



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the November 21, 2025 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta and remotely via Zoom.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fern Desjardins, Chair (remote), Paulette Bonneau (remote), and Edmond Morin (remote)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education (remote)  
Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist, State Board of Education

Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Motioned by Bonneau, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the October 31, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, School Construction Committee Presentation at the November 13<sup>th</sup> State Board Workshop. She reviewed the school construction material presented including the School Building Inventory, revisions to the School Construction Building Standards and Guidelines documents, and updates to the 2025 Year 4 Milestones in the Committee's Strategic Plan. Committee members commended the presentation and felt that the information provided to the board was very helpful and well received.

Chair Desjardins moved to the next item on the agenda, Governor's Commission on School Construction Update. She reviewed in detail the information from the November 14<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. She informed the Committee about the Concept Papers on Revenue and Planning that have been developed and were reviewed and discussed at the meeting. She reviewed her notes that included individual Commission member comments on both Concept Papers and stated that she would forward drafts to Committee members with her comments. She informed the Committee that the next meeting would be held in December and that a final report is due by the end of the year.

Chair Desjardins moved to the next item on the agenda, Legislative Update. She informed the Committee that she attended the LD 1312 Public Hearing held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed the testimony and stated that there were eight people testifying in support of 50% of the investment earnings being

transferred to the Major Capital School Construction Fund, only one testifying neither for nor against the bill, and 10 testimonies were focused in support of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. She informed the Committee that she had to leave after delivering her testimony but listened to the recording and thought that the hearing went very well. She also discussed the amendment that was provided by the Department that would direct funds to the School Revolving Renovation Fund in lieu of a new Major Capital School Construction Fund.

Desjardins then introduced discussion topics under the Miscellaneous agenda item. She reviewed information from the MEPRI Report and discussed how the information has been used in many discussions regarding school construction. She requested feedback from Committee members to better represent them at meetings of the Governor's Commission.

Desjardins then discussed the need for revisions to Rule Chapter 61, especially in Section 3 Rating System and Section 15 Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility. The Committee agreed to discuss plans to move forward with revisions at upcoming Committee meetings and that they remain hopeful that revisions will include recommendations from the Governor's Commission.

Lastly, the Committee agreed to move the December 19 meeting to Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.