



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 24, 2014 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nichi Farnham; and Jana Lapoint (Board Members); Angel Loreda, Higher Education Specialist; Arthur Keenan, Certification Legal Consultant; and Suzan Beaudoin, Director of School Finance and Operations (Department of Education); and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Associate

Excused: Bill Beardsley and Jane Sexton

Also present were: Andrew McAuliffe, RSU#54/Maine School Management and Heather Perry, Superintendent, RSU #3

Nichi Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Nichi Farnham and unanimously voted by those present to approve the August 27, 2014 minutes as written.

The focus of the Committee meeting on this day was to review what the Committee did in 2014 and to draft and discuss a Committee Work Plan for 2015.

Government Evaluation Act (GEA) Report

The GEA provides for periodic legislative review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies. The GEA review is conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs every eight years. The Committee reviewed Section C of the 2013 Government Evaluation Act – Certification and Higher Education. Mary will work with the Committee to update the information required in the report so it is ongoing and the information will be up to date for 2021, when the report is next due.

UPDATES

Certification (Suzan Beaudoin):

- Mark Cyr's position (Certification Coordinator) was posted last week and closes on December 5th. Suzan is hoping to have a new person in the position soon.
- The Department is reviewing the Certification website to see what changes could be made to make it more user friendly. The department's web person is currently reviewing the "fee" page.

- Suzan has contracted two former employees, Gary Barrett and Anne Wehrman to assist with the Certification Office.
- Three years ago the Department of Education contracted with a vendor - Iron Data for certification software for the online application and renewal process. When they presented their final product last December it did not pass user testing. Iron Data presented a final price to fix what they never created. The product simply does not do what it is supposed to do. The Department is meeting with an attorney today. The DOE will be moving forward with new RFP's. They are back to starting the process all over again.

Higher Education (Angel Loreda):

- Review of CAEP Agreement (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation). Angel will monitor the transition to CAEP. There is a CAEP Conference in March.
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) – Currently, Maine does not have an agreement.

Rule Updates:

- Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators
 - Arthur Keenan presented a memo to the committee regarding the Chapter 13 Proposed Final Rule for consideration at the December 10, 2014 State Board of Education meeting. *Summary from Memo:* The proposed final rule presented for your consideration indicates two revisions in the rule that was proposed. The first revision allows a 5-year transition period in moving from test 5031 to test 5001 for the General Elementary (020) credential in Section 13.3.1, at pages 4 and 7.

The second revision extends the waiver of the Core Academic Skills for Educators (Praxis I) and the Principles of Learning and Teaching tests in Section 3.10, page 10, to applicants who have held a bachelor's-degree-based full teaching credential in any subject at any time. Currently, the rule waives these tests only for applicants holding a current out-of state credential in the same subject as the application.

Revisions of a proposed rule that are not “substantially different” from the proposed rule may be made in the final rule without the need to file it with the Secretary of State’s office for further publication. If a revision is considered by the State Board to be “substantially different” than the proposed rule, a new publication of the rule is required.

- The Certification and Higher Education Committee recommend that the full Board accept the revisions that were based upon the comments received, and further recommend that an additional comment period of 30 days be allowed for the suggested revisions to Section 3.10.
- Arthur will be reviewing the legislative history on Chapter 13.

- Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel
 - Chapter 114 was amended in September of 2012. Angel Loredo is updating the Program Approval Handbook that provides the applicants with additional information and guidance.
 - Angel will monitor the transition to CAEP – The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. There is a CAEP Conference coming up in March.
- Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel
 - At the August 27, 2014 Committee meeting, Nancy Perkins suggested that the Committee re-open Chapter 115 and form a stakeholder group to work on the revisions.
 - The last major changes to Chapter 115 were in 2004.
 - The Department of Education is reviewing Chapter 115 (Arthur Keenan and Suzan Beaudoin).
 - The Committee agreed that the opening of Chapter 115 should wait until the Certification Coordinator position has been filled.
- Chapter 118: Purposes, Standards and Procedures for Educational Personnel Support Systems
 - Chapter 118 was amended in July of 2007. The training materials need to be updated and mentors need training. The mentor training and materials go hand-in-hand.
- 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.
- 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.

Future Committee Meetings:

- Department of Education staff agreed to attend monthly Certification and Higher Education Committee meetings and if not available will provide a written summary update.
- Beginning January 2015, the Certification and Higher Education Committee will meet the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM.

Handouts:

- Memo to Committee members from Arthur Keenan, Certification Legal Consultant regarding Chapter 13: “Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators” proposed final rule for consideration at the December 10, 2014 State Board meeting along with Notice of Agency Rule-Making

Proposal, Rulemaking Fact Sheet, the original proposed rule and the revised Chapter 13 final rule

- Section C of the 2013 Government Evaluation Act – Certification and Higher Education
- Summary of Educator Preparation Program Approval Periods

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2014 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 11:18 AM.