



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 November 13, 2024, at South Portland Middle School in South Portland, Maine and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; James Ford; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Ed Morin; Phat Thai; and Cedar Worster

Absent with Excuse: Denham Ward

Others Present: Emily Cummins, Office Specialist II, State Board of Education

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Chair Desjardins took roll call and 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: No adjustments to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by James Ford, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted to accept the October 9, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment.

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 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 three 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' 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 Tom Keller, 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 JB 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 1:13 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:46 PM.

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

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 EM and SM 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 1:50 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:04 PM.

MOTION by Ed Morin, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted that given the information the Board received, it was in EM's best interest to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

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

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern was interviewed by Colby College students Bridget Meehan and Daisy Harris for their *Reform and the Classroom* class. The goal of the assignment was to help students understand how individuals across school systems think about current reforms that affect them and their work. Students interviewed classroom teachers, school and district leaders, staff at the Maine DOE, and others to hear their perspectives.

- On October 28, 2024, Fern and Paulette virtually attended *Supporting State Action to Advance the Education Professions – National Capstone Event*. The all-day event was a continuation of the summer session they attended in Chicago with other Maine educators to address educator shortages and elevate the teaching profession.
- On October 29, 2024, Fern virtually met with Glenn Cummings, Director of Green Schools, MDOE Office of Innovation
- On November 1, 2024, Fern attended the Chapter 115 conceptual conversation at the Caribou Performing Arts Center. There were only five people in attendance but feedback and discussion on the rule will help guide future amendments.
- On November 6, 2024, Paulette and Fern met with committee chairs for planning purposes and to discuss Board procedures and expectations.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette attended the Agenda Review meeting. They were joined by Commissioner Makin, who informed them about the Governor's Commission on School Construction.
- Paulette attended several of the Certification conceptual public meetings: October 24, 2024 (CTE), October 30, 2024 (Special Education), and October 31, 2024. Themes are starting to emerge.
- On October 24, 2024, Paulette attended the CTE committee meeting.
- On October 28, 2024, Paulette attended a follow-up to the Chicago meeting called Advancing the Educational Profession by the Hunt Institute. Several states presented strategies they are using and trying. Next meeting of the Maine group is December 9, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in October.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on October 16, 2024.

- The Thomas College EPP report is being finalized for the Board's review.
- Michael Perry has determined that Beal University has degree granting authority at the associate's level, and the State Board needs to finalize approval at the bachelor's level. Beal has applied for master's level degrees and was given temporary approval by the MDOE.

- Michael Perry and Denham Ward are the leads on beginning a conversation with the principals at Beal University to determine next steps in degree granting authority.
- There was a UMaine off cycle review on October 30, 2024. Victoria Kornfield was the SBE Observer.
- In September 2024, 2,942 applications were processed.
- On October 29, 2024, University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) is planning to hold a Future Teachers Academy Boot Camp for juniors and seniors. This was well received in the past. UMPI is working with CACE on a new teachers support group.
- Regarding amendments to chapter 115, comments provided clarity on the issues being identified. Important concepts noted included:
 - State Reciprocity and not assuming their standards are lower than ours
 - Models for dual certification, especially with special education
 - Use of portfolios or rubrics such as the HOUSS (high objective uniform State standard of evaluation), and who evaluates them
 - A 3-year emergency pathway
- Public feedback sessions hosted by the MDOE were scheduled for:
 - October 24, UTC, Paulette Bonneau and Victoria Kornfield attended (CTE focus)
 - October 30, Biddeford, Paulette Bonneau attended (special ed focus)
 - October 31, MDOE/Augusta, Tom Keller attended
 - November 1, Caribou, Fern Desjardins and Tom Keller attended
 - November 4, Westbrook, Paulette Bonneau and Ed Morin attended (CTE focus)
 - November 12, Presque Isle, Tom Keller to attend
 - November 13, MDOE/Augusta
 - November 14, MDOE/Augusta, Tom Keller, Paulette Bonneau, and Fern Desjardins to attend (Special ed focus)
- The plan is on course to collect feedback until December 31, 2024. The C&HE Committee will draft the rules for the whole Board to consider in February, if possible, but likely March through May. Our goal is to have a final draft to be provided to the AG's office no later than July 1, 2025.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education Committee met on October 24, 2024.

- Accolades were given during the meeting for the MACTE CTE Conference that took place at the Lewiston Regional Technical Center on October 11, 2024, which had more than 530 attendees.

