



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on May 14, 2025, at the Burton Cross State Office Building. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward and Phat Thai. James Ford attended the meeting via zoom.

Absent with Excuse: Cedar Worster

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Linda Fuller, Chair, Colby College Program Review Team; Sherry Pineau Brown, Colby College Coordinator of Teacher Education; and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Temporary Staff.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

The roll call was taken by Mary Becker, and Chair Desjardins declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by member, Phat Thai: The vision of the Maine State Board of Education is that all students will receive a high-quality education leading to graduation with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be prepared for future learning, careers, and life.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chair Desjardins withdrew an item to the agenda under New Business – Appointment of a State Board Member to the Maine Charter School Commission as item IX.C.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Denham Ward and unanimously voted by those present to accept the April 9, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern attended Legislative Action Committee meetings on April 11, 18, May 2 and 9. She followed up with testimony and attended most of the work sessions on the following bills:
 - Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 1087 An Act to Increase the State's Share of Major Capital School Construction Costs
 - Against: L.D. 1256 An Act to Support Healthy Meal Programs in Maine Schools by Allowing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to Make Loans to Repair and Renovate School Kitchens and Cafeterias
 - Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 1588 An Act to Ensure Transparency in Student Transfer Requests
 - In Support of: L.D. 1719 An Act Regarding Superintendent Agreements for Transfer Students*
 - Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 1760 An Act to Promote Public Education in Maine by Amending the Laws Governing Student Transfers
 - In Support of: L.D. 1887 Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Newly Constructed Schools
 - Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 1892 An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects
- *L.D. 1719 was voted Ought to Pass as amended with a minority report of Ought Not to Pass. Committee members indicated support for having a form like the one presented by MSSA – *MSSA Superintendent Transfer Request Determination Form (2025-2026 School Year)*. The State Board will review the form at a future meeting and provide feedback to MSSA.
- The Governor's Commission on School Construction met virtually on April 11. The Commission reviewed the second draft of the Interim Summary (no longer titled *Interim Report*) and discussed work priorities going forward.
- Fern attended the Recruitment and Retention Workgroup meeting of the Key State Leaders to Advance Strategies for Eliminating Educator Shortages Committee. The three workgroups collaborated in the Key State Leaders meeting on May 7 in identifying mutual long-term goals and action steps. The group

prioritized the convening of partners and educators to gather data on successes, challenges and needs.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- During the opening days of April, Paulette spent a day (April 3rd) interviewing candidates for the Board's open Office Specialist II position. Several days following, Paulette's time was used following up with references to make a selection process. The Committee had a final interview last evening with one of the candidates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in April.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on April 30, 2025.

- There were 24 participants in attendance, including Board members, Victoria Kornfield, Denham Ward, Fern Desjardins and Tom Keller.
- 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 University of Maine at Farmington (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.
- 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.
- Dr. Katie Rybakova from Thomas College gave the TEAME and EPP reports. 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.

- 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 they will start at the next meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The CTE committee met via Zoom on May 5, 2025.

- Ed reported that in the past couple of weeks he submitted testimony on behalf of the State Board of Education to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on a couple of CTE related bills:
 - The first bill, Ed submitted online, Neither For Nor Against on LD972: An Act to Change the Entity Responsible for Operating the Career and Technical Education Center in Machias to Regional School Unit 37.
 - Ed testified in person supporting LD 1764, which would allow smaller schools to hire teachers fulltime with fewer students in each program. The bill was scheduled for a work session on Monday, May 12, but was postponed until Friday, May 16.
- The CTE Committee approved and sent on to the full Board, for consideration today, the Third Quarter Perkins report for FY '25. The report shows allocations and expenditures for FY 25, FY 24, and FY 23, with FY 23 closed out. DOE has been working with Secondary CTE's to spend down FY 25. This year, DOE will get its Perkins estimate from the Federal government later than usual, about a couple of weeks from now rather than near the end of March, which means the application deadline for schools will be adjusted to align with post-secondary timelines. This could also have an impact on the Community College System.
- The CTE Committee heard about the executive order signed, focusing on reviewing federal workforce development programs, expanding apprenticeship opportunities, and integrating AI-related activities.
- The Community College System is in the final process of signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maine Department of Education and the University of Maine System concerning the state funded aspirations program, which supports the bulk of dual and concurrent enrollment activity in the state

of Maine. The MOU sets up a calendar expectation for reporting outcomes and supports student eligibility for dual and concurrent enrollment.

