



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 April 15, 2015 at the Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Peter Geiger; Vice Chair Martha Harris; William Beardsley; Alan Burton; Nichi Farnham; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; Jane Sexton; Ande Smith; and Alyssa Wardwell.

Excused: Gwendolyn Viles

Also present were: Acting Commissioner Thomas Desjardin; Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities; Arthur Keenan, Certification Legal Consultant; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Peter Geiger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by Chair, Peter Geiger: 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 Alan Burton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the March 11, 2015 minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Construction Committee (Martha Harris):

The Construction Committee held a meeting on Friday, April 3, 2015, at the Department of Education in Augusta.

Present: Martha Harris, Peter Geiger, and Ande Smith (Board Members)
Scott Brown and Stephanie Clark (DOE), Jay Robinson and Stephen Blatt

The minutes of the December 1, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Jay Robinson, Superintendent of RSU #72 and Stephen Blatt, Architects, presented their Phase one design and funding approval to jump start the site work for the addition and renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine. It is anticipated that they will ask for additional approval for the project in the summer of 2015. The committee asked numerous questions about funding and safety.

The committee unanimously approved sending this request for Board approval at the April 15, 2015 meeting.

The committee discussed the withdrawal of changes in Chapter 61 and elimination of Chapter 60 due to the questions of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Continued discussion of these rules will occur at future meetings.

There was brief discussion of the status of all 12 approved projects.

The next Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2015. 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.

Career and Technical Education (Peter Geiger):

The Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) held a meeting on Friday, April 3, 2015, at the Department of Education in Augusta.

Present: Peter Geiger, Alan Burton, Alyssa Wardwell by phone (SBE Members)
Meg Harvey, Donna Tiner and Travis Wood from the DOE.

The Committee received a Legislative update and reviewed the following bills - LD 374, LD 515, LD 637, LD 856, and LD 985. The truck-driver permit language in *LD 515: An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Commercial Learner's Permits* may have had an impact on some of the educational programs so they have changed the language in the bill. There are some programs that have 15 and 16 year old students.

The CTE Mini Grants for Assessments and Lab Upgrades – 25 schools have applied for mini grants.

Travis Wood gave an update on Assessment Work. The assessment group is working to select assessment programs for approval by MACTE (Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education). They will work around ten career clusters on the assessment side – the National Standards with the Maine Learning Results. They currently have a carpentry pilot. The next pilot will be automotive, then early childhood. Meg will be meeting with the Department of Labor regarding the pilot programs.

The Committee is working on the ninth year of the Carl D. Perkins Plan.

The next CTE Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2015. 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.

Certification and Higher Education (Nichi Farnham):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on March 18, 2015, at the Department of Education in Augusta.

Present: Nichi Farnham, Jane Sexton and Bill Beardsley (SBE Members)
Angel Martinez Loredo, Arthur Keenan and Suzan Beaudoin from the DOE.

The Committee clarified the revisions to Chapter 13 “Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators” that will come before the full Board this afternoon.

Angel Martinez Loredo, Higher Education Specialists, briefed the committee with a Higher Education update. The University of Maine at Fort Kent Team Review was held at the end of

March and Bill Beardsley was the Board Observer. The College of the Atlantic Team Review is scheduled for May.

The Committee talked about legislation. Chapter 115 needs to be opened for review/revisions. The Committee is waiting for the Certification Coordinator position to be filled.

Anita Bernhardt briefed the Committee on a grant that the University of Maine is applying for in the STEM Certification area. Suzan Beaudoin updated the Committee on work she is doing.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2015. 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:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; PHASE 1 DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU72/MSAD 72, ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS PREK-8 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN FRYEBURG.

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent of Schools, Jay Robinson, requests that the State Board of Education grant Phase 1 Design and Funding Approval for early site work for the addition and renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine. The proposed project replaces the Snow School which is number 5 on the Department of Education's Approved Projects List.

The addition will house preK through grade 5 students from Fryeburg and grade 5 students from the New Suncook School and the Denmark School and will eliminate 11 portable classrooms from around the district.

The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on June 12, 2013 and Concept Approval on March 18, 2014. A district referendum was held on June 10, 2014 with a 57% vote in favor of the project.

The project has been broken down into two phases for a number of reasons. Phase 1 will complete the site work for the project and will permit the project to move more quickly than waiting for approval on the site and building. The earlier approval will take advantage of completing extensive site work without students on campus, the summer weather, a very positive bidding environment, and will allow students to occupy the school six months earlier than they would have had the work on the site waited for Design and Funding Approval of the building. In order to control costs and assure adequate funds for the building, the bidders will be asked to hold prices on a number of alternates.

The site construction documents are 100% complete and there have been minimal design changes since Concept Approval. The project has met all the criteria to move forward which should allow it to be bid, bonded, and constructed on schedule.

