



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 14, 2024, 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; Thomas Keller; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; Ryan Hafener; and Phat Thai.

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Melissa O'Neal-Low, Director of Special Projects; Cindy Dean; Leigh Alley; Pamela Thompson; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

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

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Phat Thai: 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.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted to accept the January 8, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Edmond Morin and voted seven in favor with one abstention (Thomas Keller) to accept the January 10, 2024, minutes as amended to include the discussion and acknowledgement that Roux Institute representatives participated in the discussion. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault and voted seven in favor with one abstention (Thomas Keller) to accept the January 10, 2024, minutes as amended to specify the affiliation of the two Roux Institute members in attendance. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau and voted seven in favor with one abstention (Thomas Keller) to accept the January 17, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Edmond Morin and voted seven in favor with one abstention (Kristin Bishop) to accept the February 2, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Fern Desjardins

- Fern attended the MSSA Convocation on January 11-12 in South Portland. Presenters included Commissioner Makin and Associate Commissioner Welter on Early Childhood Special Education Services; Supt. Jeff Porter on “It’s 2 AM at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: Case Studies on Leadership; Wes Kieschnick on “how leaders are cultivating districts where teachers use AI to magnify, not replace, exceptional instruction to create joyful, engaging, and innovative learning experiences that work”; and Attorney Dan Rose with a panel of four Maine superintendents on setting realistic goals for new leaders.
- She attended all meetings of the Legislative Action Committee to discuss legislative bills and plan for public hearings and work sessions.
 - On January 23 the Certification & Higher Education Committee (Tom, Tori and Denham), Paulette and Fern presented the State Board’s certification report on LD 485, Resolve, 2023, Chapter 54 to the Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Committee.
 - January 24 – Fern and Tom attended the Work Session on LD 19, An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Service to Grant

Associate Degrees.

- February 6 – Fern virtually participated in ECA Committee discussions on LD 485. A resolve is forthcoming. She also listened to discussions on LD 1415 (school construction), LD 1002 (school day), and LD 1160 (Essential Programs and Services funding).
 - February 13 – Fern testified against LD 2170, An Act to Prioritize School Construction Projects for Schools Affected by Disasters and in support of LD 2181, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education.
- Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist II for the State Board, informed Fern of her resignation on February 2. Sandra’s last workday will be March 8. Paulette and Fern met with DOE personnel on February 7 to begin the process of replacing Sandy.

Vice Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette attended several meetings for L.D. 485.
- She attended the agenda review meeting with Fern and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta.
- Paulette was present for the presentation of LD 485, Resolve, 2023, Chapter 54 to the Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Committee on January 23.
- She’s tended to various Board related business with Fern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee did not meet in January.

- The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28 at 9:00 AM.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on January 24.

- The Husson University review is underway with the site visit now being completed. Tori reports that the program is in excellent shape.
- Smaller Educator Preparation Programs, like at College of the Atlantic and Bowdoin, are asking for delays by a year or two in their review visits. Their reasons tend to be that these programs have a very small number of faculty who may or may not be on campus due to sabbaticals and completing the review is a great deal of work. With assistance from Michael Perry, Director of

the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, we are developing a multi-year calendar to facilitate planning.

- The University of Maine has asked for an expedited off-cycle review.
- Erin Reinhard, Certification Coordinator of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, has provided monthly numbers and was asked to disaggregate those further and to produce an annual summary report.
- The format for the annual report that EPPs are required to submit by April 7 is being redrafted.
- Based on the work session of the Education Committee on February 6, we are anticipating a resolve from that committee directing us to open major substantive rulemaking on chapter 115.
- Victoria Kornfield is the State Board representative on the Commission to update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

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

- Ed presented testimony in favor of L.D. 2133 on behalf of the Board, a measure which acknowledges the importance of CTE education in the electrical field. The original measure would have allowed a CTE student to sit for the Journeyman-In-Training, (or JIT) license exam after graduating from a Maine CTE program and would credit the graduate with 1000 hours of the 2000 hours of field work toward qualifying for a JIT license.

