



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 July 9, 2025, at the Burton Cross State Office Building. The following members were present: Chair Paulette Bonneau; Vice Chair Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; Wendy Ault (via Zoom); Victoria Cohen

Absent with Excuse: Fern Desjardins; James Ford; Phat Thai; Cedar Worster

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Robbie Feinberg, Director of Communications and Government Relations, MSMA; Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education; Jonathan D. Moody, Superintendent of Schools MSAD54/RSU54; and Erica Tompkins, State Board of Education Office Specialist II.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
Chair Bonneau took roll call and she declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by State Board member, Edmond Morin: 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:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward and voted unanimously to accept the June 11, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEAL:

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Paulette Bonneau, 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 Superintendents' 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 six 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 Superintendents' 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' decisions.

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 Thomas Keller, 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 AN 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 1:06 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:19 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted that given the information the State Board received, it was in AN's best interest to deny a transfer. The transfer was denied.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, 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 KD 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 1:26 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:43 PM.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted that given the information the State Board received, it was in KD's best interest to deny a transfer. The transfer was denied.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, 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 AM 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 1:49 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:16 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Edmond Morin, and voted four in favor with two members opposed (Thomas Keller and Denham Ward) that given the information the State Board received, it was in AM's best interest to deny a transfer. The transfer was denied.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, 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 NH 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 2:20 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:40 PM.

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

MOTION by Thomas Keller, 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 NT 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 2:43 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:59 PM.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted five in favor with one abstention (Paulette Bonneau) that given the information the State Board received, it was in NT's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, 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 GL 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 3:01 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:26 PM.

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted that given the information the State Board received, it was in GL's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- June has been a transitional month as we transition into a new leadership. As we start this new year, our general operations budget is flat funded. Although everyone would like more funding, we can continue to operate. The majority of our budget is spent on personnel costs.
- I attended the Construction Committee meeting on June 25th. The discussion primarily focused on the exhibit you will soon be voting on today. We also discussed the Construction Commission's activities as it relates to the State Board's Construction Committee.
- Tom and I have been reviewing language in our student transfer policy and procedure, which we will bring forward to the board for approval. We also sent Part 1 and Part 2 of the Certification Chapter 115 to Sarah Forster for her "pre-review". She will try to respond to the document within 30 days, but there is no guarantee given her involvement with our federal government challenges.

Vice Chair, Thomas Keller

- Tom attended the C&HE meeting on June 25, 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on June 25, 2025. No Report.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on June 25, 2025.

- Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, reported on new legislation requiring public charter school teachers to obtain certification by 2026.
- Denham provided an update on the regional longitudinal data study, which has completed year 2 with 14 pilot schools and is expanding to 80 districts in year 3, aiming to improve data collection and address challenges in defining teacher vacancies.
- Report from TEAMe and EPPS - Dr. Fiona McDonnell, The meeting covered updates from the Teacher Educator Alliance of Maine and the University of Southern Maine (USM).
- Relative to LD 2222, the amendment of Chapter 115, the committee reviewed the progress on Chapter 115, which has undergone multiple public meetings, workshops, and feedback sessions. Tom explained that the near-final version is ready for a quick review by the committee before submission to the Attorney General's office for a 30-day pre-review. Afterward, the State Board will review it for legal compliance and contradictions, followed by a 30-day public comment period with a hearing.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The CTE committee met via Zoom on Thursday morning June 26, 2025.

