



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the July 1, 2026 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met remotely via Zoom.

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education (remote)

Paula Gravelle, Director of Public School Finance, Department of Education (remote)

Ted Hall, School Facilities Consultant (remote)

Ruey B. Yehle, School Facilities Consultant (remote)

Robbie Feinberg, Director of Communications and Government Relations, MSMA (remote)

Craig Flowers, Office Specialist, State Board of Education (remote)

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the eleventh meeting of the School Construction Committee's review of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Motioned by Bonneau, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the June 26, 2026 meeting minutes as written.

Desjardins introduced the next item on the agenda, *Public Comments*. There were neither public comments from attendees nor comments received since the last meeting.

Desjardins introduced the next item on the agenda, *Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects: Team Discussion and Proposed Amendments for Items Tabled in Sections 1, 6, 10, 11, and 12*.

The review team reached consensus on the following:

Section 1. Definitions

- Changing "Facilities Team" to "Office of School Facilities"

- Definitions of “Local Only”, “Regional High School”, “Regional Integrated Educational Facility”, and “State Portion”

Section 6. School Construction Eligibility and Approval Process

- All changes in subsection 2(1) Site Approval, 2(2) Concept Approval, 2(7) Building Standards, and 2(8) Construction Change Order Requests

Section 10. Final Funding Approval

- All changes in subsection 4(D) Moveable Equipment, and subsection 6 Project Management

Section 11. Financing School Construction

- The addition of an introductory paragraph, changes in subsection 2, subsection 4 Cost Sharing, subsection 5 Investment and Use of Project Funds, subsection 6 Temporary Borrowing or Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs), subsection 7 Interest Lost, and subsection 8 Disposition of unused Bond Proceeds

Section 12. Bonding of Major Capital School Construction Projects

- Additional changes in subsection 1, subsection 2 Sale of Bonds, and subsection 4

Many changes were made in sections 11 and 12. Gravelle provided financial input on matters discussed by the team. Attorney E. William Stockmeyer also provided comments on the sections, as requested for the team’s consideration.

Hall requested a return to Section 7 Site Selection. By consensus, there was agreement on subsection 4(B) on Cost Limitation and subsection 5(A) on Funding Restrictions.

The team then began discussing Chair Desjardins’ summary document *Public Comments for Discussion July 2, 2026*.

- All comments in number 2 from Tom Keller were discussed.
- Comments in number 5 by MSSA Executive Committee members were discussed.

The next School Construction Committee meeting with Chapter 61 review team members will be held in person 10:00-2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2 at the Department of Health and Human Services Building, Room A/B, 109 Capitol Street, Augusta and remotely via Zoom. The team will discuss public comments received but not discussed to date and confirm agreement on revisions to Rule, Chapter 61.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.