



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 February 8, 2023 at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Fern Desjardins; Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau; Wendy Ault; Kristin Bishop; James Ford; Wilson Hess; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Ryan Hafener; and Joshua Leinwand.

Absent with Excuse: Thomas Keller

Others Present: Norm Higgins; Mallory Cook; Cheryl Lang; Lauren Linekin; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist/Secretary Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

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

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Joshua Leinwand: 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.

POEM READING:

Poem Read by Victoria Kornfield – “*Essence*” by Stuart Kestenbaum.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Item VII.C. - Add Student Membership under Ad Hoc Committees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted seven in favor, one abstention (Wendy Ault) to accept the January 11, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion is adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Edmond Morin was appointed to the School Construction Committee to replace Wilson Hess who resigned from the committee.
- Testified at the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee hearing for LD 206 on the supplemental budget. The request was for \$12,000 to cover per diem payments to board members. This provides an additional \$6,000 in per diem funding going forward and a one-time funding of \$6,000 for per diem costs incurred but not paid in fiscal year 2021-2022.
- Attended the work session for LD 206 with the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. The \$12,000 request passed with a 7-3 vote.
- Testified neither for nor against LD 19 An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Services to Grant Associate Degrees. Fern asked that the Education Committee delay their work sessions on the bill to allow the Review Committee the additional time needed to carry out the procedures in Chapter 149 for initial authorization and approval.
- Met with Paulette Bonneau, Wendy Ault, Joshua Leinwand, Ryan Hafener, and Sarah Forster on legal issues to be considered in increasing student engagement on the State Board.
- Met with Commissioner Makin, Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, and Paulette Bonneau to discuss school construction approvals and the debt ceiling.
- Will be attending State Board of Education orientation with the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on February 9 with Paulette, Wendy, and Ryan.

- Brought to the attention of the board the letter from MSAD 33 Supt. Ben Sirois that was distributed to members. Fern reminded the Board that school construction issues are taken up in committee meetings and recommendations move to the board from the committee. Discussions about the two schools that have been damaged by fire since July 2021 have been ongoing, including a January 26 meeting with Commissioner Makin, Deputy Commissioner Chuhta, Scott Brown, MDOE Director of School Construction Programs, and Vice Chair Paulette Bonneau to discuss options with the emergency provision in Chapter 61.

NASBE

- Board of Directors met on January 23. The Board voted on two additional members to the Finance & Audit Committee, discussed changes to the awards process and 2024 membership dues, and reviewed plans for the upcoming Legislative Conference.
- Members should have received the January 2023 issue of *The State Education Standard*.
- Office hours on February 13 at 3:00 PM will be discussing how state board members can be proactive in using evidence in their policymaking.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette participated with Chair Desjardins in the School Construction Committee meeting in January.
- She's met with Chair Desjardins at least once a week to discuss various issues with the State Board, which has included planning for the workshop and business agendas, preparation for the orientation with the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, and participating in the agenda review meeting.
- She assisted in the preparation of packets for the Student Membership Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on January 27, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 24, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

- Superintendent Kevin Jordan presented an update regarding the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Project. He discussed the work that has been done on governance structure, including legislation, and discussed the local support for the project. He also discussed the need for and importance of identifying financial resources to support the planning process. They will continue to pursue all avenues for financial support.
- The committee discussed moveable equipment in Major Capital Construction projects and voted unanimously to request that the Office of School Facilities prepare a recommendation for lowering movable equipment percentages to the committee.
- Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs, discussed the challenges encountered on the Edward Little High School project due to the COVID pandemic and increased costs in hazardous abatement work. Supt. Dr. Cornelia Brown provided additional details on the PCB abatement.
- Future School Construction Committee meetings will be held at 9:00 AM.

Certification and Higher Education (Wendy Ault):

The Certification and Higher Education (CHE) Committee met on January 25, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023, but it may be rescheduled to a later date.

Career and Technical Education (Wilson Hess):

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee met on February 2, 2023. The next meeting is February 16, 2023.

