



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 13, 2013, at the Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Nancy Perkins; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Steven Pound; Martha Harris; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; William Beardsley; Nichi Farnham; and Kristin Bishop.

Excused: Ande Smith

Also present were: Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities; Mark Cyr, Certification Coordinator; Guest, Alyssa Wardwell; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by Chair, Nancy Perkins: The Vision of the State Board is to prepare Maine public school graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to be college, career, citizenship and life ready.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Steven Pound, seconded by Martha Harris, and voted seven in favor with one member abstained (Nichi Farnham) to approve the October 9, 2013 minutes as amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CALENDAR REQUEST – PROPOSAL TO MOVE MONTHLY MEETING DATE

The Board agreed not to make any changes to the monthly meeting dates. In 2014, the Board will continue to meet the first Wednesday following the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted on the SBE website or in a meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU #64, NEW PREK-5 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN CORINTH

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent of Schools, Daniel Higgins, requests that the State Board of Education approve a new PreK-5, 581 student elementary school that, if approved, will be built in the town of Corinth on an RSU #64 owned site of 76 acres.

The RSU #64 application for the Morison Elementary School was rated number one in need during the most recent rating cycle and will replace the existing elementary school in Corinth and close the Bradford Elementary School, the Kenduskeag Elementary School, the Stetson Elementary School, and the Hudson Elementary School. The new PreK-5 school will also house a new central office due to the fact that the existing facility is overcrowded and the building is antiquated.

The new building is being designed to high performance standards and all local and State agencies have been contacted and, where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The project received Site Approval on March 13, 2013.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

RSU #64 is requesting Concept Approval for a new PreK-5 school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Superintendent, Daniel A. Higgins has provided the following project description:

RSU/MSAD No. 64 is a rural school unit serving students from the towns of Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, Kenduskeag, and Stetson - generally considered bedroom communities to the City of Bangor. Historically the logistical structure of our elementary schools (varying grade spans in outdated buildings located in five separate communities) has presented challenges in providing equitable opportunities, facilities, and technology for all students and staff. Challenges include duplication of programming, loss of instructional time due to staff travel, minimal opportunities for collaborative and cooperative teaching and learning activities, lack of access to spaces for physical education, art, and music instruction, and for food services and limited opportunities for staff to engage in professional development and discussion.

The proposed project will replace our current inventory of five elementary school buildings, eliminate those challenges, and house our entire K - 5 student and staff population in one location. The school will also include space to support a Pre-Kindergarten program. This new school will support current and planned programming and our efforts to better fulfill our District's Vision, Mission, and Guiding Beliefs and support the District's Strategic Plan.

The spaces provided in the new facility will support the provision of equitable learning opportunities for all students designed to recognize student abilities, passions, interests and learning styles as they work to meet and/or exceed the MLR. The new facility will also

- Facilitate annual efforts to achieve equitable class sizes and facilities for all students and staff;
- Eliminate unnecessary duplication of programs and services at multiple sites;
- Provide all students and staff access to a gymnasium, cafeteria, and science project classroom without the need to travel to a different building;
- Permit greater flexibility for creative and collaborative instructional practices;
- Provide space for small group and individual instruction, assessment, and support enhanced opportunities for multi-disciplinary, project-based, and multi-grade programs and activities;
- Support opportunities for flexible student groupings based on achievement of standards;

- Provide equitable access to state-of-the art technology and library –media center for all students and staff;
- Support increased effectiveness and efficiency in provision of student support services;
- Enhance our ability to fully implement professional learning communities/groups and staff collaboration by both content area and grade level;
- Enhance staff professional development opportunities through in-service and early release days – elimination of staff travel to a centralized facility;
- Provide space for our Literacy and Intervention specialists;
- Be designed to incorporate current safety and security measures, i.e. security entrances, improved telecommunications system, video-surveillance systems, and separate bus and automobile pick-up and drop off areas;
- Provide updated, age appropriate playground and play areas; and
- Serve as a venue that will support multiple community activities.

The current design for the facility exterior and elevation are consistent with the rural, conservative nature of our communities and will be inviting to students, staff, parents and our citizens. We envision a facility that supports our Vision, Mission, and Guiding Beliefs and our efforts to continue to provide quality educational programming to our students. We also look forward to the school serving as a venue for community activities and as a source of pride for our communities.

