



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on April 9, 2008, at the Cross State Office Building, ATM Room 103, Augusta. The following members were present: Vice Chair Philip Dionne; Jean Gulliver; Ann Weisleder; James Banks, Sr.; Mabel Desmond; Connie Goldman; Justin Chenette and Honor Wilkinson.

Excused: Chair James Carignan; Marilyn Temple Tardy

Also present were: Commissioner Susan Gendron; Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Scott Brown, AIA, School Facilities; and Mary Johnson, Secretary Associate

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM.

INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Phil Dionne welcomed the Student Board Members, Honor Wilkinson and Justin Chenette. The Board members individually introduced themselves to the students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the March 12, 2008 minutes with one correction – No Board Member Reports at the March 12, 2008 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: REVISED DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; SAD #3 THORNDIKE, NEW PRE K-12 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; SITE APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; FALMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

RECEIPT OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORIZATION AS SUBMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND TO AWARD THE MASTER OF MEDICAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP (MMEL) DEGREE

CONSIDERATION OF TEAM MEMBERSHIP FOR THE MAINE COLLEGE OF ART APPLICATION – POST BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

MOVED by Jim Banks, seconded by Connie Goldman, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; BRUNSWICK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, GRADE 3-5 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Brunswick (Hawthorne School) project was rated number 13 on the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List. The project will house grades 3-5 and will replace the Hawthorne School and the Longfellow School.

A complete New vs. Renovation Study is on file with the Department of Education which supports the Department's recommendation to build new rather than renovate an existing school.

All appropriate State and local agencies have been contacted; and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The building has been designed to High Performance standards.

The Brunswick project has been very time consuming. With the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station, student projected enrollments were difficult to predict and extensive research went into the effort.

A site for the new school was also problematic. Finding a site that was in town and was free of wet lands with appropriate soils took some time. A site that housed the old high school on one end and an abandoned armory on the other end was selected. The school has been designed to take advantage of the narrow site while retaining the school's play field. The project will also include both play fields and the replacement of tennis courts off site.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Brunswick School Department is requesting Concept Approval for a Grade 3-5 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Superintendent David R. Wallace has provided the following project description statement:

The hopes, dreams, and hard work of many people throughout the Brunswick community will be realized by the construction of this state of the art elementary school. The closing of the Hawthorne and Longfellow Schools who have served our children with educational excellence for many decades will now give way to a new, exciting, innovative, and technologically advanced design. The new grade 3 to 5 facility will end the many years of concerns by townspeople about equity among our four elementary schools and become a unifying community hub for educational and community based activities.

This new arrangement of having two K-2 elementary schools and a new intermediate school will both provide adequate program space coupled with operating efficiencies. The locating of the new elementary school in town and within walking distance of many families will encourage children to become more physically active by walking or biking to their neighborhood school. This will be a school that the entire community will share and should be proud to support for many years to come.

Project Information:

Project: Elementary School

Superintendent: David R. Wallace

Principal: vacant

Architect: Lyndon Keck, Portland Design Team

School(s) to be closed: Hawthorne School and Longfellow School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$28,560,000

Local Only (no State participation): \$3,379,200

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$24,939,360

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$167,440

Local Only Funds Raised: \$74,000

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: At its meeting on March 31, 2008, the Construction Committee gained consensus to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Brunswick School Department for new grade 3-5 elementary construction project located in Brunswick, Maine.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Brunswick School Department for a grade 3-5 elementary school in Brunswick, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.**

**This approval constitutes Concept Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Jim Banks, and unanimously voted by those present to grant concept approval to the Brunswick School Department, Grade 3-5 Elementary School Construction Project.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; WAIVER EXTENSION FOR GORHAM’S MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Gorham was rated number 10 on the 2004-2005 Major Capital School Construction Program Approved Projects List. In November, 2007, the Education Commissioner Gendron recommended and the State Board of Education approved a waiver for Gorham achieving Concept Approval from calendar 2007 to April 2008.

Gorham has had a series of setbacks in obtaining a site for the school. Gorham would like to build in the northern section of the community. The first site which took time to investigate and was found to be an excellent site had gone through the site selection process. The seller then changed his mind and reneged on his decision to sell.