Phase 1 Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Project Information

Project: Addition and Renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg

Superintendent: Jay Robinson

Principal: Emily Kirkpatrick

Architect: Stephen Blatt, Stephen Blatt Architects
School(s) to be closed: C.A. Snow School

Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: March 18, 2014
Total Project Cost: \$19,996,645.
Local Only (no State participation): \$0.
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$19,996,645.
Phase 1 Site Only: \$4,133,824.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Phase 1 Design and Funding Approval to SAD 72/RSU 72 for the Addition and Renovations to the Molly Ockett School Construction Project in Fryeburg, Maine.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Construction Committee voted unanimously on April 3, 2015, to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Phase 1 Design and Funding Approval to SAD 72/RSU 72 for the Addition and Renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Alan Burton, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Phase 1 Design and Funding Approval to SAD 72/RSU 72 for the Addition and Renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine.

RECEIPT OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT OF FINDINGS FOR THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY APPLICATION SEEKING STATE BOARD AUTHORITY TO OFFER A THREE CREDIT RESIDENCY COURSE IN MAINE

BACKGROUND: A State Board of Education approved video conference meeting with Valparaiso University representatives was conducted on March 11, 2015 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 Maine.

The Master's programs in Humane Education consist of 33 credit hours and are delivered primarily online with the exception of the three-credit residency course offered in Maine at the Institute for Humane Education. Students complete a core set of 15 credits, the experiential component, credits toward thesis preparation and project, and electives.

The course offered in Maine is fully owned and administered by Valparaiso University within the current standing structure of university governance. The residency course in Maine falls under the supervision of a full-time program director at Valparaiso University in Indiana who reports to the Chair of the Education Department, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, with additional oversight afforded by the Dean of the Graduate School since the program had a graduate designation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education vote to receive the Valparaiso University Review Team's Report of Findings. Consideration of this report will appear as an action agenda item for the Board's May 13, 2015 meeting.

MOVED by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Martha Harris, and unanimously voted by those present to receive the Valparaiso University Review Team's Report of Findings. Consideration of this report will appear as an action agenda item for the Board's May 13, 2015 meeting.

APPROVAL TO ADOPT PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 13, QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS OF TEACHERS, EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS
Attachments:

1. The proposed final rule with comments to be filed with the Secretary of State;
2. The proposed rule with comments showing all changes to be made in the existing rule;
3. Basis Statement;
4. Comments;
5. Governor's Approval to Reopen Comment Period;

BACKGROUND: On October 14, 2014, the Board voted to proceed to rulemaking to amend Chapter 13. The amendments reflect the changes made to examination test codes and qualifying scores as a result of the regular periodic revisions made by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Publication of the proposed amendment occurred October 29, 2014, and the comment period expired December 1, 2014. On January 14, 2015, the Board voted for additional revisions to Chapter 13 to correct the inequity in Section 3.10 which waived the PLT and Praxis I tests for only current credential holders. The tests are too basic for previous credential holders. The revised rule was again published on January 28, 2015. The deadline for comments expired on February 27, 2015. There was no public hearing during either comment period.

RECOMMENDATION: The Certification and Higher Education Sub-Committee recommends approval of the amended Chapter 13.

MOVED by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the amendments to Chapter 13.

APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Chair Peter Geiger appointed Jana Lapoint as Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee with Nichi Farnham and himself as members of the Committee to bring back a nomination report for the May 13, 2015 meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Peter Geiger

- He thanked Nichi and Mary for helping to put forth a method to keep the Board aware of legislation. The Board has a committee that helps weigh in on specific initiatives but lacked a credible way to inform all Board members of what bills the Board was testifying on.
- On March 16, he testified before the Education Committee regarding the State Board budget. There were no questions or concerns from the Committee. Later in the day, he testified in support of LD 428: An Act to Amend the Powers and Duties of the State Board of Education. This makes the SBE the portal for SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements), an issue the Board has discussed at past meetings.
- On March 17, Martha and he met with Governor LePage and his Senior Education Policy Advisor regarding education. It was a good exchange of thoughts. They all realize that what they do has to be student centered.

- On March 18, Heidi, Alyssa and he interviewed five student applicants for the junior Board position via Skype. All three were impressed with all five candidates and have sent three names to the Governor for consideration. It was nice to have a student involved in the interview part of the process and he would recommend that this be the norm moving forward. Thanks to Heidi and Alyssa for their help and to Mary for setting it up. The Governor's nominee will be posted by April 20.
- Martha and he attended the NESSC (New England Secondary School Consortium) conference in Norwood, Massachusetts on March 26 and 27. Peter will give Mary a copy of the program if any Board members are interested in seeing the discussion points, or members can go to the website at www.newenglandssc.org
- On April 1, he testified on behalf of the SBE in opposition of LD 536: An Act to Amend Provisions Regarding the Appointment of Members of the Maine Charter School Commission.
- On April 7, he participated in a virtual meeting with the HCMS (Human Capital Management System).
- The Board is approaching the time to select Board Leadership. A nominating Committee is appointed in April. The Committee brings forth a slate of officers in May, and elections take place at the June Board meeting. The new officers begin a one year term on July 1st. As such, Peter appointed a nominating committee comprised of Nichi Farnham, Jana Lapoint and himself. Jana will chair the Committee. Mary will forward a description of the process to all Board members.
- Peter will be in Haiti rebuilding a school on April 23 to 29 and the Dominican Republic on May 5 to 8. He will have limited access to the internet. Board members should communicate with Mary and/or Martha if he is not immediately available.

