



## 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 March 9, 2016 at the Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Martha Harris; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; Nichi Farnham; Jane Sexton; Gwendolyn Viles; and Noa Sreden.

Excused: Ande Smith

Also present were: Suzan Beaudoin, Acting Deputy Commissioner; Angel Martinez Loreda, Higher Education Specialist; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair Martha Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board went into executive session at 1:01 PM with voting members only in attendance. The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:35 PM.

### **STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:**

MOTION by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted three in favor with three members opposed (Martha Harris, Peter Geiger, and Jane Sexton) to uphold the Commissioner's decision on the transfer of TG. The transfer is granted.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Commissioner's decision on the transfer of GM. The transfer is denied.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Read by Chair, Martha Harris: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted five in favor with one member abstained (Nichi Farnham) to approve the February 10, 2016 minutes as written.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### ***Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):***

The Construction Committee did not meet on February 26, 2016 as scheduled.

The next Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

### ***Certification and Higher Education (Nichi Farnham):***

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on February 24, 2016, as scheduled.

Courtney Baehr (by phone) and Janet Gallagher, Certification Specialists, joined the meeting. Courtney has been with the DOE since 2008 and Janet since 2010. It was really interesting to hear what they are seeing as improvements and what their challenges are in the Certification Office.

Nichi distributed a copy of Angel's spread sheet for Higher Education Teacher Preparation Programs. This document was previously emailed to the full Board.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2016 but will be moved to March 30, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

### ***Career and Technical Education (Heidi Sampson):***

The Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) met on February 26, 2016, as scheduled. CTE Committee Report:

- Acting Commissioner Beardsley attended the meeting and spoke about his vision regarding the direction he would like to see CTE to be heading in and he wants to open standard one which is a career and educational development standard.
- Farmington's School Review is taking place now (March 7 – 10).
- Chapter 232 is nearly complete and ready to go through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) Process. There is a timing issue with proficiency based education and the 350 minimum hours of CTE instruction. They are currently in a holding pattern.
- Peter Osborne has been hired as the new Standards and Assessments Specialist.
- Kennebunk and Kennebunkport students can attend either the Biddeford School System or the Sanford School System for Career and Technical Education. There is no impact on Federal Subsidy.

- Workforce Investment Opportunity Act – Information will be forthcoming.
- Internship CTE Mentoring – Currently working with the Labor Department trying to get complications worked out. More information will be shared at the next committee meeting.
- Innovative Lab Network – Rachelle Tome, Chief Academic Officer at the Department of Education has asked Anita Bernhardt and Meg Harvey (DOE) to participate in the Innovative Lab Network. Nigel Norton, CTE Consultant at the DOE will also be involved.
- New Skills for Youth Grant – The JP Morgan Chase “New Skills for Youth Initiative” Grant consists of two phases: a six month plan design development, and early implementation phase, and a three-year implementation phase. During phase one, select states will receive \$100,000 in grant funding. States that are successful in the phase two competition will receive up to \$650,000 per year for three years.

The next CTE Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF FINDINGS REGARDING THE REQUEST OF LESLEY UNIVERSITY TO RENEW ITS CURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN THE STATE OF MAINE

BACKGROUND: The Lesley University was authorized by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2011 to offer classes online and through face-to-face format at the Berwick Academy. Lesley University has received three five-year-renewals from the SBE since 2000.

The State Board of Education (SBE) at the February 10, 2016 meeting approved a review team to examine the Lesley University renewal application to offer academic credit programs in the State of Maine. On February 12, 2016 a video conference was conducted with Lesley University faculty and administrative staff at The University of Maine. A Lesley Report of Findings (Lesley Report) was written and submitted to the Higher Education Specialist at the Maine Department of Education. During the week of February 29, 2016, Lesley University received the Report of Findings to review for errors of fact. The report was returned to the Maine Department of Education with minimal corrections on March 1, 2016. An exhibit of receipt was generated for the March 9, 2016 SBE meeting.

