



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 November 18, 2009, at Searsport High School, Searsport, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Ann Weisleder; Vice Chair James Banks, Sr.; Marilyn Temple Tardy; Mabel Desmond; Lynda Doyle; Jeffrey Vermette; and Steven Pound.

Excused: James Carignan; Nancy Perkins; Honor Wilkinson; and Andrea Levinsky.

Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Ann Weisleder called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

The Chair of the Board requested a change in the agenda - Following approval of the October 14, 2009 minutes; all reports will be moved to follow Special Orders on the agenda. There were no objections by members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by James Banks, Sr., seconded by Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the October 14, 2009 minutes as written.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RECEIPT OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FROM ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND, LOCATED IN KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO RENEW ITS PRIOR APPROVAL TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE.

RECEIPT OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FROM TUFTS UNIVERSITY, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, TO OFFER COURSES IN MAINE LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

RECEIPT OF THE INTERIM REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

RECEIPT OF THE INTERIM REPORT FROM THE BOWDOIN COLLEGE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

MOVED by Steven Pound, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the consent agenda.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

CONSIDERATION OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FROM MAINE MEDIA COLLEGE, LOCATED IN ROCKPORT, MAINE FOR REAFFIRMATION OF ITS MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE AS REQUIRED BY ENACTMENT OF LD 318 DURING THE 124TH LEGISLATURE, FIRST REGULAR SESSION.

BACKGROUND: With enactment P&SL 1995, Chapter 68, S.P. 682 – L.D. 1747, *An Act to Authorize the Maine Photographic Workshops to Grant Degrees* authorized Rockport College, formerly known as Maine Photographic Workshops, located in the Town of Rockport, County of Knox to confer the Associate in Arts and the Master of Fine Arts degrees. Legislative authorization was granted during the 117th Maine Legislature, second regular session, 1996 with such authorization becoming effective July 4, 1996.

20-A MRSA, Chapter 409, §10712, requires that the State Board of Education terminate the authority of an educational institution to confer degrees when any of the following has occurred: 1) discontinuance of instruction; 2) sale of stock; 3) sale or lease of assets; and/or 4) merger, consolidation, or reorganization. The Department of Education was advised, March 6, 2007, that, on March 3, 2007, the Maine Media Workshops (MMW), a not-for-profit corporation, acquired from Mr. David Lyman the working assets of the Maine Photographic Workshops (MPW), the International Film and Television Workshops, and Rockport College. This acquisition involved the transfer of all of the College's voting stock.

Given the transfer of the College's voting stock, during its April 11, 2007 meeting, the Maine State Board of Education voted to terminate the degree-granting authority of Rockport College to confer degrees under the ownership of the Maine Photographic Workshops. The new owner secured Articles of Incorporation through the Office of the Secretary of State, retained the Rockport College name, programming, and facilities and sought temporary approval from the State Board to confer degrees under the name of Rockport College.

Title 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409, § 10703 provides that the State Board may grant an applicant use of the term "college" in its name until the earlier of: the expiration of the academic year; or the applicant is authorized by the Legislature to grant degrees in accordance with §10704. §10703 also provides that the State Board may extend or renew temporary approval for not more than two years.

Through the vehicle of a letter to Commissioner Gendron, dated March 6, 2007, the owners of the Maine Media Workshops, d.b.a. as the Maine Photographic Workshops requested that the State Board of Education grant temporary approval, permitting the use of the name Rockport College. Because the Maine Media Workshops would need to be granted authority to confer degrees under an Act of the Legislature, the period of temporary approval being sought was for the next six months of the academic year 2006-2007 and for the academic year 2007-2008. It was felt that this action would permit the acquisition of Legislative authority, during the second session of the 123rd Legislature, to confer the Associate of Arts and the Master of Fine Arts degrees as Rockport College, under the ownership of the Maine Media Workshops.

