



**Certification and Higher Education Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the March 18, 2015 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nichi Farnham; Jane Sexton; and William Beardsley (Board Members); Angel Loreda, Higher Education Specialist; and Arthur Keenan, Certification Legal Consultant; Suzan Beaudoin, Director of School Finance and Operations; and Anita Bernhardt, Director of Standards and Instructional Supports (Department of Education)

Also present were: Paul Hambleton, Deputy Executive Director and Daniel Allen, Director of Training and Professional Development, Maine Education Association (MEA)

Nichi Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by William Beardsley and unanimously voted by those present to approve the December 22, 2014 minutes as written.

## **UPDATES**

### **Rule Updates:**

- Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel (Angel Loreda)
  - There are two scheduled teacher preparation reviews. The University of Maine at Fort Kent review is March 22 to 25. Bill Beardsley is the State Board Observer and the chair will be Jean Whitney, Dean, School of Education at USM. The College of the Atlantic is scheduled for May 17 to 20. Heidi Sampson is the Board Observer with Bill Beardsley as a standby.
  - Angel continues to monitor the transitioning of the accreditation from NCATE/TEAC to CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation). All accreditation agencies are folded into this one CAEP program. Of the 16 teacher preparation schools in the State of Maine, there are three nationally accredited. They are University of Southern Maine (USM), University of Maine at Orono (UMO), and the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). As a result of that, their standards now need to be connected with CAEP. The transition part is that the State of Maine needs to negotiate with CAEP as it is a brand new contract. CAEP has five standards instead of six. Of the five, the more rigorous is the fourth. CAEP would like to see teacher evaluations through the eyes of the students that they teach, three years down the road. They want to see the assessment of the students in the classroom as a benchmark of how well the institution is doing. CAEP wants to see the default rate of the candidates from the institution, the market value and if the candidates are marketable within the state. Angel has been meeting regularly with

all three campuses on how to develop a contract. Bill Hurwich, MDOE said the State's Longitudinal Data System could not do all the things that CAEP is asking for. The U-Maine System can develop a data collection system and have agreed to do this. Some concern was expressed in regards to this form of data collection being a conflict of interest. Angel's next meeting with the U-Maine System is in the first week of April and he will discuss the option of an independent data collection system. Angel will be attending a CAEP Conference in April.

- The Committee requested a presentation by Angel regarding the Board Observer's role at teacher preparation team reviews. Angel will present to the Certification Committee at a future meeting and then to the full Board during a workshop session.
- Chapter 149: Procedures for Obtaining Authorization for Institutions of Higher Education to Offer Degree Courses/Programs in the State of Maine
  - Chapter 149 was amended in November 2008.
  - On March 11, 2015, the team completed a video conference meeting with Valparaiso University representatives for the purpose of reviewing the three credit residency component of their M.A./M.Ed. in Humane Education in Maine to be offered in Surry Maine. Bill Beardsley participated as the SBE Observer. The team is in the process of writing the report that will go before the full SBE in April and the SBE will vote to approve the report at the May 13, 2015 meeting.
  - Southern New Hampshire University is doing a renewal of their State authority. The review application asks for a self-study and names for an assessment to do an evaluation. The plan is to have an exhibit for the SBE by May. This review may also be conducted through internet, although the institutions pay for all expenses of travel, etc.
  - LD 305: An Act to Authorize Circus Conservatory of America to Grant Baccalaureate Degrees and LD 356: An Act to Permit the New England School of Dental Technology to Grant the Degree of Bachelor of Science. In rule it states that the Board will develop a committee that will review the school that is up and coming. In May, Angel will have an exhibit to go before the SBE to name the review committee that will examine the process. The process will end with the Chair making a recommendation to the Legislature saying this is a good school or a bad school. Both schools are new to the State of Maine. The Circus Conservatory is a non-profit school and the New England School of Dental Technology is a proprietary school.
- Chapter 170: Standards for Evaluating Request for Degree-Granting Authorizations and for Out-of-State Post-Secondary Institutions Seeking to Offer Academic Credit Courses/Programs in Maine
  - Chapter 170 was amended in November of 2008.
  - LD 428: An Act to Amend the Powers and Duties of the State Board of Education. On March 16, 2015, Peter Geiger, Chair of the Board testified on behalf of the State Board of Education in support of LD 428. A work session is scheduled for March 23, 2015 (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement).
- Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel
  - Arthur and the other specialists have been reviewing the rules and trying to identify

any issues. They also need to compare the rules with statute to be sure there are no conflicts. They will be setting up a working stakeholder group to review the rules, make recommendations and bring something back this summer so it will be ready for the next legislative session. Chapter 115 is major substantive and needs to go before the Legislature. The Committee had a discussion on teacher certification.

- The Certification Coordinator position has not been filled. Suzan has a new list of names and will be setting up interviews. It could be July before the position is filled.
- Anita Bernhardt will attend a future committee meeting and discuss Chapter 115.
  
- Chapter 118: Purposes, Standards and Procedures for Educational Personnel Support Systems
  - The training materials need to be updated and mentors need training. The Department contact person is Mary Paine.
  
- Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators
  - At the March 11, 2015 meeting, the SBE voted unanimously by members present to table the amendments to Chapter 13. In Section 3.10 there were questions by Board members as to what the changes were. There was confusion with the copies submitted to the Board in what was old language and what was new language. The Committee sorted out the issue and Chapter 13 will go before the full Board again on April 15, 2015. The Basis Statement is a caption of the changes made to the rule.

MOTION by Bill Beardsley, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by members present to move forward with the long version of the Basis Statement and a side by side of the language (old/new) and present it to the full SBE at the April 15, 2015 Board meeting.

**Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (Anita Bernhardt):**

- Anita presented to the Committee a letter of support from the Department of Education for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program - National Science Foundation. The DOE is looking for State Board support in the Scholarship proposal. A letter regarding the grant is in the March 18, 2015 Certification Committee file.

**Handouts:**

- Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program Letter from Tom Desjardin, Acting Commissioner

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building.

**Adjournment:**

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.