Lesley University is incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and is authorized to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts Department of Education. The institution has been continuously accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges since 1952.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accepts the review team report of findings concerning the Lesley University application to continue to offer its credit bearing programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from spring 2016 to spring 2021.

MOVED by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the review team report of findings concerning the Lesley University application to continue to offer its credit bearing programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from spring 2016 to spring 2021.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF FINDINGS REGARDING THE REQUEST OF SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY (SNHU) TO RENEW ITS CURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE

BACKGROUND: The review team conducted a video conference with SNHU representatives on January 15, 2016 in the board room of the University of Maine at Augusta. A SNHU Report of Findings (SNHU Report) was written by the review team and submitted to the Higher Education Specialist at the Maine Department of Higher Education. The SNHU Report was then forwarded to the Southern New Hampshire University Compliance Officer to examine for errors of fact. Upon the return of the SNHU Report without any corrections, a receipt exhibit was generated for the February 10, 2016 meeting of State Board of Education (SBE). Subsequently the SBE voted to accept the SNHU report and to consider the findings at the March 9, 2016 meeting.

SNHU was first authorized by the SBE in 2001 to offer classes at 10 Tibbetts Drive in the Cook's Corner area of Brunswick, Maine. SNHU has received two five-year-renewals from the SBE. Currently, SNHU offers the following graduate programs using a hybrid model: MBA, Organizational Leadership, Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and a Masters of Education.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the recommendation of the review team to approve SNHU application to continue to offer its graduate programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from spring 2016 to spring 2021.

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to approve SNHU application to continue to offer its graduate programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from spring 2016 to spring 2021.

## APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 2017

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the Commissioner's Recommended Funding Level for FY 2017.

## REVISIONS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BY-LAWS

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to table the revisions of the By-Laws until the April 13, 2016 Board meeting.

### **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

#### **Chair, Martha Harris**

- She will be attending the New England Secondary School Consortium High School Redesign in Action Conference in Norwood, Ma, on March 17 and 18.
- She will be attending the National Association of State Boards of Education Annual Education Policy and Legislative Conference on April 3-5 in Washington, DC.
- Her local board still has no contract with teachers.
- The Unified Basketball Teams went from 16 schools last year to 32 schools this year.

#### **Vice Chair, Peter Geiger**

- On February 22, he participated in the Proficiency Based Education Council meeting from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. A continuation of work is being done to provide advice to the Education Committee. This continues to be important work.
- On February 26, he participated in the interviews of six applicants from Maine's Second Congressional District for the student representative position on the Board. Martha, Jana and he were available for the interviews. Kudos to Heidi Sampson, Jana Lapoint and Noa Sreden who managed to take the pool of eighteen candidates and brought it to the final six. Recommendations were delivered to the Governor's Office the afternoon of February 26.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### **Nichi Farnham:**

- She has been busy with Charter Commission work.

#### **Gwendolyn Viles:**

- She participated in the Nokomis High School Bake Sale.
- She has been working on her Senior Project
- She was very sick in February and did not attend the Board meeting or the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting.

- She has been tutoring a student every other day.

**Noa Sreden:**

- She reviewed student applications on February 23.
- On March 3, she met with one of their elementary school teachers because she is starting leadership training in her district for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a program led by high school students.
- She has selected her senior year classes.
- She is going to be taking some classes at Bowdoin.
- She interviewed with the Forecaster on March 3. A student spotlight article will be in the paper this week.
- Her Mom has been in Nepal for the past month working in a health clinic. She brought back education information and Noa shared the information with the Board.

**Jane Sexton:**

- She is very happy that the Trustees at the Community College named their new President.
- She has been working with students through Maine Adaptive.

**Heidi Sampson:**

- On February 23, she reviewed student applications with Noa and Jana.
- She attended the Career and Technical Education Committee meeting on February 26.
- She has been busy working with her Government class students.

**Jana Lapoint:**

- She reviewed student applications and participated in the interviews of the final six students.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary at the end of this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOVED by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the March 9, 2016 State Board of Education meeting at 2:38 PM.