



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on January 15, 2020 at the Burton Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Wilson Hess; Vice Chair Jane Sexton; Wendy Ault; John Bird; Martha Harris; Jana Lapoint; Casey Maddock; and Jaylee Rice

Excused: Fern Desjardins and Peter Geiger

Vacant: One Member

Others Present: Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Wilson Hess called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Jaylee Rice: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted seven in favor with one-member abstaining (Jana Lapoint) to accept the December 11, 2019 minutes as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Wilson Hess

- Wilson congratulated all those involved with the Commissioner's Student Cabinet, most especially the Board's students, Jaylee Rice and Casey Maddock for the great work they did in preparing for the meeting and facilitating the groups that were in attendance. Students from fourth grade to freshman in college. Jaylee and Casey are great role models for students.
- Chapter 115 and Chapter 125 have both been forwarded to the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis for the Administrative Procedure Act and will be moving forward with the Legislative process.
- Wilson acknowledged the Public Hearing for the Perkins State Plan. He thanked Jana Lapoint for her presence. Wilson was also in attendance and he and Jana were observers for the process. There were very few comments made but none that will alter the process. They are waiting on public written comments to come in.
- He has met with Peggy Schaffer, Department of Economic and Community Development regarding broadband access. The Board's Legislative Action Committee has expressed interest in broadband access bills for over a year. There will be bills coming forward regarding funding for broadband.
- Wilson met with Stephanie Fyfe, Department of Education Certification Coordinator regarding LD 1858: An Act To Protect Teachers From Professional Teacher Certificate Endorsement Changes. Stephanie has been very helpful in informing the Board in their testimony relating to the changes that insure that new teachers do not get caught in the transition, which could happen when changes are made to certification rules. In terms of renewal, the credential is property owned by the certified teacher and they are protected as long as they continue to maintain their certification.
- He met with Melissa "Missy" O'Neal, Boards and Commissions, at the Governor's Office regarding Board appointments. The Governor is looking to move the appointments forward in the near future. The Governor will also be making an appointment to the Professional Standards Board – ex-officio position by a sitting Board member.
- Wilson has been approached by the Governor's Office to participate in the Hunt Institute Governor's Advisor Retreat on Workforce Development. He will be attending in February.
- He has been asked to have Board Members appointed under the Comprehensive CTE Reform Law that was passed last year by the Legislature and became law without the Governor's signature a week ago. The President of the Senate appoints one member and the Speaker of the House appoints one member from the State Board.
- For the Construction Committee – The Valley Unified Project is approaching straw votes in the county. We will wait to see the results and what will happen in the county.

Vice Chair, Jane Sexton

- She has not been active with meetings during the holiday season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Martha Harris):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in December.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2020. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Jane Sexton):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on December 18, 2019 as scheduled.

- Certification Update:
 - A number of schools that have students graduating mid-year - the students have been very proactive and going out to talk to potential graduates about applying for certification.
 - There is a Federal formula for finding out how much teacher shortage there is in a State.
- Higher Education:
 - There will be two higher education team reviews in the spring and two in the fall of 2020.
 - Educator Preparation Program Review Annual Program Update - An annual review report for educator preparation programs as required by Chapter 114, is due to the SBE by April 7th. The only change made to the template this year is where it asks for the types of Praxis supports offered to students.
- The Committee received an update on Chapter 115 and Chapter 125.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2020. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Career and Technical Education (John Bird):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee did not meet in December.

- The Committee will be reviewing a mid-year report from MACTE (Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education). This is for a \$30,000.00 Briggs Grant Award for the 2019/20 school year.
- The Committee will review a First Year Report of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Community College and Secondary CTE. The report will be presented by Dwight Littlefield, CTE Director, MDOE.
- Grades 9 and 10 Grants –
 - John will have Mary Becker send out the list of grants. The list will show the title of what the grant is devoted to.
 - There were ten grants awarded that ranged from \$30,000.00 to around \$200,000.00.

- The total dollars distributed from Perkins Carryover money was \$485,000.00.

The next Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2020. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Legislative Action (Wilson Hess for Peter Geiger):

The Legislative Action Committee met on January 10, 2020.

