



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 27, 2026 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, Paulette Bonneau, and Edmond Morin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education
Ted Hall (remote), Lyndon Keck and Ruey Yehle

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. She welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda. Motioned by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the January 30, 2026 meeting minutes as written.

Desjardins then moved to the next agenda item, *Drafting of Amendments to Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Sections 1-3.*

Throughout the discussion, attendees agreed to the following:

- Ted Hall will draft amendments to Chapter 61 with strike outs and underlines and prepare a clean proposed new version for rulemaking.
- Section 1 - Desjardins and Hall will meet to identify errors, omissions and grammatical edits to bring back to the committee for review. Changes to some terms or the need to define additional terms may be on hold until other sections of the rule have been reviewed for possible amendments.
- Section 2 – Desjardins and Hall will also identify edits in this section for team consideration.

Desjardins called attention to subsection 3, *Application Form*. The Governor's Commission on School Construction recommended the development of an eligibility/selection model to replace the current application model. The issue they identified is that some schools don't apply for school construction because of the time and cost involved in developing an application, thus creating an inequitable situation. Hall suggested that the application form should be reviewed to address the equity issue that was raised by the Commission.

Bonneau agreed to look more deeply into the comparison of the eligibility/selection model with the application model and to report back to the committee.

- Section 3 – Director Brown provided members with a copy of the section with edits using Track Changes. He worked with Hall, Keck, and Yehle on the edits and they want to consider additional changes to their draft before the committee makes its recommendations. They will have a second draft for review at the next meeting.

Discussion of the *Governor's Commission on School Construction Final Report* was withdrawn from the agenda due to a time limitation.

Chair Desjardins moved to the next item on the agenda, *Update on School Construction Bills in the Legislature*. Bonneau stated there have been no recent public hearings or work sessions scheduled for school construction bills.

In order to have a proposal for amendments to Chapter 61 by June 30, 2026, the team decided on the following meeting dates:

- Friday, March 13, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
- Friday, March 27, 9:00-12:00, via Zoom
- Thursday, April 23, 9:00-2:00, Room 500
- Friday, May 1, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
- Friday, May 15, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
- Wednesday, May 27, 9:00-12:00, Room 500
- Friday, June 12, 9:00-2:00, Room 500
- Friday, June 26, 9:00-12:00, Room 500

In preparation for the next meeting on March 13, the team agreed to review Sections 4-6 of Chapter 61 and be ready to propose amendments for discussion.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.