



## **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 June 11, 2025, at the Burton Cross State Office Building in Augusta, Maine and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Victoria Cohen; James Ford; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; Phat Thai; and Cedar Worster.

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, MDOE; Mary Becker, State Board of Education Temporary Staff; Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist II, State Board of Education; Peter Geiger, former board member; Heather Manchester, Superintendent, RSU 17/MSAD 17; Lisa Sawin, Architect, Harriman; and Melissa O'Neal-Low, Director of Special Projects, MDOE.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Mary Becker took roll call. Chair Desjardins declared a quorum present.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Read by student 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:**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the May 14, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the May 21, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Peter Geiger, former member of the State Board of Education, recognized Fern for having served four years as chair of the Board. He stated his appreciation for her service.

On behalf of the Board, Vice Chair Bonneau also recognized Fern for her dedicated service as chair and presented her with a gift from the Board. Fern's last day as chair will be June 30, 2025. She will continue serving her second term on the Board.

Fern recognized Phat Thai for his two years of service as a student member of the State Board. Phat was presented with a certificate and gifts.

Melissa O'Neal-Low, Director of Special Projects, MDOE, expressed gratitude to both Phat and Fern for their contributions to the State Board.

**STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:**

**PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS**

Fern Desjardins, Chair of the Board, read a procedure for the Board when going into executive session to review requests for review of the Superintendents' decisions on student transfer requests.

The Board will be considering requests for Board review of the Superintendent's decisions regarding requested transfers of students to another school district, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205(6)(F). The Board will be going into executive session to consider the requests because each one involves reviewing and discussing information contained in student records made confidential by the federal law known as FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The parents and any attorney representing a parent are welcome to attend the executive session for the discussion of their particular student's transfer, as are the Superintendents of the school districts involved in that requested transfer. The Board will review each of the transfer requests in separate executive sessions. Today, the Board has two transfer requests.

After the Board comes out of executive session, the Board will entertain a motion and take a vote on the disposition of the request in public session.

The Board's role in these proceedings is to review the Superintendent's decisions based on the record that was before them at the time they made the decision. Although the statute directs the Board to "communicate with" the parties involved, which the Board has done, the Board cannot accept any new evidence pertaining to a transfer request that was not considered or not available in the record at the time of the Superintendents' decision.

The Board provides for public comment, which was explained earlier in the meeting. In the executive session the same rules apply for public comment and there will be a three-minute time limit for comment. This is not a time for debate or a time to introduce new evidence. It is a time for families to highlight the things they want the Board to consider in the record.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from LB to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:29 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:53 PM.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted that given the information the Board received, it was in LB's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from EW-C to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:57 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:13 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Edmond Morin, and voted eight in favor with one abstention (James Ford) that given the information the Board received, it was in EW-C's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

### **Chair, Fern Desjardins**

- Fern was honored to represent the State Board as a speaker at the May 14, 2025 County Teacher of the Year Announcement Ceremony at the Hall of Flags. Recognizing the 16 exemplary teachers for the outstanding work they do in their classrooms brought her great pride and joy as an educator.
- She was invited to attend the Maine Small Schools Coalition meeting at the University of Maine on May 16 to provide a Legislative update on bills the State Board has testified. Fern spoke of the work with the Maine School Superintendents Association on student transfer appeals and encouraged superintendents to provide feedback on the form being developed with their Association. She also spoke about bills dealing with school construction and the School Revolving Renovation Fund and asked for their suggestions on both topics. Lastly, she brought up Rule Chapter 115, The Credentialing of Education Personnel, and asked for feedback on specific endorsements.
- The Governor's Commission on School Construction met virtually on May 23 and held a virtual Breakout Session on June 5 to discuss the School Revolving Renovation Fund and the idea of decoupling debt service and the Essential Programs and Services funding formula. The Commission also met on June 6 to discuss the maintenance of school facilities and the local contribution toward construction and renovation.
- Through emails and a Google Meet virtual meeting on June 2, Supt. Jonathan Moody, MSSA liaison to the State Board; Robbie Feinberg, Director of Communications and Government Relations, MSMA; and Fern worked on changes to the first and second drafts of the student transfer request form to come up with the *Student Transfer Request Form SY25-26* and the *Student Transfer Request Determination Form SY25-26* that were discussed in the morning workshop. Fern thanked Tom, Wendy, and Denham for providing feedback on the early drafts.
- Fern attended the Student Voices group meeting on June 9 to get Phat and Cedar's input on the Board's *Committees* policy and how their work fits in with the policy. Attendees discussed making student membership a meaningful experience.
- She thanked Office Specialist Selection Ad Hoc Committee Chair Paulette and members Wendy and Denham for completing their work with the hiring of Erica Tompkins. Erica, who was introduced to the Board in the morning workshop, began working for the Board on May 30.