Legislative authority was not sought during the second session of the 123rd Legislature and the State Board's grant of temporary approval lapsed in June, 2008. In June and July 2008 the Department was informed that the Rockport College Board of Trustees was exploring the feasibility of a name change; the name Rockport College was not seen as reflecting the primary

mission and work of the institution. The College's Board subsequently voted to change the name from Rockport College to Maine Media College. College administration was advised that the authority to confer academic degrees had lapsed and that it would be necessary to seek and secure Legislative degree-granting authority, under new ownership and under a new name, as soon as possible.

LD 318, *An Act Regarding Rockport College (Emergency)*, was introduced and enacted during the 124th Legislature, first regular session. With emergency designation, the act became effective on the date of its signing. The act acknowledges the name change from Rockport College to Maine Media College and authorizes Maine Media College to confer the degree of Master of Fine Arts through June 30, 2010. The Act required that, prior to June 30, 2010, the College undergo a reassessment of the Master of Fine Arts degree through the vehicle of a program review team utilizing the State Board's degree-granting standards as found in 20-A, Chapter 170, *Standards For Evaluating Requests For Degree-Granting Authorizations And For Out-Of-State Postsecondary Institutions Seeking To Offer Academic Credit Courses/Programs In Maine*. The Board approved Review Team conducted the on-site visit on August 12, 2009. Review Team's report of findings has been compiled for receipt by the State Board of Education during its October 14, 2009 meeting. Consideration of this matter will be an agenda item for the Board's November 11, 2009 meeting. With favorable Board action, a memorandum of transmittal to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs will be compiled for Joint Standing Committee deliberation and potential Legislative action during the 124th Legislature, second regular session.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the Maine Media College Review Team report of findings and recommend to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural affairs, that Maine Media College, located in Rockport, Maine, be granted continuing authorization to award the Master of Fine Arts degree.

MOVED by Jeffrey Vermette, seconded by James Banks, Sr., and unanimously voted by those present to accept the Maine Media College Review Team report of findings and recommend to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, that the Maine Media College, located in Rockport, Maine be granted continuing authorization to award the Master of Fine Arts degree.

REPORTS

Goals Team Workshop (Ann Weisleder)

- That the members of the goal setting group (Steve Pound, Jim Banks, Nancy Perkins and herself) met on October 26, 2009 and in a short time focused on and put together a Work Group Report. The group discussed both Education goals and Boardsmanship and Operational goals developed at the August Board Retreat. The group selected one priority action item for each goal area. Seeing as the education goals are the key to the work of the SBE, the group discussed these goals in terms of student and educator growth and impact. Ann distributed three handouts and gave a brief presentation of each. 1) the actual four page report from NASBE (Brenda Welburn); 2) the report developed by the Goals Work Group on October 26, 2009; 3) the report from last years goals around communications. Board members agreed to take time to review the reports and to continue discussion regarding the goals at a future Board meeting.

Certification Committee (Ann Weisleder)

- That if Board members are not currently receiving agendas for the Certification committee meetings, then Mary will begin forwarding the agenda and approved minutes to all members each month.
- That the committee put together a package of items that they need to work on such as Chapter 13 test scores. We are headed toward another round of adjusting scores for a couple of the Praxis II test. When the changes go through they are not as complicated as the certification rulemaking process. We go through the APA process but do not need to send to the legislature for their final stamp. The committee has asked Harry Osgood to help with any changes to Chapter 114.
- That Nancy Perkins has agreed to chair the Certification Committee. Due to the holidays the committee has discussed combining the November and December meeting and will keep Board members informed of the date the meeting will be held.

Construction Committee (James Banks, Sr.)

- The Construction Committee has not met since the last State Board meeting on October 14, 2009. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2009.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Vice Chair, James Banks, Sr.

- That he attended two Team Reviews with Harry Osgood. One at University of New England and the other at Thomas College.
- That he attended the Teacher of the Year banquet and gave a speech in Ann's absence.

