



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 21, 2025 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met via Zoom

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ann Pinnette, School Facilities Manager, Department of Education
Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education
Mary Becker, Temporary Staff, State Board of Education

Chair 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 February 21, 2025 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, *Update on the Governor's Commission on School Construction*. Chair Desjardins updated the Committee on the Interim Draft Report. She reviewed several highlights of the report and asked for feedback from Committee members. Discussions included the possibility of prototype schools, speeding up the process, and consolidating schools. Chair Desjardins asked Mr. Brown about the status of the Standards and Guidelines project that the Department is working on. Mr. Brown noted that work is progressing and he would like to share that work with the Committee in the coming months.

Chair Desjardins asked Director Brown to provide the Committee with an update on the status of Major Capital School Construction 2024-2025 Rating Cycle. Mr. Brown stated that the site visits are going well and are on schedule. The timeline for completion is still estimated to be July 2025 and he would like to bring the other contractors working on the project to meet with the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Chair Desjardins asked Director Brown to update the Committee regarding legislative bills related to school construction. Mr. Brown discussed bills that would amend the state share of school construction costs and increase lodging taxes as a potential revenue source.

Chair Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.