There was a lot of push back from industry regarding the 2000 hours, which many thought weren't enough to qualify for the JIT license.

The sponsor pulled together a stakeholder group to come up with an amendment which made clear that JIT's need 6000 hours of installation field work to be sure the work that they do is safe. Under the amendment, graduates of a two-year CTE electrical program would still be able to sit for the JIT license exam and would still get 1000 hours credit toward their JIT license. But the amendment makes clear that JIT candidates would need 6000 hours of field experience in order to be licensed.

During a work session yesterday, the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee unanimously voted ought to pass on the amended bill.

- The next meeting is scheduled for February 22.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Legislative Action Committee met on January 19 and 26.

- Fern testified against L.D 2170, An Act to Prioritize School Construction Projects for Schools Affected by Disasters and in support of LD 2181, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education.
- Ed testified in support of L.D. 2133: An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce (EMERGENCY).
- The Certification & Higher Education Committee, Fern, and Paulette presented the report of LD 485, Resolve, 2023, Chapter 54 to the Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Committee. A resolve is forthcoming.
- The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee voted unanimously ought not to pass on L.D. 1217, Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program for Alternative Teacher Certification.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 16.

Student voices (Ryan Hafener, Phat Thai, Wendy Ault, and James Ford):

The Student Voices Committee met on February 12.

- The committee discussed the January 31 student cabinet meeting, which had been delayed for various reasons. Thirty-three students of the 34 cabinet members attended. Agenda items included a meeting with Governor Mills, tour provided by Secretary of State Bellows, and a meeting with Commissioner Makin.
- The Student Cabinet will have more meetings this year than they did last year.
- This was Phat's first Student Cabinet meeting. He found it fascinating.
- They met on February 13 to create an agenda for Thursday's meeting.
- Ryan attended the State of the State address in person.
- Full Plates Maine has reached out to Ryan.
- Ryan will be attending the Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C.
- Phat attended a cybersecurity event at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Phat has been preparing for Model UN at school.
- He's planning for another discussion around school safety.
- The Student Voices Committee thanked Sandra for her support and presented her with gifts.

Board Effectiveness (Paulette Bonneau):

The Board Effectiveness Committee met on January 29.

- More edits have been made to the student transfer appeal policy. This will be submitted with other policy changes.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 26.

Student Membership (Edmond Morin):

- Application deadline is Friday, February 16.
- Two press releases were sent out about applying for student membership.
- Packets were mailed to Congressional District two principal and guidance counselors on January 10. A couple of reminder emails were sent out as well.
- Outreach has been made with county and state Teachers of the Year.
- Application review is scheduled for February 20. Interviews will take place on February 27.
- With the short legislative session, names will need to be submitted to the Governor no later than March 7.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield, Thomas Keller, and James Ford):

The Charter Commission met on February 13.

- Representatives were thankful Lana Ewing, Executive Director of MCSC, was invited to participate in the morning workshop session, which included discussions on the Performance Framework and the Annual Report for the Commissioner.
- There are still some preconceived notions and misconceptions regarding Charter Schools.
- Representatives are pleased with the progress of all the Charter Schools. If schools do not fulfill their contracts, they can be decommissioned.
- The next meeting is March 12.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

The Professional Standards Board met on February 5.

- Discussions continued on mentoring, teacher recruitment and retention.
- Denham spoke of the L.D. 485 report and that it will likely go into rulemaking.

- Attendance for this Board is low. More PSB members are needed. MEA recently submitted a list of appointment names to the Governor's office but were unable to secure one for each category.
- They are charged with advising the State Board of Education, and they meet quarterly. What is their purpose? Do they have direction from us on what we're looking for?