Project Information

Project: New PreK-5 Elementary School in RSU #64

Superintendent: Daniel Higgins

Principal: Yet to be determined

Architect: Jeffrey Larimer, Harriman Associates

School(s) to be closed: Bradford Elementary, Kenduskeag Elementary, Stetson Elementary, and Hudson Elementary.

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$28,068,678.

Local Only (no State participation): \$492,488.

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$27,576,190.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On November 4, 2013, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU #64 for a new PreK-5 elementary school in Corinth, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU #64 for a new PreK-5 elementary school in Corinth, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Steven Pound, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Concept Approval to RSU #64 for a new PreK-5 elementary school in Corinth, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION REGION 2 PROPERTY TRANSFERS

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Cooperative Board of Career and Technical Education Region 2 within southern Aroostook County has voted to transfer a parcel of land and building located in Danforth to RSU 84/MSAD 14, to transfer a parcel of land and building located in Staceyville to RSU 50, and to transfer a parcel of land and building located in Hodgdon to RSU 70/MSAD 70. The properties are no longer needed for educational purposes. Career and Technical Education Region 2 is requesting authorization from the State Board of Education to transfer these properties in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A § 8467(1).

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On November 4, 2013, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board authorize Career and Technical Education Region 2 to transfer properties as requested.

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board authorize Career and Technical Education Region 2 to transfer properties as follows:

- (i) The region's property located in the Town of Hodgdon to RSU 70/MSAD 70, subject to approval of the voters in RSU 70/MSAD 70;
- (ii) The region's property located in the Town of Staceyville to RSU 50, subject to approval of the voters in RSU 50; and
- (iii) The region's property located in the Town of Danforth to RSU 84/MSAD 14, subject to approval of the voters in RSU 84/MSAD 14.

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Martha Harris, and unanimously voted by those present to authorize Career and Technical Education Region 2 to transfer properties as requested.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 115, CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL OF EDUCATION PERSONNEL

BACKGROUND:

1. On September 15, 2012, Chapter 114 (“Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs”) underwent changes. Among the approved amendments included the addition of a course in special education law to all administrative certificates that did not already require one. Accordingly, Chapter 115, Part II, must now be opened to revise the corresponding certification rules.

2. The summer and early fall of 2012 saw the State Board of Education react to a directive from Public Law 635: LD 1858 “An Act to Ensure Effective Teaching and School Leadership” and established an alternative pathways stakeholders group to review possible changes to Maine’s certification regulations. The group made recommendations to the certification examination process for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. The content knowledge exam would be replaced by industry credentials or industry-related exams. The pedagogical skills and knowledge assessment would be replaced by a series of four pedagogical courses. Also recommended is the requirement of a CTE orientation program for new teachers within the first year of employment. Transition language is included to allow

those continuously certified under conditional certificates to continue under current rules, but all new CTE teachers would fall under the new rules from September 1, 2015, forward.

PROPOSED TIMELINE:

File with the Secretary of State's Office – November 18, 2013

Posting – November 27, 2013

Public Hearing – December 19, 2013

Deadline for Comments – December 31, 2013

Deadline for Response to Comments – January 3, 2014

Provisional Adoption – January 15, 2014

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education's Certification and Higher Education Committee recommends that the State Board of Education initiate rulemaking to allow the proposed amendments listed above to be made to Chapter 115 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

MOVED by Nancy Perkins, seconded by Nichi Farnham, and unanimously voted by those present to initiate rulemaking to allow the proposed amendments listed above to be made to Chapter 115 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Construction Committee

The Construction Committee met on November 4. The minutes of September 3, 2013, were approved as written. The Committee voted to approve RSU 64's request for Concept Approval and to send it to the State Board of Education with a recommendation that it be approved. The Committee voted to grant approval to Career and Technical Education Region 2's request to transfer land as described in the paragraph above.

Certification and Higher Education

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on October 28. The main focus of the meeting was providing insight into the process of determining scores for the Praxis series and an overall look at the testing requirements of Chapter 13. The committee discussed the Family and Consumer Science Praxis and the Special Education: Teaching Students with Severe Disabilities Praxis. They reviewed the concerns about the Career and Technical Education (CTE) changes to Chapter 115. Malik McKinley who is the client Relation Director attended and was a great resource for the discussion.