- Peter is doing a great job with the Committee meetings.
- Testimony on January 15:
 - LD 1858: An Act To Protect Teachers from Certification Changes
- Two bills will be on the agenda for discussion for the Legislative Action Committee when they meet on Friday, January 17:
 - LD 1947: An Act To Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers
 - LD 2022: An Act To Provide Funding for Capital Improvements and Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions

Nomination and Election (Wilson Hess):

Chair Hess appointed the Nomination and Election Committee:

- Martha Harris as chair of the Committee with Fern Desjardins and Wendy Ault serving on the Committee.
- The Committee will convene in the spring.

Student Voices (Casey Maddock and Jaylee Rice):

- The first meeting of the Commissioner’s Student Cabinet took place on December 20, 2019 at the Senator Inn, Augusta.
- There are two students per county – one elementary and one in the high school/first year of college range.
- The first meeting was an ice breaker and an opportunity to get to know each other.
- Jaylee and Casey were facilitators for the meeting.
- Topics were mostly around civil rights. Talking about mental health and health in general.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2020 and then again before the summer break.

Chapter 125 - Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units (Wilson Hess for Fern Desjardins):

- Committee has completed its charge and will be removed from future business agendas.
- Wilson thanked Fern Desjardins, Peter Geiger and Jane Sexton for serving on the committee.

Charter Commission Representatives (Jana Lapoint):

The Charter School Commission met on January 14, 2020.

- The Commission approved sending policy on Revocation and Nonrenewal of a Charter School, as required, to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.
- The Commission approved funds to establish a training of Charter School Board Members on how to be more effective Board members.
- The Commission approved an allocation of \$6,000 to establish a day-long seminar on school safety which will be open to a number of district public schools along with all charter schools. The seminar will be conducted by the Executive Director of Safe Havens International, Inc. This is a non-profit school safety center whose analysts have worked in more than two dozen countries. The Executive Director, Michael Dorn, will conduct the seminar and comes with more than thirty-eight years of experience. Safe Havens sixty-two dedicated school safety analysts have assisted clients with school safety, security, climate, culture and emergency preparedness assessments for more than 7,600 K-12 schools globally.
- Lottery dates have been established for all Charter Schools between February 4 and March 27, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVEL FY 2020-2021

Pursuant to the provisions of 20-A M.R.S.A., Section 15689-C, the Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall certify to the Governor and the Bureau of the Budget recommended funding levels for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve. The funding levels recommended herein were developed based on proposed amendments to the Essential Programs and Service Funding Act, 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the following motion:

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the certified funding level for FY 2020-2021 for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve (including total operating allocation, total debt service allocation, total adjustments, total targeted education funds, total enhancing student performance and opportunity costs) at \$2,369,355,442 a local contribution amount of \$1,142,503,195 and a state contribution amount of \$1,226,852,247 to be distributed as General Purpose Aid for Local Schools. These amounts shall be distributed per the parameters of the Essential Programs & Services Funding Act, 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 606-B, as amended.

Martha Harris commented on the fact that this is the first time in nine years that the SBE has received the Commissioner's Recommended Funding Level in a timely manner.

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2020 ACTION AGENDA

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the 2020 Action Agenda as amended during the workshop session.

CONSIDERATION OF UPDATES FOR THE 2016-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the updates for the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan as amended during the morning workshop session.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF COMMISSIONER DECISIONS ON STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Wilson Hess, Chair of the Board, read a procedure for the Board when going into executive session to review requests for review of the Commissioner's decisions on student transfer requests.

The Board will be considering a request for Board review of the Commissioner's decision regarding a requested transfer of a student to another school district, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205(6)(F). The Board will be going into executive session to consider the request 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 particular 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.

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 Commissioner's decision based on the record that was before her at the time she 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 Commissioner's decision.

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 Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and voted unanimously 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 ID to review the Commissioner's decision to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:13 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:22 PM.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by John Bird, and voted unanimously by those present to overturn the Commissioner's decision in the denial of a transfer for ID. Motion Carries and the transfer is granted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary Becker at the end of this meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be held at the Cross State Office Building on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 1:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

The January 15, 2020 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.