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors (Fern Desjardins):

- The Office Hours session held on January 18 was actually a planning meeting to align NASBE's 2024 learning agenda with state board priorities and needs across the country. Attendees were asked for feedback on services and supports NASBE provides.
- The March 4 Office Hours will cover state lessons and strategies for implementing high-quality instructional materials.
- NASBE's *State Education Standard* was emailed to all members in January. The issue focuses on "Curriculum That Counts." This is the first NASBE *Standard* in a fully digital format. Valerie Norville, Editorial Director, has a video on the features of the new format in the February NASBE News that was emailed to the membership on February 2.
- NASBE's Board of Directors met on January 22. Along with routine matters, Directors weighed in on resources and services they would like for their state boards in 2024. State Board needs become NASBE opportunities. NASBE committee assignments and leadership were also voted on.

Government Affairs Committee (Thomas Keller):

- Met on February 6 and discussed various topics.
- Spoke of the 2024 appropriations.
- The White House put out a fact sheet which focuses on:
 - Increasing attendance
 - Providing high-dosage tutoring
 - Increasing summer learning and extended or afterschool learning time.

Public Education Positions Committee (Paulette Bonneau):

- The committee has not met.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACCEPTANCE OF SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM INTERIM REPORT

BACKGROUND: The Saint Joseph's College Educator Preparation Program (EPP) was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Spring 2022 through Spring 2027. Upon the recommendation of the EPP review team, the State Board's approval was conditional, pending an interim report from St. Joseph's College to be submitted by October 2023. In particular, the review team shared four recommendations primarily focused on the program's online graduate program.

Dr. Kathleen Clements, Director of Teacher Education at Saint Joseph's College, submitted the program's interim report on October 31, 2023. The interim report is organized around the review team's four recommendations and expresses the program's progress toward addressing each of the highlighted areas for improvement.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(d)(3), states that an interim report "will serve as the basis for either: full program approval or a re-visit by the Review Team to determine eligibility for full program approval status".

During its regular meeting on January 24, 2024, the State Board's Certification and Higher Education Committee voted unanimously to accept the Saint Joseph's College EPP interim report.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(d)(3), the State Board accept the interim report of the Saint Joseph's College educator preparation program and further, that the Board affirms the state's full approval of Saint Joseph's College educator preparation program through its current review period ending in Spring 2027.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted that pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(d)(3), the State Board accept the interim report of the Saint Joseph's College educator preparation program and further, that the Board affirms the state's full approval of Saint Joseph's College educator preparation program through its current review period ending in Spring 2027. The motion was adopted.

REQUEST TO EXTEND EXISTING APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT AUGUSTA'S EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM BY TWELVE MONTHS

BACKGROUND: The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Fall 2019 to Fall 2024.

On October 23, 2023, Dr. Cynthia Dean, Coordinator of Teacher Education at the University of Maine at Augusta, sent a formal request to the State Board of Education asking that UMA's EPP approval be extended from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025. According to that request, two emergent issues at UMA have informed this extension request:

- (1) In addressing a particularly great need in Maine's educator workforce, UMA is working with a sister campus to launch a special education program. The institution feels it could include their new special education program for approval if their review were to take place in 2025.
- (2) UMA's faculty would be better positioned to engage with the demanding state review process if they were able to access professional grant funding through their institution; these funds would not be available until the 24-25 academic year.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on January 24, 2023, and voted unanimously to approve UMA's request to extend their EPP approval by twelve months. (Per Rule Ch. 114, the subsequent review of UMA's EPP would be for a shorter period to maintain the regular cadence of reviews.)

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the University of Maine at Augusta's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twelve months.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted by those present that pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the University of Maine at Augusta's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twelve months. The motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Sandra Bourget by the 15th day following the month of the expenses incurred. When you have your last meeting in February, please submit your expense voucher so it can get processed.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom. This meeting is tentative pending a replacement for the State Board Office Specialist or assistance from the MDOE staff.
- Chair Desjardins and the Board thanked Sandra for her hard work and services to the State Board. Board members shared their appreciation with kind sentiments and presented her with gifts. Sandra thanked the Board and stated it has been her honor serving them.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.

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