- Fern also thanked and expressed her deepest gratitude to Mary Becker, former secretary specialist to the Board, for providing temporary office services since March 10 and for training Erica beginning with her first day at work to June 13. Mary's 12 weeks with the State Board have been "a blessing to me and the entire Board."
- Paulette and Fern will conduct orientation with the Board's new member, Victoria Cohen, after today's business meeting.
- Lastly, Fern thanked members for providing her the opportunity to serve as chair of the Board during the last four years. "It's been a memorable and rewarding experience, one that I will hold near and dear for many years. It's brought me great joy to continue working on educational matters that I'm passionate about for ALL students."

#### **Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau**

Meetings Paulette attended included:

- May 5th: CTE Committee meeting  
Agenda Review with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and Fern
- May 13th: Attended and facilitated the second interview and hiring of the State Board's new Office Specialist II, Erica Thompson.  
In the evening, Paulette attended the Maine County Teacher of the Year Induction Dinner. She stated that "it was well done, and the energy in the room was positive and filled with passion."
- May 29th: Attended the CTE Committee meeting
- May 30th: Spent most of the day with Mary Becker and Erica, as it was Mary's first day with them. Erica comes to the State Board with varied work experiences that have provided her with the skills that will benefit the State Board. Recently, she worked for the Augusta School Department as an Ed Tech II. She also served as the Town Administrator for Somerville, Maine. Paulette stated that the Board is fortunate that Mary has been able to provide temporary services during this time and that she will stay for a couple weeks to train Erica.
- Paulette discussed with Board members the possibility of changing the all-day board meeting from the second Wednesday to the second Thursday of the month. Discussion will continue at the July meeting.
- Paulette recognized Fern Desjardins "for her leadership, unwavering determination, integrity, and diligence in serving as Chair of the board for the past four years. It has been an honor to serve as her Vice Chair."

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### ***School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):***

The School Construction Committee met on May 22.

The committee recommended the exhibit that will be taken up under New Business for Site Approval Consideration of the RSU 17/MSAD 17 New Middle School Construction Project.

An update was provided on the Governor's Commission on School Construction and committee members provided feedback on the Interim Summary. They also discussed construction bills in the Legislature.

***Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):***

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on May 28, 2025.

- There were 16 participants in attendance, including Chair Tom Keller and committee members Victoria Kornfield and Denham Ward.
- In the Public Comment time, Dr. Rose Angell discussed several documents she had sent in advance regarding the 515 Adapted Physical Education endorsement.  
No other Public Comments were offered.
- Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, reported on upcoming EPP and other IHE reviews. Michael provided updates on ongoing higher education reviews, including the assignment of State Board observers and progress on the Northeastern University Programmatic Review and the review of Beal University. He also mentioned a new application from Antioch University seeking main approval for their programs in Maine. The group discussed concerns about international student recruitment and retention in higher education, as well as the future of Title 2 higher education data collection, which may be at risk due to federal office closures.
- Michael Perry also reported on certification issues. The committee discussed the upcoming RFP process for a new MEIS system, with Michael noting that while he couldn't provide a specific timeline, implementation would likely take around a year if there were no technical issues. Tom suggested submitting requests for data points to ensure functionality for slicing and dicing conditional and regional data, which Michael confirmed was included in the RFP. Michael presented the monthly report, highlighting that 2,445 applications were processed in April including 385 initial teacher certifications and 595 teacher certification renewals, bringing the year-to-date total to approximately 14,000, with communication efforts showing increased activity despite a slight decrease in application processing compared to the previous month.  
The committee reviewed the final list of teaching shortage areas for the upcoming year, with Michael noting that while there were no major surprises, computer technology and theater were newly added to the list.

The committee also discussed that there were 861 CHRC violations, unchanged from the previous month, with Erin Reinhard now personally contacting superintendents with 10 or more violations.