Career and Technical Education

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee did not meet in November. The Committee scheduled a meeting for December 9th but whereas the Board meeting in December has been moved to December 4th and Meg will be out of state that week, Meg will provide a written report to the Committee and Steve will share the report with the Board. The next Career and Technical Education quarterly financial report is due for approval in January 2014.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Nancy Perkins:

- On October 24, she attended the Maine School Management Association (MSMA) fall conference. She looks at the conference as being great professional development for the Board and felt that she increased her knowledge of issues facing those in the field.

- On October 25, she attended the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) meeting. The materials set on the table today are examples of the audiences that are being addressed by the Department of Education (DOE) in helping groups to understand proficiency based. NESSC will be applying for a grant through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; the grant focuses on personalized learning.
- On October 29, she attended the all-day session of the Picus report to the Education and Cultural Affairs committee. The materials that are being handed out are a comparison category by category of the differences in fund allotment between Essential Programs and Services (EPS) and the Evidence based model.
- On November 1, she was part of the team that interviewed candidates for the Higher Education Specialist position. They interviewed four candidates and forwarded their recommendation to Human Resources. The position may be filled within a two week period.
- On November 8, The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) held a 2013 College and Career Readiness Policy Institute. Topics: current landscape for Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation, characteristics of a coherent system for educator effectiveness, traits of quality professional learning within a coherent system, and ensuring high quality, rigorous assessments aligned to Common Core. Points of interest for Maine: Need to communicate with New Hampshire about work that they are doing in educator effectiveness in non-tested subjects and New Hampshire's approach to professional development dollars. Colorado has developed a system for analyzing student scores throughout their state. The system will allow LEAs to compare scores with other Local Education Agencies (LEAs) using criteria such as free and reduced lunch, male/female, etc. System is free to all states. Need to check for Maine's involvement in INTEP that is a collaborative around improving teacher preparation programs. Estimated costs of Smarter Balanced tests are \$22.50 for summative and \$27.30 for summative and formative. Testing time is 7-8.5 hours with a built in half hour for each test. Good barometer for the outcome of SB tests are the NAEP scores. Below are the NECAP timeframes provided by Dick Durost, Maine Principal's Association.
 - Grades 3 through 8 - 9.5 hours for math and reading
 - Grades 5 through 8 do an extra 7.5 hours for writing and science
- **DISCUSSION TOPICS:**
 - The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) e-mail about committees- WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN
- **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**
 - This fall the board has had a variety of communications. These communications may come to Mary, through the DOE, to her either by mail, e-mail or phone call and to Board members. Whatever the vehicle is for communicating with the board, the protocol is always the same. Protocol: Communication with Sarah Forster or Bill Laubenstein for advice on Board's responsibility. Mary keeps a copy of all communications with the board as well as the responses to each of those requests. These are available. All of these requests were handled through Sarah Forster as our legal advisor
 - **SYNOPSIS OF COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - **INDIVIDUALS:**
 - Mr. Ken Churchill from York has called me multiple times about concerns of bullying at York High School. I have had many conversations with Deb Friedman about the situation. This is a local issue that Mr. Churchill and the York School Department are attempting to resolve.
 - **TOWNS:**

- John Sutherland, town manager of Lubec, had concerns about moving the public works department into the industrial arts section of the closed high school. The high school is part of the building in which K-8 classes are still being held. He expressed his concerns to both the DOE and the Board. The Board acknowledged and shared Mr.Sunderland's concerns but relayed that the Board felt confident that the local school board and the town would reach a beneficial decision for all.
- **SCHOOL UNITS:**
- AOS 41 - Superintendent Wright and the AOS 41 school board disagreed with the DOE's ruling on the closing of the Marion C. Cook Elementary School. The state board does have the statutory right to review the application of closing of schools, but this is a challenge of the concept of closing a school. The board does not have this authority.
- LEWISTON - Superintendent Webster of Lewiston sent a letter regarding issues around Maine Care . The board requested more information from both the DOE and Superintendent Webster. This information provided the background for the response that is being passed out to you. This letter states the position of the board on this matter.
- **STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:**
- Bill Laubenstein III will be assisting the state board with these appeal processes.
- The Brewer School Department was our first possible student transfer appeal. The Commissioner granted the parent's request that overturned the superintendents' denial. This request to the board was withdrawn by the attorney from Brewer.
- The state board has received a request for an appeal by parents who wish to transfer their son from RSU1 to RSU 2. The Superintendents denied their appeal; they then appealed to the Commissioner who denied their appeal. This appeal will be handled by Peter using the established protocol.
- **HONORS/AWARDS:**
- TEEAM (Technology and Engineering Educators Association of Maine) made the following awards:
 - Tom Vicaire of Mattanawcook Academy ...recipient of the 2014 TEEAM/ITEEA Teacher Excellence award for high school
 - Roger Wheeler of Mollyocket ...recipient of the 2014 TEEAM/ITEEA Program Excellence Award for middle school
 - Sam Blunda of Sanford Middle School... recipient of the 2014 TEEAM/ITEEA