- DOE CTE Director, Dwight Littlefield, provided updates on Perkins Federal CTE Funding and the Briggs Trust. Dwight reported that their team had just finished tallying the first quarter of Perkins funding.
- Dwight reported that there is over \$250,000 in the Briggs Trust account to benefit CTE in Maine. Dwight's team began mid-cycle reviews of CTE centers and regions.
- MCCS Director of College Access and Secondary Partnerships, Mercedes Pour, demonstrated what the system's early college pathways module for CTE students looks like. The bulk of MCCS activity in terms of concurrent enrollment is inside CTE'S. The new module aims to address the concern that secondary students may be taking early college classes just because they can, not knowing where the courses may fit into their future educational and career plans. MCCS is piloting with SMCC by sending college or career advisors into half a dozen CTE's.
- MCCS Academic Program Coordinator, Joan De Costa, said that as the Perkins Grant coordinator for the seven community colleges, she's working with all the colleges for planning, budgeting, and spending their funds in accordance with what their needs are. She also congratulated MDOE for the Federal Grant management training that Dwight and his team attended focusing on changes that are coming with Federal grant regulations.
- MACTE Executive Director, Dave Keaton, reported that they had their largest CTE conference to date with more than 530 attendees, almost a 20% increase from last year. There were 22 exhibitors, all but one from Maine, as well as four meal sponsors and 20 breakout sessions.
- UTC Director, Amanda Peterson, talked about the CTE Exploratory Group which she facilitated at the MACTE Conference. She said this is one of the fastest growing populations of CTE students with diverse offerings across the state.
- Amanda noted that several CTE business programs are working with representatives from SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives.
- Amanda said they deal with early college in the fall and spring and that Bridge Academy is an opportunity for students to be able to take early college.
- She pointed out that Program Advisory Committees are meeting to review the status of CTE programs. During these sessions, which occur twice a year, industry people come into the schools and meet with program instructors. They do a review of a program and equipment and all the things that are happening with an outcome-based piece to align with employment opportunities.
- Educate Maine Executive Director, Jason Judd, reported that registration is open for the Education Symposium on December 13, 2024, which will be at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. In partnership with MELMAC, they'll bring together nearly 500 people for workshops. There will also be a peer learning session for MELMAC grantees.

- One of the breakout sessions will be about the future of higher education and the innovation happening in higher education. They're bringing together the Chancellor of the University of Maine system, the President of the Maine community college system, the President of the University of New England, and the incoming President of Thomas College on what the next five, ten, or 15 years will look like in higher ed in Maine.
- Jason said it's a great fit for a lot of State Board members, those from MDOE, as well as, CTE Directors, among others.
- Ed had the opportunity to attend the MDOE's Conceptual Conversation in Westbrook about CTE Certification. Many of the participants seemed to focus on how to make sure the certification process makes good use of peoples' time.
- Ed also went to the Ribbon Cutting for the Biddeford Region Center of Technology's new wing.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action committee did not meet.

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

The Student Voices Committee did not meet.

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

- The Charter School Commission reviewed the Charter Schools' Annual Report Summaries and Annual Reports. The information about each of the nine schools was carefully reviewed.

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 October 15, 2024. The committee reviewed third quarter revenue and expenditures, approved the FY2025 budget recommendation to the Board of Directors, and received updates on member dues payments received and the subleasing of the NASBE office.
- Fern attended an Executive Committee on October 18, 2024, for the evaluation of President and CEO Paolo DeMaria.
- Fern, Tom and Denham attended the NASBE Annual Conference October 23-25, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky.

- The Board of Directors met to review and approve the FY2025 budget and to receive updates from President/CEO Paolo DeMaria, Chair Sarah Moore, and all committees and affiliates.
- The opening general session included Chris Domaleski and Scott Marion of the Center for Assessment. They spoke of a shift from an “accountability” to a “responsibility” mind-set to reinforce that all educators are responsible for ensuring all students have equitable opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills, and dispositions critical for success in the world.
- Fern attended sessions on new indicators for state accountability systems; addressing chronic absenteeism; how Connecticut is attracting, retaining, and diversifying the P-16 educator workforce; effective board operations and parliamentary procedures; how Nebraska encourages the implementation of high-quality instructional materials; Tennessee’s strategic approach to licensure reform; and the implementation of AI in state education agencies.
- She attended the keynote session by Missy Testerman, 2024 National Teacher of the Year; had a breakfast meeting with Board chairs from other states; and she attended the Northeast Area Meeting.
- At the Delegate Assembly, Byron Earnest from Indiana was elected Chair-Elect. Fern thanked Denham Ward for attending the Delegate Assembly as the Board’s voting delegate.

