



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the December 20, 2024 Meeting

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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Joe Britton, Architect, Lavallee Brensinger

Lance Whitehead, Architect, Lavallee Brensinger

Christopher Howell, Superintendent, RSU 14

Bill Hanson, Facilities Director RSU 14

Valerie Chiang, School Construction Coordinator, Department of Education

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education

Emily Cummins, Office Specialist, State Board of Education

Chair Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the September 27, 2024 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, *Major Capital School Construction Program; Design and Funding Approval Consideration; RSU 14 Windham - New Middle School Construction* and asked Director Brown to provide background information for the Committee. He explained that this is the fourth and final time that the project will come to the board and that the project has been designed to meet the Department's school construction standards and is ready to move forward for bidding and construction.

Superintendent Howell began his presentation by thanking the Committee for the opportunity and the district is grateful for state support. He provided a brief update on the status of the Phase 1 site work. He then reviewed some of the major design elements of the building including energy efficiency features and stated that there have not been substantive changes to the plan since Concept Approval. After reviewing the floor plans, elevation, and budget Superintendent Howell answered several questions from the Committee including costs, building egress, and building materials.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present that pursuant to MRS Title 20-A § 15905(1) and State Board of Education Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, this exhibit be placed on the January 8, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU 14 for a new grades 5-8 Middle School construction project as presented.

Chair Desjardins then introduced the next item on the agenda: *Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Program; project number 3, MSAD 46/AOS 94, RSU 80/MSAD 4, RSU 41/MSAD 41, RSU 82/MSAD 12, Greenville Public Schools, Tri-County Technical Center, removal from the 2017-2018 Approved Projects List.*

She provided an overview including the history of the proposed project and then reviewed the December 5, 2024 correspondence from Kevin Jordan, Superintendent of Schools in MSAD 46/AOS/94, informing the Board that the four area school boards involved in the project have made the decision to end their pursuit for the project.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present that pursuant to MRS Title 20-A § 15905(1) and State Board of Education Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects that this exhibit be place on the January 8, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board approve the removal of project 3, MSAD 46/AOS 94, RSU 80/MSAD 4, RSU 41/MSAD 41, RSU 82/MSAD 12, Greenville Public Schools, Tri-County Technical Center, from the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16, Educational Facility 2017-2018 Rating Cycle Approved Projects List.

Chair Desjardins then introduced the next item on the agenda, *Governor's Commission Update*. She provided an overview of the work that has been completed to date including the formation of three sub-committees. She also reviewed the schedule of work of the Commission including the final report due date of April 15, 2025. She will continue to update the Committee on the developments of the Commission as they develop.

Chair Desjardins then introduced the next item on the agenda, *MEPRI Update*. She explained that MEPRI is currently reviewing and analyzing the recently completed School Building Inventory data. They are under contract with the Department to complete their analysis and provide a report of the data in January. MEPRI will be providing an update on the status of the report later today.

Chair Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 500.