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger:

- He attended a Summer Learning Planning Session in Lewiston on October 22. They have some money but are applying for a grant. It was as interesting as what he heard before when the Board visited Montello Elementary.
- On October 23, he attended a Leadership Committee meeting.
- He attended the Maine School Management Association's Fall Conference on October 25. He always enjoys their conference as they are very diverse and it is a great opportunity to hear various subjects and interact with people from around the State. He attended sessions on proficiency based, customized learning and building critical thinking skills.
- On November 1, he attended the Digi Fab conference in Portland.
- He attended the Construction Committee meeting on November 4.

- On November 14, he will be attending the “Friends of Maine State Library”. He helps sponsor the event.
- He will be attending the Teacher of the Year banquet on Friday, November 15. Nancy will be speaking on behalf of the State Board and he will be speaking as a sponsor (Geiger).
- On November 22, Lewiston High School will be sending students to his business for job shadowing.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Nichi Farnham:

- On November 1, she went to the Kennebec Valley Superintendent’s Association for “Great Things Happen in Our Public Schools Showcase”. There were tables set up with teachers talking about different things they do. They had the Jump start to Kindergarten Program where they take kids that might need a two to three week jump start before kindergarten starts. The event took place at Thomas College and it is always good to be on a campus with teachers and students.
- She has a student in her area that was diagnosed with a concussion. She is learning the Concussion Protocol and how to get a student back to school and back to activities.

Kristin Bishop: (written report)

- On November 5, because of her current internship, she was able to observe the work that goes into election preparation and activities, and gained such valuable knowledge on election procedures.
- She presented her youth recycling education presentation on November 13 at Madison’s Annual Recycling Appreciation Night for her role on the Madison Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee.
- Her first meeting with SCTC is scheduled for December 11, where she will be able to gain some information and hopefully gather some data and input towards the creation of her survey.
- She was invited to a local American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary meeting and had the privilege of speaking about her experience at Girls State with another fellow local 2013 Dirigo Girls State program participant, as well as share her experience at Girls Nation.
- She has noticed the placement of certain codes for math standards at the top of handouts and syllabi her math teacher is providing them with, along with her instruction.
- She was invited to be a guest speaker at the Maine Youth Action Networks 3rd Annual Youth Leadership and Advocacy Summit held at the Augusta Civic Center, and eagerly accepted the invitation. She will be presenting to the conference on the topic of leadership and helping to facilitate a leadership activity with the conference attendees.

Steven Pound:

- He participated in the Government Evaluation Act report-out on October 16.
- On October 28, he attended a Leadership Committee meeting.
- On October 29, he attended an EPS and Picus meeting.
- He participated in National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Board meetings on October 29 and November 11.
- He attended the Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Conference on October 24 and 25.
- He attended two meetings for the Aging Workforce Study Group. Mark Eaves chairs the committee.

- He participated in meetings at Tri County Workforce Investment Board, Educate Maine and Maine Career Development Association.

Heidi Sampson:

- She attended the Maine School Management Association Fall Conference.
- She attended a Charter School Commission meeting on November 5.
- She participated in a Charter School Review.

Martha Harris:

- She spoke about her trip to Africa and shared with Board members a newspaper article on education in South Africa.

William Beardsley:

- He attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on October 28.
- He attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) College and Career Readiness Policy Institute: "Implementing the Common Core State Standards" in Albany, NY on November 8.

Jana Lapoint:

- She attended a Charter School conference in San Diego, CA.
- The Charter School Commission gave a presentation at the Maine School Management Association conference. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary at the end of the meeting.
- Introduction of Bill Laubenstein, Assistant Attorney General. Bill will be assisting the Board with student transfer appeals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Steven Pound, seconded by Martha Harris, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the November 13, 2013 State Board of Education meeting at 2:32 PM.