Chair, Ann Weisleder:

- That the Diploma Stakeholder's Group that Steve Pound chaired last year has reconvened. The Commissioner is chairing the group this year, and the last scheduled meeting was canceled due to budget meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2009.
- That the Board's session at the MSMA Conference on October 22, 2009 went very well.
- That the Professional Standards Board (PSB) held their second meeting on November 9, 2009 in Freeport. Nancy Perkins filled in for her, as she was visiting family out of state. Patricia Spilecki was elected as chair of the Board and Maureen Edgerton was elected as vice chair. Nancy reported that members of the PSB agreed that they will no longer need assistance from the appointed meeting facilitator (Barbara Moody, DOE). There were many questions about CTE certification and possible elimination of Praxis tests. The third of five meetings is on March 8, 2009 at the Cross State Office Building in Augusta. The PSB is an advisory Board that makes recommendations to the State Board and the meetings are open to the public. Mary will forward minutes from the PSB meetings to all SBE members.
- That she received a request from Marilyn Tardy for SBE budget information. She distributed two handouts and gave an explanation of each. 1) SBE appropriations and

allocations with history from 2007-2008 through target reductions for 2010-2011. General Fund - "Personal Services" is the account that Board per diem dollars comes from. "All Other" is the account that all operational and travel expenditures are paid from; 2) an excel spreadsheet that shows the adjustments for the 2010 and 2011 general fund. The initiative description is to reduce funding in operational costs for the State Board of Education. The program impact is to reduce professional services to bring allocations in line with reduced funding.

Members of the Board expressed their concerns as not being able to get a copy of the Board's budget breakdown showing what dollars have been spent to date and what dollars are remaining to date.

Chair Ann Weisleder responded by saying that it has been challenging trying to get budget information from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS).

MOTION made by Marilyn Tardy, seconded by Jeffrey Vermette, and unanimously voted by those present for the Secretary of the State Board, Commissioner Susan Gendron to come back to the Board with an accounting budget breakdown of the State Board's expenditures for this year and a projected budget for the remainder of the year.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Marilyn Temple Tardy:

- That she attended the Machias Team Review this week with Harry Osgood and Jeffrey Vermette. It was very interesting and Harry does a great job.

Lynda Doyle:

- That she attended the University of New England Team Review with Harry and Jim Banks, Sr. She loved it and would be happy to attend again.

Mabel Desmond:

- No Report

Jeffrey Vermette:

- That he attended the Machias Team Review this week with Marilyn Tardy and Harry Osgood and he appreciates all the work that Harry puts into the Team Reviews. He would like to attend one more review with an experienced SBE member before attending one on his own.

Steven Pound:

- That he is anxious to meet with DOE staff regarding Career and Technical Education (CTE). He met with Glen Cummings in Washington regarding CTE and Adult Education, as part of his employment work. Glen has told him there will be important Perkins changes that the Board will want to be involved with.

- That he attended the Certification Committee meeting to add some suggestions regarding National certification for CTE.

Jim Carignan:

- No Report – Absent

Nancy Perkins:

- No Report - Absent

Honor Wilkinson:

- No Report - Absent

Andrea Levinsky:

- No Report – Absent

Other Business

Harry Osgood expressed concern regarding the application from Tufts University in collaboration with Maine Medical Center that will be on the December 9, 2009 agenda. At the Team Review that both Ann Weisleder and Marilyn Tardy attended, there was no representative from Tufts University in attendance. Harry has received emails from Dr. Bob Bing-You at Maine Medical Center requesting that he be the representative for both Tufts University and Maine Medical Center on December 9, 2009. Harry is requesting approval from the SBE to respond to the email that a representative of Tufts University Dean's Office be present and if a representative cannot attend, then the agenda item be tabled until a Tufts University Dean's Office representative is available to meet with the Board for approval.

All Board members were in agreement to Harry Osgood's response to Dr. Bob Bing-You.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- No Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Jeffrey Vermette, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the November 18, 2009, State Board of Education meeting at 2:50 PM.