A second site was identified, shared with the community and Planning board and fully investigated. Three items have held up the project since December 11, 2007. First, a third appraisal had to be commissioned on the land because the first appraisals were more than 25 % apart. Second, the land seller has taken 6 weeks longer to negotiate details of the Option agreement than was previously planned. The third appraisal has resolved the Purchase price issue. Third, Gorham needs more time to obtain title insurance since the seller will only grant a "quit-claim" deed.

A second waiver will give Gorham the opportunity to finish the land agreement or to move to a Town owned site in the village. This request is for an additional six months; extending the deadline for State Board of Education action on Concept Approval to October 2008.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: At its meeting on March 31, 2008, the construction committee gained consensus to recommend that the State Board of Education grant the waiver requested by the Gorham School Department.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant a waiver to Gorham to achieve Concept Approval for a new elementary school for an additional six-month period; extending the deadline for State Board of education action to October 2008.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Connie Goldman, and unanimously voted by those present to grant a six month waiver extension with a deadline of October 2008 for Gorham's Major Capital School Construction Project.

REMOVAL OF THE MACHIAS HIGH SCHOOL AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER FROM THE STATE'S MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION APPROVED PROJECTS LIST

STATEMENT OF FACT : Machias High School was rated number 12 on the 2004-2005 Major Capital School Construction Approved Projects List. The Machias School Department advertised for a design firm and received eleven responses. Following the screening and interview process, Portland Design Team was selected as their designer.

Portland Design Team completed a New vs. Renovation study which was received by the Department of Education on November 1, 2007, and is on file. Portland Design Team

recommended closing the high school and building new to improve educational programming. At the time of the study Machias High School had an enrollment of 135 students.

In 2006, \$1 million from an approved bond became available to Western Washington County for design and planning of an educational facility. Portland Design Team outlined a plan and submitted it to the Executive Director of the Sunrise County Economic Council. The plan was to lead community members, educators, and civic leaders through a planning process for a high school to replace Machias High School and for Coastal Washington County Institute of Technology, which would replace the Center at Machias High School.

SAD #37, the Narraguagus district, joined Machias and neighboring communities in the visioning process. An option to purchase a plot of land on Route 1 in Jonesboro was obtained. The State was not involved in the land option.

The Commissioner strongly supported the regional efforts in Western Washington County and extended both staff and personnel time to the effort. As the visioning process went forward, a number of attempts to reach agreement on how to govern a consolidated educational program and facility failed. It finally became evident that a joint solution that included all of the interested communities was not possible. Efforts to salvage a comprehensive regional program ended, and further communication appeared fruitless.

In November, 2007, Education Commissioner Gendron recommended and the State Board approved setting a deadline for the Machias School Department to either have a regional governing structure in place by March 1, 2008, or lose their position on the Major School Construction Approved Projects List.

There is no structure in place and the Superintendent of Schools has informed Commissioner Gendron that no further attempts will be made.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: At its meeting on March 31, 2008, the construction committee gained consensus to recommend that the State Board of Education remove the Machias project from the approved projects list.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the Machias High School and Technical Education Center be removed from the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List and that school units in Western Washington County and Eastern Hancock County be informed of the Board's action.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Jim Banks, and unanimously voted by those present to remove the Machias High School and Career Technical project from the approved priority projects list.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT REGARDING THE WHEELOCK COLLEGE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER, WITHIN MAINE, THE DEGREES OF MASTER OF SCIENCE: LEADERSHIP AND POLICY IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WITH A CHILD DEVELOPMENT CONCENTRATION

Background: 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that the State Board of Education may approve an application from a postsecondary educational institution located outside the State of Maine to offer within the state courses or programs for academic credit. Officials from Wheelock College, located in Boston, Massachusetts, made application to renew authorization to offer a graduate program leading to completion of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science: Leadership and Policy in Early Care and Education Program as well as to initially offer the Bachelor of Science: Human Development With a Child Care Concentration. Initial authorization for Wheelock College to operate in Maine was granted by the State Board in 1998. As there will be a physical presence in Maine, with program delivery based in the Portland area, this request requires approval by the State Board of Education.