Denham provided an update on the regional longitudinal data study, noting that while the contract with the region one center had ended, the work continued with good support from the region.

➤ TEAME and EPP report - Dr. Doris Santoro, Bowdoin College

Doris Santoro provided updates on two ongoing pilot programs in art and music certification, which are progressing well and may be included in the college's overall program approval in the coming years.

She raised concerns about the potential misalignment between EPP course expectations and certification interpretations, emphasizing the need for clear communication and distinction between students who have worked closely with EPPs and those who have not during transcript analysis. Michael clarified that three certification staff members are dedicated to transcript analysis, and the team is working to address any misalignment issues that may arise due to changing course requirements.

Doris announced her resignation from Bowdoin College effective June 30th, 2025, after 20 years in education, to pursue farming in Rangeley. She highlighted the success of the postgraduate pathway for student teachers and mentioned plans for hiring two new faculty positions, including a potential AI-related role. Doris also discussed the challenges faced by international students, noting their declining numbers and concerns about their safety in the current political climate. Denham suggested surveying EPP programs to determine the percentage of international students in education, as international enrollment may be decreasing across disciplines.

➤ Chapter 115 proposed amendments

The State Board will be discussing proposed amendments to Chapter 115, focusing on four key issues: middle-level certification, special education, adapted physical education certification, and coherence between Part 1 and Part 2 of the document. Tom outlined the timeline for the review process, aiming to submit the amendments to the AG's office by mid-June for a one-month legal review, followed by a 30-day public review and hearing in mid-July to early September. The goal is to have the State Board submit the final version to the Legislature by January 2026.

➤ Other business

Tom encouraged committee members to think about the future direction of education in Maine, this committee, and their role in certification and higher education, with the next committee meeting scheduled for June 25.

***Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):***

The CTE committee met in person and virtually via Zoom on May 29, 2025.

- DOE's CTE Perkins Grant Manager, Melissa Sherwood, provided an update on Perkins V federal funding, noting that Maine received the same amount for FY26 as the previous year, approximately \$7 million, and discussed the distribution of secondary and post-secondary funds. The CTE committee approved the Perkins exhibit for submission to the full State Board. State CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported on completed school reviews and the development of a guidance document for Perkins applications. He also mentioned upcoming summer trainings for directors. Mercedes Pour and Joan DeCosta provided updates on community college activities.
- MACTE Executive Director Dave Keaton reported positive outcomes for LD 1764, which was approved unanimously by the Education Committee. This law, if approved, would make it easier for smaller schools to hire Full Time instructors.
- Under Reports from the Field, Amanda Peterson, director of United Technology Center in Bangor, reported that her school has 786 students enrolled with 61 on a waiting list but 5 programs with open seats. She stated she'd have six CTE Exploratory programs in the fall with thirty to sixty students in each. This is the first summer she has not had to hire a team of people, though she still had to hire a diesel instructor. Kevin Lavoie, Director of the St. John Valley Technology Center, discussed end-of-year ceremonies and equipment purchases through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for welding, CDL and diesel. Bobby Deetjen, Director of the Mid-Coast School of Technology, highlighted strong enrollment and upcoming senior recognition events. Educate Maine's Kate Howell announced her promotion to Deputy Director at Educate Maine and the opening of proposals for the annual symposium in Bangor, themed "Connected."
- The CTE committee approved a proposal for Briggs Trust funding of a MACTE proposal to support strategic planning and professional development initiatives in Maine's CTE system. At the CTE Committee's suggestion, MACTE increased their budget request from \$5,000 to \$8,000 to make sure there was enough funding to cover anticipated costs. The full Board will consider the request later in this meeting at which time more information about the proposal will be presented.
- To round out the meeting, Educate Maine Deputy Director Kate Howell provided an overview of registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in Maine, explaining their structure, requirements, and benefits. This presentation had been requested by the CTE Committee.



**Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):**

The Legislative Action Committee has not met since the last State Board meeting.

**Student Membership (Edmond Morin):**

Ed reported that Abbey Hamilton was confirmed by the Senate and she will be the junior representative on the State Board when Phat's term ends on July 21.

**Student Voices (Cedar Worster and James Ford):**

The Student Voices Committee met on June 9, 2025.

