



Certification and Higher Education Committee
MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the July 22, 2026 Meeting

Minutes of July 22, 2026, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting.

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

Others present: Jon Moody, Superintendent and MSMA liaison to the SBE, Dan Chuhta, MDOE Deputy Commissioner, Michael Perry, MDOE, Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent and President, MCLA, Larry Ronco, UMF, Heather Perry, Gorham, Erin Connor, UM, Mallory Cook, MEA, Wendi Malenfant, UMPI and Debra McIntyre, MCLA

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:31 am by Chair Keller. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Jon Moody noted that he was at the new Margaret Chase Smith School this morning and that they have every single summer school in one place. So they have their 21st century grant, their early childhood, their partnerships with Skowhegan Outdoors as well as robotics at the middle school and the high school. 458 people in total.

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

III. No public comments were offered.

IV. Higher Education update

A. Annual EPP reports from Thomas College, University of Maine, University of Maine at Augusta, and the University of Maine at Farmington were reviewed and a motion was made by Denham to receive and place these reports in the file, seconded by Tom and it was voted unanimously to accept. It was noted that Thomas College is doing an amazing amount of work, both within the school and in the community. There was a question as to how their Teaching Cooperative relieved some financial stress as they stated. Denham suggested a question for the next Annual Report on how much classroom management is being taught at EPPs? PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) was mentioned. This is tied in with Inclusive Schools as well. Larry Ronco at UMF mentioned the alumni and employer surveys they conduct to identify areas of need. This might be another question for the Annual Report - do you conduct surveys of

alumni and employers to identify areas of need? If so, what are you finding and how are you addressing them?

UMaine included some pathway 2 data in their report. And there was a 3.8% increase in enrollment. Tom suggested opening up the link for the executive summary for the report from the College of Education and Human Development Recommendations for Future Action. The ratio of full-time equivalent faculty (37.5:1) seemed oddly out balanced with the adjunct faculty ratio (9:1). Perhaps the question needs to be reworded, something like what is the full load for a supervisor and how many are in that situation? Or what is the cumulative hours of the supervision?

There is an impressive enrollment at UMA considering the size of the program. There was an unidentified acronym in their data (PB) which possibly means Post Baccalaureate.

Asking EPPs for a copy of or the URL for their Student Teaching Handbook may be of use across institutions.

Larry Ronco of UMF was congratulated on UMF's recent CAEP visit and positive review. He noted that preparing elementary teachers was their forte.

Michael spoke to other issues:

- regarding Northeastern University, there are 2 moving parts that the State Board should want to be aware of. One is that they would need to complete full degree, permanent ongoing degree granting authorization through the legislature. That's the statutory requirement. The state board is still expected to review an institution and to give a recommendation to the legislature. Secondly, the other moving piece with it is as of next week, or whenever, the effective date of non-emergency legislation passed during the last session becomes law and there will be going into law and a new optional power, to say it, of the State Board.

It may be that the SBE wants to send a letter to the ECA telling them we are comfortable with this action. (See LD 2098.)

- Michael then pointed to his work with NC-SARA.

- Michael Perry noted that he would have the slate of reviewers to UMPI and EMCC very soon for the fall visits, and then to the State Board for an August vote to formally vote in the review team members.

V. Certification update.

A. MEIS summary - There were 577 initial teacher certificate applications processed. Overall 3,076 applications were processed.

B. CHRC violations report. Michael reminded the committee that cleared clean CHRC reports are back to being a single click. He said when this backlog has cleared, he can go back to the data snapshots he was taking month over month to determine if these violators are the same

each time or new ones each month. He also mentioned LD 2192 regarding educators in 'covered investigations' and how the MDOE will deal with this new law.

VI. TEAMe and EPP report

Dr. Wendi Malenfant reported on TEAMe and UMPI activities.

Not a lot to update since most people are on summer break.

UMPI is preparing its self-report for the upcoming review. They hosted the Chewonki owl presentation tied to their UMPI EDU program for kids. They read owl books, dissected owl pellets, made owl masks and had other owl themed activities and free ice cream. In addition they are partnering with the Caribou Community Schools to increase the sub teacher pipeline. CACE (the Central Aroostook Collaborative for Education) is preparing a workshop for new teachers. Denham asked a question about an education program at UMFK. Apparently there is no stand-alone program but courses are available.

VII. Other business

A. Tom noted no action had been taken on the local portfolio pathway due to vacations and fatigue. But he committed to sending a next draft out soon.

He did confirm that Chapter 115 will become law on August 19 but is currently under review by the Assistant Ag for Education.

VIII. A reminder that the next meeting is August 26 at 10:30 am, the regular time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.