



## 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 July 11, 2007, at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland with the following members present: Chair James Carignan; Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Jean Gulliver, Ellie Multer, Janet Tockman, Ann Weisleder, and Jack Norris. Excused: Joyce McPhetres

Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, Support Systems Team; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:25 PM

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Janet Tockman, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the May 9, 2007, minutes as written.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE REVIEW TEAM RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE HUSSON COLLEGE APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL-DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.) DEGREE

Background: 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that a postsecondary educational institution desiring to confer additional degrees must obtain authorization from the Maine State Board of Education. Husson College has previously been authorized to award specific degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral levels.

Officials of Husson College submitted an application seeking authority to confer an additional degree, the Juris Doctor (J.D.). A program approval visit was conducted on the campus of Bowdoin College, October 25, 2006. This meeting resulted in the generation of a number of questions that the team asked Husson College officials to address. The President of Husson College submitted responses to the team's questions on January 22, 2007. Following distribution of the College's responses, a phone conference was scheduled with team members on February 23, 2007. The purpose of the phone meeting was to ascertain how well team members felt the responses addressed prior concerns and to determine whether another meeting with the applicant was necessary. It was decided that Husson College had met all degree-granting standards as set forth in

Chapter 170, albeit with some ongoing concerns. The team chair, Dr. Barry Mills, President of Bowdoin College, agreed to summarize the team's findings and to include the few remaining concerns. To arrive at a consensus on the wording of the summary, many emails were exchanged among and between team members over the next several weeks. On April 24, 2007, through the vehicle of a summary letter, Dr. Mills conveyed ". . . the unanimous view of the members of the committee that Husson College's application for the creation of a law school meets the criteria set forth in Chapter 170." On May 14, 2007, this summary letter, with the original signatures of all team members affixed, was received by the Department of Education (a copy of this version appears as Appendix 2 in the accompanying Report of Findings).

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the report of the Husson College Review Team, in which it was unanimously found that the College has met each of the degree-granting standards, and approve additional degree-granting authority for Husson College to award the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.).

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and voted with six members in favor of and one member abstaining (Ellie Multer) to accept the report of the Husson College Review Team, in which it was unanimously found that the College has met each of the degree-granting standards and to approve for additional degree-granting authority for Husson College to award the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.).

Ellie expressed concerns about the program review process and after speaking with Sarah Forster discovered that when the review teams hold their meetings those meetings fall under the meeting Freedom of Information statute, are open to the public, and should not be conducted via e-mail or telephone.

Jean left the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT FOR BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Background: Bowdoin College requested a campus visitation for the review of the following teacher preparation programs:

### Secondary Level (7-12)

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Social Studies

### Foreign Languages (K-12)

A site visit was conducted from February 25, 2007, to February 28, 2007. Following the on site visit a team report of findings was compiled and is being distributed to members of the State Board.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the team's report of findings for the Bowdoin College teacher education program, grant program approval through December 31, 2009, and require that an interim report addressing each of the team's recommendations be submitted to the Board by December 31, 2009. Upon acceptance of this report, the Board may then extend program approval to the spring of 2011.

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Janet Tockman, and unanimously voted by those present to grant program approval through December 31, 2009, and require that an interim report addressing each of the team's recommendations be submitted to the Board by December 31, 2009. Upon acceptance of this report, the Board may extend program approval to the spring of 2011.

#### CONSIDERATION OF FINAL ADOPTION OF CHAPTER 118, PURPOSES, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Background: The Department and the State Board of Education propose to amend the rules governing educator certification support systems. Among the amendments was the inclusion of required performance standards: Maine's Initial Teacher Certification Standards. The proposed amendments include revised definitions and procedures for use by local support systems, which support professional educators in seeking higher certification. The proposed changes to rule are the result of the work of a stakeholders group which met monthly from January 2004 through April 2006, and subsequent rule making periods and resulting comments. The proposed changes were presented to the Board for consideration with the concurrence of all stakeholders, and the Maine Department of Education. This rule is not major and substantive and thus is not subject to time constraints that honor legislative approval.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 118 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act.

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Ellie Multer, and vote by those present to adopt the amendments to Chapter 118 Purposes, Standards, and Procedures for Educational Personnel Support Systems.

#### INITIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT (APA) FOR NEW RULE CHAPTER 132, MAINE LEARNING RESULTS STANDARDS

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Ellie Multer, and unanimously voted by those present to approve proceeding with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The public hearing is scheduled to occur on September 10 via ATM with three remote sites scheduled at locations around the state.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Gendron was not able to attend the July 11 meeting and Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty reported on the following in her absence during the workshop session of the Board's meeting.

- That Chapter 125, Basic Approval Standards: Pubic Schools and School Administrative Units is a joint rule of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education and when the rule is amended it will require that both the Commissioner of Education and the State Board sign off on all rulemaking forms. In addition, a member of the State Board will need to serve on an internal team to work on the refinement of the regulation.
- The Superintendents' Conference was held on June 25 and 26 and the conversations focused on regionalization. The conversations on first day of the conference were intense, but by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day conversations changed significantly and turned to a more positive tune.

Harry Osgood brought to the Board's attention that LD 1856, An Act to Allow a Tax Credit for College Loan Repayments, passed and was signed by the governor on July 2, 2007, into PL Chapter 469. The law requires that the State Board of Education draft rules which need to be completed by January 2008.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Carignan reported on the following:

- That he attended the Superintendents' Conference at the end of June. The conversations focused on the regionalization plans and tensions were high. Despite the tense feelings the Commissioner did a wonderful job of responding to numerous challenging questions.
- That he continues to move forward with plans to bring student representation on the State Board of Education. A conference is scheduled to be held on August 14 at Bates College in the Muskie Room. He and Deb Bicknell continue to out the details for the agenda and tasks to engage the students during the conference.

Jean returned to the meeting at 3:32 pm.

- That he will be meeting with Mark Gray, Executive Director of the Maine Education Association, on July 12.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Ann Weisleder:

- That while she was attending a celebration of the Maine Alternative Route to Certification (MARC) Program, she was invited to stay and hear about the work and publication of Dr. Ruby K. Payne who explains generational poverty, its impact on families, and on the education of their children.

Phil Dionne:

Below is a brief summary of Phil Dionne's past activities and areas of involvement:

- That he attended a meeting to discuss the Carl Perkins budget and related expenses.
- That on June 5 Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) voted to officially to acquire a Maine apprenticeship.
- That the next meeting of the Essential Programs & Services Career and Technical Education Committee is scheduled September.
- That he and Shelley Reed attended the American Youth Policy Forum meeting in Chicago, Illinois on May 23 – 25.
- That he attended the final meeting of the Governmental Affairs Committee, which is a committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education in June.
- That he and Angela Faherty attended a meeting in Sanford involving the Great Works Technical School.
- That he received a letter from NASBE asking member states to donate a gift for their Silent Auction. If the Board would like to make a donation again, he would be more than willing take care of the details.
- That due to the potential of the appointment of several new members to the Board, he is proposing cancelling the Board's annual retreat in September.

The Board agreed and instructed Rhonda Casey to notify Brenda Welburn and the facility that the September 17 and 18 retreat is being cancelled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the July 11, 2007, meeting at 4:22 p.m.