



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 5, 2025 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 103, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta.

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Vicky Cohen, Member, State Board of Education

Erica Tompkins, Secretary Specialist, State Board of Education

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education

Jeremy Ray, Superintendent of Schools, Saco School Department

Meg Parkhurst, Assistant Superintendent, Saco School Department

Rob Tillotson, Project Architect, Oak Point Associates

Norm Lemire, Project Coordinator, Oak Point Associates

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 June 25, 2025 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, Major Capital School Construction Program; Design and Funding Approval Consideration; Saco School Department - New Elementary School and asked Director Scott Brown to provide background information for the Committee. Mr. Brown explained that this is the third and final time that the project will come before the State Board. He also stated that the project has been designed to meet the Department's school construction standards and is ready to move forward for bidding and construction.

Superintendent Ray began his presentation by thanking the Committee for the opportunity to present the project for approval and that the district is grateful for the State Board's support of their project. He provided a brief update on the status of the locally funded primary school which will be bid and constructed at the same time as the elementary school. He then reviewed some of the major design elements of the building and stated that there have not been substantive changes to the plan or budget since Concept Approval. After reviewing the floor plans, elevations, and budget in detail, Superintendent Ray answered several questions from the Committee including layout and configuration of grades, building egress, and daylighting.

After further Committee discussion it was moved by Morin, seconded by Bonneau, and voted unanimously by those present that pursuant to Title 20-A M.R.S. §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, that this exhibit be placed on the August 13, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board grant Design and Funding Approval to the Saco School Department for a new grades 1-5 Elementary School construction project as presented.

Under the Miscellaneous agenda item, Chair Desjardins reviewed agenda items and developments from the Governor's Commission on School Construction since the last Committee meeting on June 25, 2025. This led to the Committee's discussion of the possibility and potential impact of revisions to Rule Chapter 61 and they agreed to review further in future meetings this fall. Bonneau informed the Committee that Representative Brennan would be attending the August 13 workshop of the State Board of Education to discuss L.D. 1892 *An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects* and other bills that have been carried over by the Legislature.

Chair Desjardins asked Mr. Brown to update the Committee on the status of the Proposed Priority List. Mr. Brown noted that the Commissioner had received one request for an Administrative Review and that the timeline to file was still open. He informed the Committee that he would provide an update at the Committee's next meeting.

Chair Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

The next Committee meeting will be on Friday, August 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.