



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 27, 2026 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 538, Burton 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)
Valerie Chiang, Senior Construction Coordinator, Department of Education (remote)
Craig Flowers, Office Specialist, State Board of Education
Ted Hall, School Facilities Consultant (remote)
Ruey Yehle, School Facilities Consultant (remote)

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the School Construction Committee’s review of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. She asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the February 27, 2026 meeting minutes as written.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the March 13, 2026 special meeting minutes as written.

Desjardins introduced the next item on the agenda, *Updates on Amendments to Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects*. Team members had no amendments to present for consideration on the items tabled in sections 1-5.

The group then moved to Section 6 “School Construction Eligibility and Approval Process,” followed by Section 7 “Site Selection” and lastly Section 8 “Concept Approval.” Team members

presented their ideas on the three sections. Some proposed amendments were agreed to by consensus while others were tabled for further consideration.

Chair Desjardins moved to the next item on the agenda, *Update on School Construction Bills in the Legislature*. No decision has yet been made on the most recent proposed amendments to LD 1892 An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects, presented by Rep. Michael F. Brennan. Since the March 11 and 12 work sessions, the bill remains with the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

As for LD 1312 An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund, it is still tabled.

Desjardins mentioned the publicity that went out on the Chapter 61 review. She's received an email providing comment for consideration by the team. The group decided to have Chair Desjardins provide copies of written comments she receives when she releases meeting agendas and minutes.

The next School Construction Committee meeting with Chapter 61 team members will be held at 12:00 p.m. on April 14 in person at the Cross Office Building in room 500 and remotely for those wishing to attend via Zoom. Other future meetings will be held as follows:

Thursday, April 23, 9:00-2:00, Room 500
Friday, May 1, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
Friday, May 15, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
Wednesday, May 27, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
Friday, June 12, 9:00-2:00, Room 500
Friday, June 26, 9:00-12:00, Room 500

The team decided to focus its attention on cost sharing in school construction at the April 14 meeting.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.