- Melissa Sherwood from DOE reported that the CTE Team had reached out to Maine DOE Procurement to work on the contract for Briggs Funding awarded to MACTE during the last State Board of Education meeting. Perkins funding which is federal funding for CTE is closing out the Fiscal Year 2025 with plans to have the Perkins fourth quarterly report to the State Board for its next meeting. Melissa reported strong spending progress for FY25, with schools exceeding expectations and funds being utilized effectively. Schools are currently working on FY26 applications due July 1st, aiming for approval by July 15th. A concern was raised about a proposed move of Perkins funding from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Labor, and a potential elimination of post-secondary Perkins funding.
- DOE CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported on several ongoing initiatives including some summer activities, like a half-day session at the CTE directors' conclave and a new directors' training on August 7th that will include a SafetyWorks presentation. Dwight mentioned they will resume work starting next fall on updating Chapter 232, which governs CTE, and hasn't been updated in about 40 years.
- Mercedes Pour, the director of college access and secondary partnerships for the Maine Community College System, shared that her team is working on creating clear materials about credit limits for early college: 18 for most students and 24 for CTE Students. She noted that the Appropriations

Committee did not include Free College in the upcoming budget, which underscores the importance of continuing to support CTE students and their educational paths.

- Amanda Peterson, Director of United Technologies in Bangor, reported on summer projects and new CTE exploratory programs and enrollment confirmations.
- Kevin Lavoie, Director of St John Valley Technical Center in Frenchville, shared updates from SkillsUSA national competition and discussed legislative funding challenges for LD 1764, which will be carried over to the next session. This bill would make it easier for smaller CTE's to find and keep instructors.
- Kate Howell, Deputy Director of Educate Maine, highlighted the completion of 16 CTE-based pre-apprenticeship programs and encouraged proposals for their upcoming symposium in Bangor.
- In addition to a state level change in the use of Perkins Funding, one following federal guidelines, specifically that they cannot be used for Maine DOE teaching endorsements and certifications. Dwight explained that Perkins funds are program-specific and must align with federal requirements. Amanda said she would gather data on which CTE schools use Perkins funds for teacher certification related expenses and estimate the total cost impact. She said, based on the calls she's been getting, that this would be quite easy to do. She also didn't think the majority of schools use Perkins for this purpose.
- Dwight said they'd research if Perkins reserve funds can be targeted to specific schools for certification costs without requiring an RFA process. Melissa and Dwight said they'd explore options for using Perkins reserve funds to cover teacher certification costs for impacted schools. A couple of ideas surfaced yesterday. One would be to divide Reserve Funds equally like we did last year and add a provision that schools could use it for certification related costs. Another idea would be to take certification expenses off the top and then divide the remainder.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee did not meet in June.

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

The Student Voices Committee did not meet in June.

Student Membership (Edmond Morin):

- Our new student member, Abbey Hamilton, will be starting as of the August 13, 2025 meeting.

Student Transfers Ad Hoc Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The Student Transfers Ad Hoc Committee did not meet in June.

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

The Charter Commission did not meet in June 2025.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

The Professional Standards Board has not met since February 5, 2025.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):

No report

Government Affairs Committee (Thomas Keller):

The committee did not meet in June 2025.

Public Education Positions Committee (Paulette Bonneau):

The committee did not meet in June 2025.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM - PROPOSED PRIORITY LIST FOR THE 2024-2025 RATING CYCLE

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Major Capital School Construction Program Proposed Priority List presented to the State Board of Education today is the result of the recently completed 2024-2025 Rating Cycle. Project applications, buildings, and sites were evaluated based on need as determined by criteria contained in State Board of Education Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. The projects are listed in descending order with the highest-ranked projects placed first.

After receipt of the Proposed Priority List by the State Board, the Department of Education will deliver Evaluation Reports to the superintendents who submitted an application(s). These reports will include the detailed scoring information for each priority and category. The school superintendent's receipt of the Evaluation Report

will initiate a 30-day administrative review period as outlined in Section 4, ¶3.A, of Chapter 61.

Upon completion of the administrative review process the Commissioner will recommend a Final Priority List to the State Board for approval.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education receive the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle which will initiate the administrative review process.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On June 25, 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 July 9, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board of Education receive the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, 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 receive the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle which will initiate the administrative review process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Erica Tompkins by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred. When you have your last meeting of the month, please submit your expense voucher so it can get processed.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.

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