



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

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The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on October 10, 2007, at the Augusta State Armory, Augusta, with the following members present: Chair James Carignan; Vice Chair Philip Dionne; Jean Gulliver; Marilyn Tardy; Connie Goldman; James Banks; and Ann Weisleder. Excused: Jack Norris

Also present were: Commissioner Susan Gendron; Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, Support Systems Team; Scott Brown, AIA, School Facilities; Mabel Desmond; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

**CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

RECEIPT OF THE TEAM REPORT CONCERNING THE REQUEST FROM CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the consent agenda.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; BREWER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, NEW PRE K-8 ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Statement of Fact: The proposed project in Brewer achieves major school consolidation in the city. The school will house all elementary (pre K-8) students that are currently attending five different old, inefficient school buildings. The new school will be more energy efficient; it will permit the Brewer School Department to streamline transportation, and it will result in much better use of staff time by avoiding travel between schools and duplication of services.

The new school will be constructed on the Pendleton School site that was closed a year ago. The site also has a track that is used by the high school and the community. The track will be moved a very short distance and will remain on the school site. Brewer school officials and State personnel are working to clear an encumbrance on the site due to a recreational federal grant received by Brewer in the 1960s. This issue will be resolved in the immediate future.

The school is designed to house 1,050 students. It is a two-story structure and fits well on the planned site. The school is 145,800 square feet. Brewer will ask the voters to approve an additional 10,550 square feet, which is the proposed size of a performing arts center that if approved would become part of the building. This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Project Information:

Project: New PreK-8 School  
Superintendent: Daniel Lee  
Principal: Joan Staffiere  
Architect: Richard Graves, WBRC  
Schools to Close:  
    Capri Street Elementary  
    Pendleton Street Elem. (closed 2005)  
    State Street Elementary  
    Washington Street Elementary  
    Brewer Middle School

Project Budget Information:

Estimated total Project Cost: \$39,607,883  
Local Only Cost (no State participation): \$2,770,500  
Anticipated ME High Perf. Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000  
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$36,717,383

Superintendent Daniel Lee has provided the following project description statement:

The Brewer School Department currently has five school buildings spanning pre-K through eighth grade; one of which was closed in 2005 due to severe structural deficiencies. Hence, students in the affected school were relocated to temporary portable classrooms located on the remaining school sites. This has caused an overcrowding situation in already inadequate buildings constructed between 1925 and 1957. These schools are simply unable to meet today's educational needs. Therefore, we propose to construct a single facility and move approximately 925 elementary students under one roof. Maximizing common spaces to minimize construction cost is but one of the principal advantages of this arrangement. More importantly, there are numerous educational advantages and possibilities for educating all our elementary students at one site.

The proposed design has been carefully crafted to create five separate wings located on two stories. The first floor contains wings housing Pre-K and kindergarten, first and second grades. The second floor will house wings containing third and fourth grades, fifth and sixth grades, and seventh and eighth grades. Such an arrangement will facilitate developmentally appropriate cross grade groupings to maximize instructional effectiveness. The school will be located in a rather densely populated residential area thus encouraging many children to become more physically active by walking or biking to their neighborhood school.

At present, our K-5 students do not have access to a gymnasium, music or art areas. Technology is extremely sparse. Our middle schools students do not have proper science labs, health or foreign language rooms. Our School Committee and the Brewer District Trustees are steadfast that this new school should be closely entwined with concepts embodied in Essential Programs and Services (EPS) – much the same way EPS is linked to Maine's Learning Results. In conclusion, this project represents a significant investment in our city and holds the promise of expanded educational possibilities for future generations.

Construction Committee Recommendation: The Construction Committee met on October 1, 2007, and voted unanimously to send this exhibit to the State Board of Education for consideration with an approval recommendation.

Commissioner Recommendation: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board grant Concept Approval to the Brewer School Department for a preK-8 elementary school in Brewer, Maine, and approve the budget as presented.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Jim Banks, and unanimously voted by those present to grant concept approval to the Brewer School Department for a pre K-8 elementary school in Brewer, Maine and to approve the budget as presented.

**MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; DESIGN & FUNDING APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; LEWISTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, NEW PRE K-6 ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

Statement of Fact: The new elementary school in Lewiston, Maine, will house preK-6<sup>th</sup> grade and is designed for 624 students. The new school will replace the Pettingill School, which will close. The school will also help to alleviate overcrowding in other elementary schools in Lewiston.

The project received Concept Approval on November 15, 2006, and passed in referendum on February 27, 2007. This Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The new school is being built on a newly acquired site that is central to the neighborhoods that it will serve. The project is an integral step in Lewiston's master plan to relieve overcrowding and to replace older inefficient buildings.

Lewiston is requesting Design and Funding Approval for the new elementary school qualifying under state statute and State Board of Education rule: Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

- The project is eligible for school construction under M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The project and the method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the City of Lewiston;
- The estimated capital outlays are reasonable; and
- The proposed project is in compliance with M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

Project Information:

Project: New Lewiston Elementary School  
School Replaced: Pettingill Elementary School  
Superintendent: Leon Levesque  
Principal: David Bartlett  
Architect: Jeff Larimer, Harriman Associates

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$22,059,989  
Local Only Cost (no State participation): \$764,590  
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$21,175,399

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000

Construction Committee Recommendation: The Construction Committee met on October 1, 2007, and voted unanimously to send this exhibit to the State Board of Education for consideration with an approval recommendation.

Department Recommendation: The Commissioner recommends that State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Lewiston School Department for a new Pre K-6 Elementary School Major Capital Improvement construction project.

This approval constitutes Design & Funding 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 Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Design and Funding Approval to the Lewiston School Department for a new Pre K-6 Elementary School Major Capital Improvement construction project.

CONSIDERATION OF INITIATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT (APA) FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 115: CHAPTER 115, CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION, AND APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL, PART I AND PART II

Background: The State Board proposed revisions to Chapter 115 as follows: Proposed amendments to Chapter 115, Part I and II include adding language to allow teachers holding a 7-12 endorsement in the same subject area to teach adult education, changing modern languages to ‘world languages’, omitting sunset language and all references to Northeast Regional Credential, and adding a new certificate, the Financial Services Manager.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the proposed changes to Chapter 115, Certification, Authorization, and Approval of Educational Personnel, Part I and Part II. It is further recommended that the State Board authorize proceeding with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the proposed changes to Chapter 115, Certification, Authorization, and Approval of Educational Personnel, Part I and Part II, and proceed with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

CHAPTER 132: THE MAINE LEARNING RESULTS: PARAMETERS FOR ESSENTIAL INSTRUCTION AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Jim Banks, and unanimously voted by those present to adopt the changes to Chapter 132: The Maine Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction and Graduation Requirements.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

- That the Department of Education is responsible for drafting a five year Perkins Plan, which will be brought to State Board of Education during its December meeting for review and comments.
- That the Federal legislation for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is up for reauthorization and a copy of the draft language is available from the house and on Tuesday the senate will have its proposed language available. Jaci Holmes continues to work closely with the writers in both the house and the senate.
- That over the last several months Bette Manchester has been meeting with individuals from Maine's high schools regarding Maine's Learning Technology Initiative.
- That she made a presentation during the Summit on September 27, 2007, forum on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to highlight Maine's vision for refining secondary education.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- That the Board's 2007 Annual Report is in the process of being printed.
- That he will be attending the annual meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education later this month.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### Phil Dionne:

- That he has been asked and has agreed to take part as a member of the National Association of State Workforce Chairs.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the October 10, 2007, meeting at 3:30 PM.