry thinks most EPPs are doing that.

Vicky thought this could be a good topic for the State Board, but advocated for a broader view on how student teaching is accomplished.

There was some discussion about student teaching requirements for people in the apprenticeship and residency programs.

B. Beal University review and report status - Have been missing a piece of the report from a review committee member but that has been rectified. A draft is being prepared for the Board. Denham asked where his comments as the State Board Observer would be captured, and Michael replied that he should save those for the State Board meeting. He has a concern about the quality of the library. We should have the report in hand by next CHE committee meeting.

C. Classical Planning Institute is a 501(c)3 non-degree granting business launching the Classic Planning Academy (CPA) for an on-line PhD program in architecture. They are seeking temporary state approval which would allow them to seek accreditation from NECHE. The commissioner will forward a report to the state Board which can then vote on temporary approval. The MDOE recommends an approval of a temporary approval to start the accreditation process. The State Board might want to question their preparation for scaling, may wish to ask about their doing this in Maine, and providing student services.

Tom recommended that the committee review the materials at its April meeting and make a recommendation for the May SBE meeting. Michael forwarded the materials to Vicky and Denham.

Michael will connect Tom and Craig with the head of the CPA.

D. UM and UMM mid-cycle review is underway today. Three programs are under review at UMaine although it seems to be the instructional delivery that is changing which probably did not necessitate this review, but the review is appreciated. The program are a dual enrollment with elementary and special ed, dual enrollment in elementary education and early elementary education, and a Masters of Arts program in early education.

E. NE/Roux Institute review - Report is being circulated among review team members. They are in the final drafting stages. Timeline is "please, as soon as possible".

V. Certification update.

A. MEIS summary - A dip from January, 3 retired teachers regained their certificates and there were 358 initial teacher certificate applications processed. Starting to be inquiries from charter schools about supporting educators to become certified. Since charter public schools are public, the heads of schools act as superintendents. Thus they are able to access the local portfolio pathway.

Slides that Michael produces monthly are attached to these minutes.

Tom asked about whether calls were taken via a foreign call center and Michael thought perhaps the fingerprinting folks may have such a system.

Tom mentioned the need to parse initial teacher certificate applications to be sorted by traditional (pathway 1), alternative (pathway 2), local portfolio (pathway 3), and also residency and apprenticeship. Michael took note of this.

Denham has been working to create a new data display using these data. Michael will introduce Denham to Suzanne LeFlameau who is also a data visualization person.

B. CHRC violations report. Currently there is no way to look at these violations longitudinally but Michael and his staff have created a workaround. They will be taking a monthly snapshot and will review the ids after a few months to determine if these are new folks or the same ones month after month.

C. Certifications violations report. This still requires a connection between NEO and MEIS data systems. Erin is meeting with regional superintendents and CTE directors with longer lists to go over violations issues person by person.

Dan mentioned "...the floor amendment they are recommending to allow current holders of the elementary and secondary certificates to be upgraded if you will to the new grade spans because otherwise existing certificate holders would have to go back through a process of applying for a new certificate with the new grade spans and that would have been counterproductive to the whole point so we whipped up some draft language and that has been shared with the co-chair of the committee to possibly make a floor amendment because otherwise we would not able to do that..." Tom asked that that be sent to us and Dan replied he is not the owner of it. But he could get the language.

He did say that a person holding a 7-12 282 would have to apply for a new 6-12 282 if this was not done. Michael mentioned that there needs to be an opt-in option for those people who don't want a different grade span than what they hold.

VI. TEAMe and EPP report - Sherry Brown

Dr. Brown noted the difficulty in getting data from program completers for the annual EPP report.

She spoke about the Central Maine Education Consortium, that she and Katie Rybakova at Thomas College are leading with participation of KVCC. Special Interest Groups have been formed in areas such as arts integration SIG since music teachers meet separately from visual arts, and from dance, etc., and integrating arts into the general curriculum. Also a teacher workforce development SIG and an alternative education SIG.

VII. Other business

A. Chapter 115 - the final report was a 8 to 3 OTP with amendments vote resulting in stripping the emergency designation, accepting the 9 day comment period following the public hearing instead of 10 days, returning the 282 endorsement to 3 grade spans and taking the 7 to 12 and making it 6 to 12, all 7-12 grade spans to become 6-12, and adding the math specialist certificate.

Some discussion ensued regarding outreach to local credentialing committees and SAUs. Michael said he would look at what was done last time.

B. Chapter 114 - Tom encouraged the members of TEAMe to gather information on EPP standards across the nation and internationally. Michael's colleagues across the nation, NASBE and the TEAMe members can all be sources.

A question was raised about statutory authority, and the AG's office has said it is defensible but weak.

VIII. Tom reminded the group that the next meeting is April 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.