Government Affairs Committee (Thomas Keller):

National Association of State Boards of Education’s Government Affairs Committee met on November 5, 2024.

- Steve Voytek, a consultant with Foresight, reported on actions in Washington, DC.
 1. US ED and Perkins funding – In September an information collection request was issued. In Perkins 5, there are 5 high school accountability measures. A good information clearinghouse is at cte.ed.gov.
 2. Workforce Innovative and Opportunity Act (WIOA) negotiations are underway.
 3. Student data privacy policies are being examined.
 4. The election will certainly have implications for Congressional committees.
- Abby Potts, NASBE staff, noted that the US ED is setting up a new set of comprehensive centers:
 - **Region 1 (Northeast) Comprehensive Center**

Organization: American Institutes for Research in the Behavioral Sciences

FY24 Funding: \$2,380,344

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) and its partner, Applied Enterprise Management (AEM), propose to operate the Region 1 Comprehensive Center (Northeast CC) (serving Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont).

- **Center on English Learners and Multilingualism**

Organization: Loyola Marymount University

FY24 Award: \$1,150,000

The Center on English Learners and Multilingualism ('the Center'), will provide high-quality targeted and universal capacity-building services to address the technical assistance needs of state (SEA), regional (REA), tribal (TEA), and local educational agencies (LEAs).

- **Center for Early School Success**

Organization: AZ Board of Regents on behalf of Arizona State University

FY24 Funding: \$1,150,000

An interdisciplinary team of researchers, practitioners, and policy advisors from the Children's Equity Project (CEP) at Arizona State University (ASU), the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at University of Nebraska (NU), the Center X Mathematics Project at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the California Reading & Literature Project (CRLP), and the Department of Special Education at the University of Oregon (UO) propose to establish and operate the Center for Early School Success.

- **Center on Fiscal Equity**

Organization: American Institutes for Research in the Behavioral Sciences

FY24 Funding: \$1,150,000

The American Institutes for Research® (AIR®) and Afton Partners, with support from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), will establish and operate the Center on Fiscal Equity. To achieve fiscal equity, systemic change is needed in school systems to ensure fair allocation and utilization of financial and other tangible resources, including supplemental federal funds aimed at improving educational opportunities and outcomes, closing achievement gaps, and improving the quality of instruction for all students.

- **Center on Strengthening and Supporting the Educator Workforce**

Organization: Research Triangle Institute

FY24 Funding: \$1,550,000

RTI International and its partner team comprised of RMC, SERVE, Westat, ImaginED, and IDRA, proposes to operate the Center on Strengthening and Supporting the Educator Workforce. The Center on Strengthening and Supporting the Educator Workforce will solve high-leverage problems in attracting, preparing, retaining, and diversifying the educator workforce.

- Nebraska has a model HQIM (High Quality Instruction Materials) program.

Public Education Positions Committee (Paulette Bonneau):

The Public Education Positions Committee did not meet.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS: No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

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. 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 first report for FY2025.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, of the State of Maine Plan for

the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Ed Morin, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present, that the State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

Note: The above motion was made in accordance with Title 20-A M.R.S. §405(7).

Receipt of Thomas College Educator Preparation Program Review Team Report in Accordance with Rule Chapter 114.

BACKGROUND: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) 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*. Institutions are able to recommend pre-service educators for certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific programs included in their review.

Thomas College in Waterville, Maine, last received a five-year EPP approval in 2019. The institution applied for reapproval of their existing programs and initial approval for four others. A review team chaired by Dr. Lane Clarke of the University of New England was approved by the State Board of Education on December 13, 2023, with Paulette Bonneau assigned as the State Board observer.

The review team visit of Thomas College took place between September 22-25, 2024. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by Thomas College representatives to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team’s findings.

Now, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education may formally receive documents to review in preparation for taking final action on Thomas College’s EPP approval request.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education receive the Thomas College EPP self-assessment and Thomas College EPP review team report prior to taking final action regarding approval of Thomas College’s educator preparation programs at the Board’s next regular meeting.

MOTION by Tom Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present, that pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education receive the Thomas College EPP self-assessment and Thomas College EPP review team report prior to taking final action regarding approval of Thomas College's educator preparation programs at the Board's next regular meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Please submit expense account vouchers to Emily Cummins by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Westbrook Middle School and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM.

Emily Cummins, Office Specialist II
Maine State Board of Education