



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the December 18, 2025 Special Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 538, 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:**

Ann Pinnette, School Facilities Manager, Department of Education (remote)  
Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education (remote)  
Valerie Landry, Chair, Governor's Commission on School Construction  
Erica Tompkins, Office Specialist, State Board of Education

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

Chair Desjardins asked attendees to introduce themselves and then she introduced the item on the agenda: Governor's Commission on School Construction, Draft Concept Papers, Discussion with Commission Chair Valerie Landry. She reviewed the reason for inviting Chair Landry to the meeting, which was to give Committee members the opportunity to hear about the Commission's work from Landry's perspective as chair of the Commission and not just from her own report outs at monthly Committee meetings.

Landry provided an overview of Governor Mills' Executive Order; Commission purpose and membership; use of resources like the two MEPRI reports; references to other states facing similar issues with school construction needs and renovations; the Commission's *Interim Summary* in April 2025; how the Commission built the essential elements of what was happening or not happening toward having every school in Maine safe and sound for students; and the drafts of concept papers that were reviewed by members. She emphasized that the Commission seeks recommendations for long-term solutions to school renovations and construction. That would include a quasi-independent state entity established by the Legislature to fulfill governmental purposes. It would have independence outside the MDOE.

Landry answered questions from Committee members and invited them to submit any suggestions for consideration. She stated that it's not too late to do so, but the report should be ready sometime in January 2026.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.