



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 August 5, 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 (via Zoom); Victoria Cohen; Fern Desjardins; James Ford (via Zoom)

Others Present: Erica Tompkins, State Board of Education Office Specialist II, and various members of the public related to the appeals

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
Roll call was taken by Chair Bonneau, and she declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by State Board member, Cedar Worster: 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.

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 one transfer request.

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’ 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 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 HNB and HDM 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 1:03 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:20 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to allow the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was in HNB’s best interest to Approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to allow the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was in HDB'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 AW 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 1:25 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:42 PM.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to send the case back to the Superintendents.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, 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 MU 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 1:47 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:05 PM.

MOTION by Victoria Cohen, seconded by Edmond Morin, and unanimously voted by those present to allow the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was in MU's best interest to Approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, 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 AD & LD 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 2:08 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:43 PM.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Victoria Cohen, voted 2 in favor, 5 against, 1 abstained (Thomas, Victoria K, Paulette, James, Fern, with Denham abstained) to disapprove the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was not in AD and LD's best interest to Approve a transfer. The motion died.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, voted 5 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstained (Edmond, Victoria C, with Denham abstained) to approve the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was in AD's best interest to Approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, voted 5 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstained (Edmond, Victoria C, with Denham abstained) to approve the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was in LD's best interest to Approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Fern Desjardins, 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 HC 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 2:52 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:06 PM.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded Thomas Keller and unanimously voted by those present to allow the transfer that given the information the State Board received, it was in HC's best interest to Approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist II

State Board of Education