- Reviewed Perkins Fund balances year to date. There's a recommendation under new business to approve the Second Quarter Report for FY23.
- Reviewed the Perkins Targeted Reserve Grant Fund account in great detail. This is money that the State Board had allocated for a special initiative for CTE related to alignment of graduation requirements. Remaining balance is \$32,837 of FY22 funds, which must be used by the end of the fiscal year. The committee has a recommendation under new business on how to disperse those funds.
- Received a report from the State Director. February is CTE month. State Infrastructure Grants have been awarded for four projects that include Mexico, Oxford Hills, Lincoln, and Biddeford.
- Received an update from the Maine Community College System. They are working with MDOE on a CTE Data Sharing Agreement.

- The committee had a workshop session in which we discussed and reviewed the report on the CTE Strategic Plan and discussed different options on the initial Perkins Targeted Reserve Grant.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee meets every Friday at noon.

- Dr. Laura Cyr has been joining us, and that's been very helpful.
- We have been watching several bills. Fern has spoken on the supplemental budget and will speak on the biennial budget.
- A lot of bills are coming through. Many for the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Fern testified on LD 19. Wilson Hess is preparing written testimony on LD 33.

Student Voices (Joshua Leinwand and Ryan Hafener):

The Student Voices Committee met February 6, 2023.

- Met with AAG Sarah Forster on legal issues pertaining to voting rights for student members and the process that would need to be followed.
- Attended a Student Voices Committee meeting and further clarified what goals to push for regarding the quest for students voting.
- Would like to present a report at a future meeting on what they would like to see regarding student voting rights.
- Attended the Student Engagement Collaborative with NASBE and will be meeting monthly.
- Discussed the possibility of Ryan serving on the Student Membership Committee.
- Ryan may attend the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee orientation to observe and meet members.
- Surveyed Student Cabinet Members on meeting more regularly.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on January 30, 2023. The next meeting will be February 27, 2023.

- Planning March Workshop session. Superintendent of the Year Jeremy Ray will be joining us as well as the County Teacher of the Year and MDOE's Diana Doiron.
- Discussed student engagement and participation on the board. Would like an in-depth report from the students and their research findings.

- Looking at and focusing on reviewing and defining the roles and responsibilities of our committee members and committee chairs so that we can continue to be an effective board.

Student Membership Committee (Edmond Morin):

The Student Membership Committee met on January 11, 2023.

- Materials have been sent to public high schools in the first Congressional District and posted on the State Board of Education website.
- Many of the forms were updated to support new wording.
- Edmond thanked members for their participation in the process.

Charter Commission Representatives (Wilson Hess):

The Charter School Commission will meet on February 14, 2023.

- The search for an Executive Director has begun. Applications will be accepted until February 13, 2023.
- Victoria Kornfield is chairing the Performance Assessment Committee within the Charter School Commission. It has become clear that performance is as important as Social Emotional Learning.

Professional Standards Board (Thomas Keller):

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) did not meet in January.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224).

BACKGROUND: As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224), requires a designated eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education.

The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020. Further requirements are as follows:

SEC. 121. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **ELIGIBLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of an eligible agency under this title shall include: (3) convening and meeting as an eligible agency (consistent with State law and procedure for the conduct of such meetings) at such time as the eligible agency determines necessary to carry out the eligible agency’s responsibilities under this title, but not less than 4 times annually;

The State Board of Education Chair has requested, in accordance with Title 20-A, Section 405, 7, that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team submits a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the second report for FY2023.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Wendy Ault and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

REQUEST APPROVAL TO ALLOCATE REMAINING FY2022 MAINE CARL D. PERKINS TARGETED RESERVE GRANT FUNDS AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224).

BACKGROUND: The State Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Committee recommends to the State Board of Education the remaining FY22 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds, be allocated to Maine’s eligible secondary CTE schools in accordance with section 131 of the Perkins V Act, and be added to their FY23 Perkins formula awards. Due to time constraints, these remaining funds are not able to be awarded through the targeted reserve funding process.

- FY22 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to be allocated is \$32,837

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board Education approve the allocation of the remaining FY22 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to Maine’s eligible secondary CTE schools and be added to their FY23 Perkins formula awards. Total amount allocated will not exceed \$32,837.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Paulette Bonneau and unanimously voted by those present that the State Board of Education approve the allocation of the remaining FY22 Perkins V targeted reserve grant funds to Maine’s eligible secondary CTE schools and be added to their FY23 Perkins formula awards. Total amount allocated will not exceed \$32,837.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board business meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building, Room 103 and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist/Secretary Specialist
State Board of Education
