



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 17, 2024, at the Burton M. Cross Building in Augusta, Maine and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; and Cedar Worster.

Absent: Wendy Ault and Phat Thai

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, MDOE; and attendees for the executive sessions.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Chair Desjardins took roll call and declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by Victoria Kornfield, Board Member: 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 Item *V. Minutes of the Last Meeting* held June 21, 2024 as the minutes are not yet available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Desjardins withdrew this item under *Adjustments to the Agenda*.

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 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 NB 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 1:09 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:29 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted six in favor with one opposed (James Ford) that given the information the Board received, it was in NB's best interest to disapprove a transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Kristin Bishop, 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 CB 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 1:32 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:59 PM.

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted that given the information the Board received, it was in CB's best interest to approve a 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 CM 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 2:02 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:26 PM.

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

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

➤ COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- The Committee Appointments/Board Representatives list was distributed to Board members in the morning workshop. Fern thanked members for their interest in serving on the various committees.
- Fern attended the June 26-28 Annual Commissioner's Conference in Bar Harbor. The theme was 'Measuring What Matters' and the keynote speaker was Dr. Tony Wagner, author and senior research fellow at the Learning Policy Institute. She attended sessions presented by MDOE staff on Legislative Updates, School Construction and Facilities Updates, and Exploring Flexibilities Through Innovation. Battelle for Kids and MDOE staff presented the General Session on the second day of the conference, 'Measure What Matters'.
- Paulette conducted orientation for Cedar Worster, new student member on the Board, on Tuesday, July 16 at the Cross Building. Fern thanked Paulette for helping out in her absence.
- She also thanked Ed Morin for submitting an article to the MDOE on Cedar's appointment to the State Board.
- The MDOE has established a working group of stakeholders to review the responsibilities, functions, and staffing of the State Board of education, per LD 1018, Chapter 125 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Establish a Working Group to Review the State Board of Education's Membership, Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing*. Dwight Littlefield, Scott Brown, Michael Perry, Dave Keaton, Roberta Hersom, Jonathan Moody, Paulette Bonneau and Fern have been invited to join the working group. Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta will facilitate the meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Room 500 at the Burton M. Cross Building and via Zoom.
- The first follow-up meeting on the action plan that was developed at the US DOE Regional Convening to Advance the Education Professions will be held virtually on August 22, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Paulette and Fern will be attending the meeting.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette met with Cedar Worster to complete her Board orientation on July 16.

- She attended agenda review with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta and Chair Desjardins on July 15.
 - She attended the June 27 CTE Committee meeting.
 - Paulette is organizing the Board Retreat scheduled for Thursday, September 12 at UMaine. Hotel room availability has been confirmed and she is currently working on the agenda for the retreat. Board members should confirm with Paulette their need for a hotel room.
- Wednesday, September 11 will be the Board's regular workshop and business meeting at UMaine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in June.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on June 26, 2024.

Public Comment: Liz Guillemette and Elizabeth Andersen spoke to issues regarding the Certificate 071: Library Media Specialist. Dave Keaton, Executive Director, Maine Administrators of Career & Technical Education (MACTE), noted issues with CTE certifications.

Higher Education Update: Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College submitted a letter dated January 16, 2024 requesting a delay to the state EPP approval visit. She asked that the Fall 2025 visit be deferred to Fall 2027. She cited extenuating circumstances as recorded on the Exhibit to be taken up later in the meeting. Tom noted that a delay in approval visits does not extend the term of the EPPs approval.

Certification Update – Michael Perry: In May there were 2,974 applications processed for certification, including the first one for a retired teacher to regain their certification. Michael provided a pie chart and table of recent activity. Relative to the CHRC violations report, 1,292 people have been found to be in violation, which is pretty consistent month to month. Denham reported that the Regional Longitudinal Data Study was progressing, and the pilot is underway.

Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update – Cindy Dean, UMA: TEAME did not meet in the last month, but Dr. Dean described a new UMA program for a MAT program in Whole Child Education and a successful partnership among UMA, UMPI and UMM in sharing courses for special ed teachers.

LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 – Tom: Input was taken and discussion ensued on Chapter 115, Part 1. Laura Cyr said she would prepare a strikeout version of Chapter 115.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 24 at 10:30 AM.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on June 27.

- Ida Batista, Maine DOE School Finance Coordinator, presented a workshop on CTE funding in Maine. In FY 2025, it's expected that the state will provide \$72M for existing and new programs at Maine's 27 CTE Centers and Regions. The level of funding to the CTE's is based on enrollment, the number and types of programs, and the square footage of facilities.
- Maine receives federal funds for CTE through Perkins V. Just over \$7M has been allocated for FY 2025, some of which will be going to the Maine Community College System. There's roughly \$400,000 in the Perkin Reserve fund that can be distributed by the State Board of Education. Following a survey of the state's CTE directors, the CTE Committee voted to allocate the reserves for equipment and supplies with the understanding that CTE staff at the Maine DOE will present various options for how the funds can be distributed. They anticipate having a recommendation to present to the State Board for a vote in September.
- The committee also discussed the George M. Briggs grant. There is approximately \$180,000 that could be distributed. Over the years, Briggs funds have been used for studies on CTE and for professional development. This year, MACTE is proposing using funds to build a robust social media presence aimed at many stakeholder groups. The proposal is estimated to cost around \$65,000. The Committee took no formal action on the proposal as they await further information.
- The next meeting is scheduled for July 25.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

- The committee did not meet.
- Discussion took place at the morning workshop on LD 1018, Chapter 125 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Establish a Working Group to Review the State Board of Education's Membership, Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing.*

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

The Student Voices Committee did not meet in June.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee did not meet in June.

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

The Commission did not meet in July but State Board representatives reported that the Maine Charter School Commission received letters of intent to apply for approval as a public charter school from eight potential applicants by the July 15 deadline.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

The Professional Standards Board did not meet.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):

- The topic for Office Hours on July 1 was career and technical education so Ed and Fern attended. Kate Kreamer, executive director of Advance CTE, presented their updated **National Career Clusters Framework** that is now more reflective of the changes that have taken place in work across industry sectors. It provides a structure for organizing and delivering quality CTE programs.
- New Member Institute took place July 9-10 and deemed a success. NASBE benefited from collaborating with Education Commission of the States.

Government Affairs Committee (Thomas Keller):

The Government Affairs Committee did not meet.

Public Education Positions Committee (Paulette Bonneau):

The committee met on July 16.

- They reviewed drafts regarding the purpose of their committee.
- NASBE staff members suggested that the Government Affairs Committee chair and Public Education Positions chair meet to discuss how they can coordinate efforts to address timely and pertinent issues.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

BACKGROUND: Bates College is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Fall 2020 to Fall 2025.

On January 16, 2024, Dr. Anita S. Charles, Senior Lecturer and Director of Teacher Education at Bates, indicated the institution's desire to request a two-year extension of their current EPP approval. Dr. Charles cited "several unique factors occurring over the next few years":

(1) at least one (of a total of only four) faculty members on leave for part or all of '24-'25, '25-'26, and '26-'27, necessitating faculty searches in addition to having absent members of our faculty; (2) an internal decadal review extending throughout AY 24-25; (3) additional internal initiatives to deepen our curricular goals under new Bates regulations for courses to be tagged for the designation of "Race, Power, Privilege, and Colonialism"; and (4) an initiative to establish a 9th semester program within the next couple of years.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on May 22, 2024, and voted unanimously to approve Bates' request to extend their EPP approval through Fall 2027.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve Bates College's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twenty-four months.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted six in favor with two opposed (James Ford and Fern Desjardins) that, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve Bates College's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twenty-four months. The motion was adopted.

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, August 14, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Burton M. Cross Building and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.

Fern Desjardins, Chair
Maine State Board of Education