- Cedar reported that the Commissioner's Student Cabinet held their last meeting virtually on May 15. Phat and Cedar attended. Special guests were Commissioner Makin and Ted Lyman, Climate Education Specialist at the MDOE.
- Fern attended the committee meeting to discuss the Board's *Committees* policy and making student membership a meaningful experience.
- Phat and Cedar reported on their plans for the workshop presentation of the *MEPRI Report on Analysis of Maine's High School Graduation Rates*.

**Student Transfers Ad Hoc Committee (Fern Desjardins):**

The ad hoc committee did not meet in May.

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

The Charter Commission met on June 10, 2025.

- Victoria Kornfield reported that the Charter Commission voted Leigh Weisenburger Albert as Chair and Thomas Keller as Vice Chair.
- The Commission discussed having a new request form for charter schools to take on debt.
- The committee approved new definitions for "school" and "campus".

**Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):**

The Professional Standards Board did not meet.

**NASBE:****Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):**

- Erin Benham, Northeastern Area Director, facilitated the June 2 NASBE Exchange. Reg Leichty of Foresight Law + Policy provided federal updates, which was followed by breakout sessions. The Northeast Region discussed the new mandated plans on cell phones in Connecticut schools and their being denied

nine of their ESSER fund projects that they had appealed. The other two projects were put in for a review. New Jersey is looking at cell phone policies and discussed their loss of ESSER funds. DC discussed their budget concerns with safety and security and special education certifications. Fern discussed the Board's work with Rule Chapter 115, The Credentialing of Education Personnel. After the breakout, all regions reported out on their sessions.

**UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:**

No Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; *SITE APPROVAL CONSIDERATION*; RSU 17/MSAD 17 - NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

STATEMENT OF FACT: RSU 17/MSAD 17 Superintendent Heather Manchester requests that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval for a new grades 6-8 Middle School to be constructed in the Town of South Paris.

RSU 17/MSAD 17 hired Harriman to evaluate construction options for the existing Oxford Hills Middle School North Campus (grades 7-8) in South Paris. Their analysis resulted in a recommendation of new construction that would include students from the leased building that houses the South Campus Middle School (grades 7-8) in Oxford. This project allows for the elimination of leased spaces including 13 classrooms, 2 Guidance Offices, 1 Reflection Room, and 1 Office Space and will expand programming to include the sixth grade from the district's 7 sending elementary schools.

A thorough site search led by Harriman was conducted to find a site that could support the needs of the new consolidated middle school. The search began with a total of 20 potential sites in the district. The results of a broad overview identified 6 sites which were narrowed to 4 using a comparison matrix. The final 4 sites were evaluated using a more comprehensive matrix developed by the design team and the school district. This process identified the existing North Campus Middle School 24.62 acre site at 100 Pine Street in South Paris as the best site for the new school.

This proposed site has a central location in the community, is well served by utility and transportation infrastructure, and can accommodate all athletic fields on site. Site investigations have identified some unsuitable soils which if not addressed could result in unacceptable building settlement. The Geotechnical Engineer recommends the installation of a Ground Improvement (GI) system in targeted areas as the most cost-

effective solution. The new school can be constructed while the existing schools remain operational. A completed Site Application is on file with the Department of Education and meets all the applicable criteria of State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

In a public meeting on May 7, 2025, constructing a new facility on this site was endorsed by a straw poll vote of 114 in favor and 9 opposed.

***Project Information:***

Project: RSU 17/MSAD 17 New Middle School Construction Project

Superintendent: Heather Manchester

Architect: Harriman

Engineer: Harriman

Schools to be closed: Oxford Hills Middle School North Campus and Oxford Hills Middle School South Campus

Total number of acres: 24.62

Purchase cost: \$0

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval for a new grades 6-8 Middle School construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On May 22, 2025 the School Construction Committee recommended that pursuant to MRS Title 20-A §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, this exhibit be placed on the June 11, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU 17/MSAD 17 for a new grades 6-8 Middle School construction project as presented.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present that pursuant to MRS Title 20-A §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU 17/MSAD 17 for a new grades 6-8 Middle School construction project as presented.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FY26 MAINE STATE BUDGET 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:

PART A ALLOTMENT and ALLOCATION §112 - WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION

(a) From the amount allotted to each State for a fiscal year, the eligible agency shall make available—

