



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 541, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta and remotely via Zoom.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Valerie Chiang, Senior Construction Coordinator, Department of Education

Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist, State Board of Education

Mike Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, Augusta School Department

Shelby Thibodeau, Assistant Superintendent, Augusta School Department

Jeannine Ross, Business Manager, Augusta School Department

Jon Stonier, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Augusta School Department

Kathy Cogan, Principal, CHA Architecture

Robin Tannenbaum, Architect, CHA Architecture

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

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the December 1, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the November 21, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, Major Capital School Construction Program; Site Approval Consideration; Augusta Schools – Elementary School Construction Project. She reviewed the Statement of Fact presented in the exhibit and then asked Superintendent Tracy and his project team to share project details. He presented background history about the Lillian Parks Hussey School. Kathy Cogan from CHA Architecture then provided information about the New vs. Renovation analysis, due diligence performed at the

Farrington Elementary School site, and the goal to provide parity across both sides of the river for all students. Assistant Superintendent Thibodeau and Jon Stonier further elaborated on how the selected site would benefit the district's special education needs and maximize building efficiencies.

After Committee discussion it was motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present that pursuant to MRS Title 20-A §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, this exhibit be placed on the January 8, 2026 State Board meeting agenda with the recommendation that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to Augusta Public Schools for an elementary school construction project as presented.

Chair Desjardins moved to the next item on the agenda, Governor's Commission on School Construction Update. She reviewed her notes from the December 4 meeting on Opportunity Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) with Commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Michael Duguay and Kevin Bunker, founding principal of Developers Collaborative. Desjardins then reported out in detail the information from the December 5 meeting of the full Commission. She began by thanking Bonneau and Morin for their feedback on the Efficiencies and Entity draft concept papers and mentioned that she participated in the discussion at the Commission meeting by referring to some their statements. Desjardins stated she remains committed to representing the Committee's views and not just her own. A Special Meeting will be scheduled with Commission Chair Valerie Landry to discuss the Draft Concept Papers on December 18 or 19, 2025.

Chair Desjardins moved to the next item on the agenda, School Construction Bills in the Legislature. To the best of her knowledge, there are only two bills to monitor in the upcoming session – LD 1312 and LD 1892.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.