



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the December 1, 2025 Emergency Meeting

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education (remote)
Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist, State Board of Education
Heather Manchester, Superintendent of Schools, MSAD 17/RSU 17 (remote)
Joe Britton, Architect, Lavallee Brensinger (remote)
Lance Whitehead, Architect, Lavallee Brensinger (remote)

Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Desjardins introduced the item on the agenda; Major Capital School Construction Program; Waiver Request Consideration. RSU 17/MSAD 17 Agnes Gray School Construction Project. She reviewed the Statement of Fact presented in the exhibit and then reviewed Superintendent Manchester's waiver request letter and timeline. She explained the unique situation and the importance of compliance with the Time Limitation provisions in State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 6.2.F(1). She then asked Lance Whitehead from Lavallee Brensinger to provide additional project timeline information that would support the request for a time extension. Lance discussed the fact that they lost the purchase option on the originally selected site after months of work. They have now identified another site and are in the process of evaluating the site. That work will be completed by early spring 2026. He also discussed the work that has been initiated on the Educational Specifications, programming and other planning work, as well as the anticipated November 2026 referendum date.

After a brief discussion it was motioned by Bonneau, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to approve the waiver request.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.