(1) not less than 85 percent for distribution to local eligible recipients

(2) not more than 10 percent to carry out State leadership activities

(A) not more than 2 percent to serve State correctional institutions (Arthur R Gould School)

(B) not less than \$60,000 and not more than \$150,000 shall be available for services that prepare individuals for non-traditional fields

(C) an amount equal to 0.1 percent shall be made available for the recruitment of special populations to enroll in CTE programs

(3) an amount equal to not more than 5 percent, for administration of the State plan

PART B STATE PROVISIONS §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;

In accordance with § 121 – Within State Allocation, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team has prepared the FY2026 Perkins budget allocations and submits this budget to the State Board of Education for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The State Board of Education approve the FY2026 Perkins State Budget for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance to §121 of

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 that the State Board of Education approve the FY2026 Perkins State Budget for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance to §121 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE MAINE ADMINISTRATORS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FY26 GEORGE BRIGGS GRANT AWARD**

BACKGROUND: The State Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Committee recommends to the State Board of Education any and all pertinent materials so that the State Board may perform its duties, including its fiduciary responsibilities, as the agency responsible for the administration and oversight of the state career and technical education (CTE) program.

The committee oversees the George M. Briggs Award. It reviews proposals to make recommendations for the approval of programs to enhance career and technical education to the State Board of Education. The committee requires the following testimonial statement be included verbally and in printed materials associated with events and activities supported by George Briggs Trust funding: "The George M. Briggs Trust was established in February 1948 through the generosity of the late George Millett Briggs of Turner for the purposes of supporting the field of career and technical education and thereby enabling the young people of Maine to become self-supporting and useful citizens of the State. The State Board of Education is pleased that Mr. Briggs' memory and purposes can be furthered through activities such as awarding MACTE funds to support CTE Directors, Staff, and Students through professional develop and recognition events in order to advance career and technical education in Maine."

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board approve the FY26 George Briggs grant award to the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education to support the initial development of a formal strategic plan for Career and Technical Education in Maine. This plan will be developed through a two-phase process, starting in July 2025 and continuing into the 2025–2026 school year. This award is \$8,000 and may be subject to terms and conditions as set forth in the award letter.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board approve the FY26 George Briggs grant award to the Maine

Administrators of Career and Technical Education to support the initial development of a formal strategic plan for Career and Technical Education in Maine. This plan will be developed through a two-phase process, starting in July 2025 and continuing into the 2025–2026 school year. This award is \$8,000 and may be subject to terms and conditions as set forth in the award letter.

### **APPOINTMENT OF A STATE BOARD MEMBER TO THE MAINE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted eight in favor with one abstention (Thomas Keller) to appoint Thomas Keller to serve on the Maine Charter School Commission for a second, 3-year term.

### **ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

#### **Election of Officers Effective July 1, 2025**

Wendy Ault was Chair of the Nominations and Election Committee. James Ford and Victoria Kornfield served on the Committee with Wendy.

A slate of officers was read by Wendy Ault: Paulette Bonneau as Chair and Thomas Keller as Vice Chair.

An opportunity for nominations from the floor was given. No nominations from the floor were received.

Wendy Ault asked for a show of hands for the slate of officers to serve for the term of one year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by James Ford, and voted seven in favor with two abstentions (Paulette Bonneau and Thomas Keller) for Paulette Bonneau to serve as Chair and Thomas Keller as Vice Chair beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. The motion was adopted.

#### **Board Retreat Dates and Location:**

The retreat will take place on September 10-11, 2025. Thomas Keller suggested that it be held at the University of Maine at Augusta with the focus being elementary school mathematics.

**Tentative Meeting Schedule for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

Paulette Bonneau stated that as Chair she would like the Board to consider a schedule change to possibly the second Thursday of the month for the monthly meetings due to a conflict in her schedule.

The State Board of Education will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month until September 2025. Options for changes to the schedule were discussed but no decision was made. This will be further discussed at the July meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Submit expense account vouchers to Erica Tompkins by the 15<sup>th</sup> day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The Board did not finish discussing changes to proposed amendments of Rule Chapter 115, Part II in the morning workshop. By consensus, Board members agreed to email Thomas Keller any comments on the latest drafts.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Burton M. Cross Building in Augusta and virtually via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Erica Tompkins,  
Office Specialist II  
State Board of Education