During a meeting conducted in Augusta on February 6, 2008, the Board approved Review Team met with Wheelock College representatives and evaluated the College's application in accordance with the degree-granting rules and standards adopted by the Board. Board members received a copy of the Wheelock College application and the Review Team Report of Findings during the March 12, 2008 meeting.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the Review Team Report of Findings concerning the Wheelock College application for authorization to offer in Maine programs leading to the completion of requirements for the degrees of Master of Science: Leadership and Policy in Early Care and Education Program and the Bachelor of Science: Human Development With a Child Development Concentration. The period of authorization will be from Spring 2008 to Spring 2012.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Connie Goldman, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Review Team Report of Findings concerning the Wheelock College application for authorization to offer in Maine programs leading to the completion of requirements for the degrees of Master of Science; Leadership and Policy in Early Care and Education Program and the Bachelor of Science Human Development With a Child Development Concentration.

PROPOSED VISITATION TEAM FOR THE HUSSON COLLEGE REVIEW OF THE MASTER OF SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

Background: Husson College has requested a focused campus visit to review the following New Educator Preparation Program: Master of School Counseling Program

The Husson College School of Education is currently State program approved by the Maine State Board of Education. Although the State program approval visit is due to be conducted in the fall of 2008, the College has requested that its Master of School Counseling Program be reviewed for State program approval in advance of the next approval cycle. To conduct this focused visit State team members have been selected for the State Board's consideration.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the list of State team members for the Husson College focused visit to review the Master of School Counseling Program for State program approval.

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Connie Goldman, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the list of State team members for the Husson College focused visit to renew the Master of School Counseling Program for State Program approval.

PROPOSED VISITATION TEAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON REVIEW OF ITS BIRTH TO AGE 5 PROGRAM

Background: The University of Maine at Farmington has requested a focused campus visit to review the following New Teacher Preparation Program

Undergraduate Programs: Early Childhood Education – Birth to Age 5

The University of Maine at Farmington, College of Education, Health and Rehabilitation is currently State program approved by the Maine State Board of Education and nationally accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Although both the State and national program approval/accreditation visits are due to be conducted in 2009, the College has requested that its new Birth to Age 5 Program be reviewed for State program approval in advance of this next cycle. To conduct this focused visit State team members have been selected for the State Board’s consideration.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the list of State team members for the University of Maine at Farmington, College of Education, Health and Rehabilitation, focused visit to review the Birth to Age 5 Offering for State program approval.

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Connie Goldman, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the list of State team members for the University of Farmington, College of Education, Health and Rehabilitation, focused visit to review the Birth to Age 5 offering for State Program approval.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

That the Nominating Committee will be convened, and Jean Gulliver has agreed to serve as chair of the committee with Mabel Desmond and Jim Banks serving as members.

REPORTS

Commissioner’s Report

- Reported on the Findings and Recommendations for the Delivery of Remedial College Courses that was recently presented to the Education Committee. All Board Members received a copy of the report.
- Reported on Distance Learning Opportunities for Maine High School Students. All Board members received a copy of the report.
- Reported on L.D. 1932 “An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding School Funding” which was vetoed by the Governor. A new bill has been introduced and should be before the

body sometime today. The bill focuses on Cost Sharing Provisions for School Consolidation, Minimum Special Education and Cost Center Reporting Requirements. The bill was kept very simple and we are hoping it goes forward without amendments.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Phil Dionne reported on the following:

- No specific report from Chair Carignan.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ann Weisleder

- That I was the Mistress of Ceremonies - Teacher of the Year at the Hall of Flags. People from Hannaford commented that they wished more people would participate in the program. The Board should talk about ways to get more participation.
- That the Certification Committee is developing small work groups.

Honor Wilkinson

- That she is very excited and would like to learn more about what the SBE does.

Justin Chenette

- That numerous teachers have stressed to him the importance of simplifying the process for Teacher of The Year.
- That the confirmation hearing was a great and worthwhile experience and meeting with the Governor was very exciting. The Senate vote that occurred on Monday was very interesting to observe.

Phil Dionne

- Program Review Team Roster – Harry Osgood
- That he attended a Legislative Conference on March 13 – 14 regarding No Child Left Behind.
- That he attended the second NASBE CTE Study Group.
- That in February he attended the National Association of State Board Chairs in Washington.
- That he attended the opening session of the 21st Century Advisory Council. Presentations of Information.

ADJOURNMENT

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the April 9, 2008, meeting at 12:22 PM.