- MACTE Executive Director Dave Keaton reported that the 2025 Maine Student of the Year Gala was really successful and that each of the 27 students honored received \$1000 scholarships, half of which was paid for by Sean Moody and half by a foundation with which Moody Collision Centers is associated. MACTE continues to look at and present testimony on CTE related legislation, as does, of course, the CTE Committee.
- MACTE President and United Technology Center Director Amanda Peterson announced that they recently inducted 118 students into the National Technical Honor Society. They also had 30 students participating in Eastern Maine Community College's graduation - 15 students receiving their associate's degrees, and the other 15 receiving a Certificate in Business.
- Mid-Coast Center of Technology Director Bobby Deetjen says they are going through end of the year testing, in which individuals go from being a student to a professional. Their Café season is wrapping up during which they have served about 75 people a day for lunch four days a week for six weeks.
- St John Valley Tech Director Keven Lavoie stated CNA exams had been taken, he thought successfully, and that CDL road tests were being taken, again with success and that Adult Ed CDL was also going well.
- Kate Howell from Educate Maine says they've closed applications for their Education Leaders Experience for this year, that's earlier than usual, with more than 30 applications for this year's cohort. She says there are a lot of teachers, including many CTE folks, who have applied.
- Much of the meeting involved a discussion about a proposal from MACTE for \$60,000 in Briggs Trust money for FY 25-26, designed to support both CTE Educators, Directors and other leadership through targeted training aligned with instructional innovation, legal responsibilities, artificial intelligence integration, equity and long-term strategic planning. The CTE Committee laid out its expectations for developing the idea, which may very well be presented to the full Board. Currently there is around \$252,000 in Briggs Trust funds which could be allocated.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee has been busy during the month of April.

Tom Keller, Ed Morin, and Chair Fern Desjardins have prepared and provided testimony on several bills.

- Creating an Additional Pathway to Certify Industrial Arts Teachers
- LD 1087 An Act to Increase the State's Share of Major Capital School Construction Costs
- LD 1256 An Act to Support Healthy Meal Programs in Maine Schools by Allowing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to Make Loans to Repair and Renovate

School Kitchens and Cafeterias

- LD 1163 An Act to Foster Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools
- by Creating an Additional Pathway to Certify Industrial Arts Teachers
- LD 1588 An Act to Ensure Transparency in Student Transfer Requests
- LD 1495 An Act to Make the Professional Standards Board Responsible for the Education Certification Process
- LD 607 An Act to Require the Approval of Superintendent Agreements Regarding Transfers of Students Between School Administrative Units

Student voices (Phat Thai, Cedar Worster, and James Ford):

The Student Voices Committee met on May 13, 2025.

- Cedar Worster is taking an AP test today and will not be in attendance.
- The Commissioner's Student Cabinet met on April 17, 2025. The topic was Restorative Practice, and the presenter was Stacey Barlow, Director on the Maine Department of Education restorative practices program.
What helps you feel safe, seen, and supported in your school.
 1. When harm happens, what conversations or actions help people feel heard.
 2. How should others respond if you unintentionally hurt someone, or if you've been harmed.
 3. What does accountability rooted in care and respect look like?

Student opinion was extremely interesting and ranged in answers based on age/grade. Many students feel safe and respected within schools with some issues.

The next and final meeting is May 15, 2025, and the topic is Climate action.

- The MEPRI graduation report presentation is in the works between Cedar and Phat, and they will present at the June Board meeting.
- The student membership interviews were held on April 4th. Great students, and the interviews were successful.
- Deering High School graduation for Phat is on Thursday June 5th @ Merrill Auditorium.
- The new rising Junior (name isn't publicly revealed) will be taking Phat's seat on the Board as of July 22, 2025.
- Phat is hosting school dialogue within "Seeds of Peace" club on May 20th on current state of Maine education.

Student Membership (Edmond Morin):

Ed plans to testify on the student nominee's behalf at their public hearing.

Student Transfers Ad Hoc Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The ad hoc committee did not meet in April.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield, Thomas Keller, and James Ford):

The Charter Commission met on May 13, 2025.

