



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a special meeting on August 29, 2024, virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; James Ford; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; and Denham Ward.

Absent with Excuse: Thomas Keller, Phat Thai and Cedar Worster

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Roll call was taken by Chair Desjardins who declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by board member, Edmond Morin: 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.

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 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 five 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' decisions.

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 Ed Morin, 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 WH 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 4:10 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 4:35 PM.

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

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, 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 the requests from HC and MC to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove the requests for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 4:38 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 4:57 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted that given the information the Board received, it was in HC's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Ed Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Ed Morin, and unanimously voted that given the information the Board received, it was in MC's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

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 SJ 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 5:01 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 5:32 PM.

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted three in favor with four opposed (Wendy Ault, Fern Desjardins, James Ford and Edward Morin) that given the information the Board received, it was in SJ's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The motion failed.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by James Ford, and voted five in favor with two opposed (Paulette Bonneau and Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the

Board received, it was in SJ's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, 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 FD 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 5:38 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 6:03 PM.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and voted five in favor with one opposed (Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the Board received, it was in FD's best interest to approve a transfer. The transfer was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Information was provided on the State Board's Annual Retreat taking place September 11-12, 2024 at the University of Maine.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Emily Cummins
Office Specialist II
Maine State Board of Education