



Certification and Higher Education Committee

MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the June 24, 2026 Meeting

Minutes of June 24, 2026, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting.

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

Others present: Jon Moody, Superintendent and MSMA liaison to the SBE, Dan Chuhta, MDOE Deputy Commissioner, Michael Perry, MDOE, Flynn Ross, USM, Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent and President, MCLA, James Ford, SBE, Megan London, EMCC, Leigh Alley, UMA, Holly Blair, MPA, Debra McIntyre, MCLA

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

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

III. No public comments were offered.

IV. Higher Education update

A. Michael reported that the UMPI EPP review will be held October 18-21 and the EMCC one will be held November 15-18. Vicky volunteered to be the SBE Observer on the EMCC visit.

The architecture school is on the temporary degree-granting authorization and will need a full review, so he has started collecting review team members for that. Also, Tufts University, through their partnership with Maine Med is going to need to get reauthorized in Maine, as an out-of-state institution acting in Maine, and so he will need to put together a review team for that.

It was later determined that Denham, as a faculty member for Tufts, has a conflict of interest and should not serve as SBE Observer.

B. Annual EPP reports from Eastern Maine Community College, Husson University, Maine College of Art and Design, and Saint Joseph's College were reviewed and a motion was made by Vicky to receive and place these reports in the file, seconded by Denham and it was voted unanimously to accept.

V. Certification update.

A. MEIS summary - There were 506 initial teacher certificate applications processed which is a high number. Overall 2770 applications were processed. Slides that Michael produces monthly are attached to these minutes.

B. CHRC violations report. Michael reminded the committee that cleared clean CHRC reports that previously were a single click now our certification team has 12 clicks to get to the same product and have to manually process every clean CHRC in a way they never did previously.

VI. TEAMe and EPP report

Dr. Leigh Alley reported on TEAMe and UMA activities.

UMPI has a new Director of Student Teaching and Field Experience. That person will begin July 1st.

USM has appointed Dr. Kathy Filona as its new interim dean for what will be the College of Education. Dr. Filona has held several positions at USM, Associate Dean for the School of Education and Human Development, Director for the Center of Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation, and Chair of the Department of Teacher Education.

Finally the CAOC (Chief Academic Officers Council of the University of Maine System) has approved an intent to plan for us at the University of Maine at Augusta. We are going to plan in the coming year for a Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education. It will replace our post-bacs, which we will teach out.

VII. Other business

A. Tom noted that a small working group has drafted a discussion document on the procedure with a timeline/flowchart and an application form. That group consists of Paulette Bonneau, Heather Manchester, Jon Doty, Jon Moody, Bill Tracy, and Tom Keller. Much discussion ensued with clarification that the SAU or CTE applies to the C&HE Committee that they will use either Template A or B or one of their own design. That application should include one

of the two reviewed templates or a unique one. The C&HE Committee approves it or not, and, if approved, recommends it to the full Board for approval.

Then the SAU or CTE works with an individual to complete the template.

There was a discussion about the need for members to review the templates.

It was again pointed out that the current Chapter 114 has language to the effect that alternative programs should be reviewed with the same requirements as EPPs and on a 5 year schedule. This begs the question of what is a program, which while obvious with EPPs is less so with this local portfolio process that any of 249 SAUs plus 27 CTE can utilize. A limited number of templates (i.e., A and B) may help resolve that review.

There was a discussion that perhaps this 5 year review could be a roundtable of superintendents/CTE directors and State Board members to assess the success of the initiative.

There was a discussion about having the candidate apply for transcript analysis first, to guide the design of the local portfolio. The schools can form the individualized portfolio around whatever the transcript analysis says is still outstanding. And that would have the added benefit of preventing the district from trying to find a creative way to satisfy a requirement that's already been done.

An issue remains with some folks about the use of the word 'district' in Chapter 115 since it is not an official term.

Tom noted other items on the agenda which are now acting as placeholders until we can make space for them.

A need was expressed for long term data on which route a teacher took, how long they stayed in teacher, etc.

VIII. A reminder that the next meeting is July 22 at 10:30 am, the regular time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