- Victoria Kornfield reported that the Charter Commission voted for the Moxie School to go forward with conditions to their application. They plan to open the school in September of 2026.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

The Professional Standards Board did not meet.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):

- The Finance and Audit Committee met on April 16. The committee reviewed the Quarter 1 Report, approved the Comparative Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for The Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and approved the recommendation for a FY2026 member dues increase. The increase for Maine will be \$400 (1.7%).
- NASBE's Board of Directors met on April 23. They received the recommendations from the Finance and Audit Committee and approved both the audit report and FY2026 member dues increase. Committee and Affiliate Chairs (or designees) reported out on their recent meetings.
- Processes to receive recommendations for officer elections to the 2025-26 NASBE Board of Directors and nominations for the 2025 NASBE awards were released to the membership in April via email. Recommendations are due by Friday, June 13, 2025.
- Fern facilitated the NASBE Exchange on May 5, as well as the Northeast Region session of the Exchange. Some of the topics discussed were the loss of ESSER funds and appeals already denied; teacher shortage and recruitment efforts; math literacy; and getting resources to homeless students. Reg Leichthy of Foresight Law + Policy provided federal updates.
- NASBE Communications released the State Education Standard to all NASBE members in an email on May 7. The issue explores student transitions between schools as a factor in student success. State policymakers have a role in ensuring that schools work together to prepare students to transition well from preschool to kindergarten, elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to postsecondary life.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF COLBY EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE CHAPTER 114

BACKGROUND: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) offered by institutions of higher education in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific certification areas included in their review.

Colby College in Waterville, Maine, last received a five-year approval of its educator preparation programs in 2020. The program applied for reapproval in 2024 and submitted a self-assessment report indicating their adherence to the EPP standards in Rule Chapter 114. A review team chaired by Linda Fuller, MEd, of the College of the Atlantic was approved by the State Board of Education on March 12, 2025, with James E. Ford assigned as the State Board observer.

The formal in-person review of Colby College’s educator preparation programs took place between March 16-19, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by Colby EPP staff to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team’s findings. Upon the finalization of the review team report, a copy was formally received by the State Board of Education during its regular meeting on April 9, 2025, along with the program’s self-report materials, in accordance with Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11.

The review team has recommended five-year approval of Colby’s existing programs currently up for renewal: Secondary English/Language Arts (100), Social Studies (200), Mathematics (300), Physical Science (350), Life Science (395), and PK-12 World Languages.

The review team has further recommended an initial two-year approval of Colby’s new PK-12 educator preparation programs: Dance (517), Music (614), Art (620), and Theater (625). At a later date – and upon Colby’s submission of a satisfactory two-year report to the State Board, no later than July 1, 2027, showing that the unit’s intended development of these programs has come to fruition, including subject-specific methods content – the review team has recommended that the State Board vote to continue the approval of these programs for the remainder of Colby’s five-year approval cycle.

Now, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, it is before the State Board of Education whether to accept the review team's recommendations and approve Colby College's educator preparation programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, the State Board of Education accept the Colby College EPP review team's recommendations to grant a five-year approval to Colby's renewing educator preparation programs for the period of Fall 2024 through Fall 2029; and further, that the State Board of Education accept the review team's recommendation to grant a two-year approval to Colby's new educator preparation programs in Dance, Music, Art, and Theatre, for the period of Spring 2025 through Spring 2027 with an interim report to be submitted no later than July 1, 2027, for the Board's subsequent consideration of continued approval for the remainder of Colby's five-year approval cycle.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Edmond Morin, and unanimously voted by those present that pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, the State Board of Education accept the Colby College EPP review team's recommendations to grant a five-year approval to Colby's renewing educator preparation programs for the period of Fall 2024 through Fall 2029; and further, that the State Board of Education accept the review team's recommendation to grant a two-year approval to Colby's new educator preparation programs in Dance, Music, Art, and Theatre, for the period of Spring 2025 through Spring 2027 with an interim report to be submitted no later than July 1, 2027, for the Board's subsequent consideration of continued approval for the remainder of Colby's five-year approval cycle.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224)

BACKGROUND: As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224), requires a designated eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020, and has been re-approved in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Further requirements are as follows:

SEC. 121. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ELIGIBLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of an eligible agency under this title shall include:

(3) convening and meeting as an eligible agency (consistent with State law and procedure for the conduct of such meetings) at such time as the eligible agency

determines necessary to carry out the eligible agency's responsibilities under this title, but not less than 4 times annually;

The State Board of Education Chair has requested, in accordance with Title 20-A, Section 405, 7, that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team submits a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the third report for FY2025.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present for the State Board of Education to approve the Quarterly report for the period of January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Mary Becker by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred. When you have your last meeting in May, please submit your expense voucher so it can get processed.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.
- The State Board will hold a special workshop and business meeting on May 21, 2025, to continue its review of proposed amendments to Chapter 115, Part II and to consider action on a Review Committee for Northeastern University Programs at Roux Institute.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mary Becker, Temporary Staff
State Board of Education