



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the October 31, 2025 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education

Valerie Chiang, Senior Construction Coordinator, Department of Education

Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist, State Board of Education

Patrick Manuel, Superintendent, RSU 1

Sharon Littlefield, Superintendent, RSU 53

Kathy Cogan, CHA Solutions

Ben Winschel, CHA Solutions

*Paulette Bonneau Chaired the meeting as Chair Desjardins participated remotely.*

Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the September 26, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

Bonneau then introduced the first item on the agenda; Major Capital School Construction Program, *Site Approval Consideration for RSU 53/MSAD 53* and asked Superintendent Sharon Littlefield to present to the Committee.

Superintendent Littlefield began her presentation by thanking the Committee for the opportunity and stated that the district is grateful for the state's support of the project. She then discussed the site selection process, the public support for the site, and the philanthropic donation of contiguous adjacent parcels that will greatly enhance the project. Superintendent Littlefield then asked Kathy Cogan to provide some technical information regarding the site. Cogan reviewed the testing that has been completed to date and reviewed a site test fit drawing that included a potential layout of the project. Cogan also informed the Committee of the September 8, 2025 public meeting where constructing a new facility on the site was endorsed by a straw poll vote of 44 in favor and 1 abstention. After several questions from the Committee, Bonneau asked for a motion.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to recommend that RSU 53/MSAD 53's request for Site Approval Consideration be placed on the November 13, 2025 State Board of Education meeting agenda and that the Board grant Site Approval for the project.

Bonneau asked Director Brown to present the next agenda item; Major Capital School Construction Program, *Approval of the Final Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle*. Mr. Brown read the Statement of Fact from the exhibit and answered several questions from the Committee. It was then motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to recommend that the exhibit be placed on the November 13, 2025 meeting agenda and that the State Board of Education approve the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle.

Bonneau asked Director Brown to present the next agenda item; Major Capital School Construction Program, *Placement of Projects on the Approved Projects List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle*. Mr. Brown read the Statement of Fact from the exhibit and answered several questions from the Committee. It was then motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to recommend that the exhibit be placed on the November 13, 2025 meeting agenda and that the State Board of Education approve the Approved Projects List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle. It is further recommended that the assigned calendar year within which Concept Approval shall be obtained is 2027 for project 1 and 2028 for project 2.

Bonneau asked Chair Desjardins to update the Committee on the status of the November 13, 2025 State Board of Education Workshop. Desjardins suggested that the School Construction Workshop include information on the School Building Inventory, School Construction Planning and Guidelines documents, a review of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan with updates, and plans for amending Rule Chapter 61. It was agreed that the school construction presentation would include Director Brown and be split into two thirty-minute segments.

Bonneau asked Desjardins to introduce discussion topics under the Miscellaneous agenda item. Desjardins reviewed recent developments from the Governor's Commission on School Construction and updated the Committee on the agenda items from the September 26 and October 10 meetings. She highlighted several topics including discussions regarding essential roles and responsibilities as well as recently distributed concept papers on consolidation and energy efficiency. She stated that the final report is still due to be completed in December.

Desjardins asked Mr. Brown to update the Committee on the status of the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Program. Brown confirmed that a Priority Notice has been issued regarding the time extension of the Part II application. He notified the Committee that the Department has cancelled the remaining Office Hours scheduled for the first Monday of November and December. He will update the Committee when more information is available on the program.

Morin stated that he would draft a press release on the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle Final Priority List and Approved Projects List for release after the November 13, 2025 meeting of the State Board.

Bonneau adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

The next Committee meeting will be on Friday, November 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.