Vice Chair, Martha Harris

- On March 17, she and Peter met with Governor LePage and his new Senior Policy Advisor, Aaron Chadbourne. It was a great meeting and the Governor was very generous with his time. He is very interested in alternative pathways into the teaching profession. He also talked about more resources for K to 3 to make certain they are given the tools to succeed. Martha gave the Governor a copy of the Student Engagement Report from the National State Boards of Education (NASBE) study group that she served on last year. The Board has done work on alternate pathways. Mary will be sending a copy of Chapter 115, Part I and Part II to Aaron Chadbourne. The Governor made a note when they discussed the need for an Executive Director, at least part-time.
- On March 31, she attended a work session at the Education Committee to support the changes in Rule 60 and 61. She watched the session regarding Next Generation Science Standards. The Committee unanimously voted Ought to Pass. The changes in rules 60 and 61 were tabled.
- On April 3, she spent much of the day in Augusta for the Construction Committee meeting, Legislative Committee meeting and Agenda Review with the Commissioner.
- She attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Forum in Washington, DC on March 22 – 24.
- She attended the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) in Norwood, Massachusetts on March 26 and 27.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Ande Smith:

- Most of his work was covered in the Charter Commission update during the workshop session. The Commission is in the process of interviewing for a project manager position. He has been reviewing some of the legislative bills for Charter Schools.
- On April 3, he attended the Construction Committee meeting.

Nichi Farnham:

- She participated in the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Government Affairs Committee Conference Call.
- She attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on March 18.

Alan Burton:

- On March 12, he participated in a Maine Department of Education (MDOE) Focus Group of Small Rural Schools and Highly Diverse Schools in the development of a plan to “Provide Equitable Access to Effective Teachers for all Students regardless of Race, Zip Code or Income”.
- On March 18, he made a presentation to United Technology Center Staff – “Safety, How to Change the Culture in your School”.
- On March 22 – 24, he attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Education Policy and Legislative Forum in Washington, DC and reported out during the workshop session of the meeting.
- On March 31, he met with Peter Taylor on the Adult Degree Attainment Partnership – Convened a year ago by Maine Community Foundation & Maine Development Foundation with a Goal - “To increase adult degree and certification completion among Maine adults by formulation a statewide plan to connect students to the resources they need from institutions, employers, and community groups”.
- On April 3, he participated in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Subcommittee meeting that Peter reported out on early in the meeting.
- He attended the Human Capital Management System (HCMS) – School Climate Subgroup meeting on April 3. The group reviewed Building Assets Reducing Risk on relationship building that Bucksport High School has implemented (will have a first-hand look and feel on May 5). They reviewed Student Perception Survey tools for grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-12.
- On April 7, he chaired the Downeast Construction Education Foundation (DCEF) meeting (Construction Industry).
- On April 9, he reviewed the Y-Tube video of 4th Grader Sydney Smoot’s address to a local school board on Smarter Balance testing.
- On April 13, he attended the STEM Student Showcase at Gardiner Area High School – Featuring hands-on challenges around green technology solutions. This event was done in partnership with Siemens Industry and Northwestern University’s FUSE program.
- On April 13-14, he participated in delivering Witham Family Hotels – Leadership Advance Program.
- On April 23, he will participate in a MDOE Focus Group of SBE and Higher Education stakeholders in the development of a plan to “Provide Equitable Access to Effective Teachers for all Students regardless of Race, Zip Code or Income”. – Note this session was postponed from March 12, because of Higher Education having a conflict and needing to testify on pending legislation.

Jane Sexton:

- She attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on March 18.
- She interviewed two Ed Techs that work with Special Education Students.
- She visited the Camden/Rockport Elementary School for the Kennebec Valley District Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby.

Jana Lapoint:

- On April 14, she did a presentation at the University of Southern Maine on Charter Schools.

- Charter Schools are looking at ways to consolidate and do things together to save money. The last meeting was at Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS) and she attended the meeting.
- Baxter School won the State Championship in Robotics.

William Beardsley:

- He attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on March 18.
- He attended the Valparaiso Team Review as the SBE Board Observer.
- He attended the University of Maine at Fort Kent Team Review as the SBE Board Observer.
- He did some work on Reauthorization.

Alyssa Wardwell:

- She participated in the interview process for a new student member for the State Board. It was interesting to see the process.
- She attended the Career and Technical Education Committee meeting by phone. She found the discussion on crosswalk standards very interesting.
- She was elected to be captain of the Varsity Softball Team.
- She runs K-8th grade soccer clinics on Saturdays and at night she runs K-8th grade softball clinics.
- She has decided to go to the University of Maine at Orono for college as they have a great engineering program.
- Her school's Student Activity Leadership Group is getting more involved with the community and lower grade schools. Members of the group are going to elementary schools to help teachers. Sports teams realize that they need to get more involved with the community.
- She was selected to be involved with the "Grim Reaper Project". This project is to raise awareness of drinking and or texting while driving.
- She is involved with a fundraising for a Unified Special Education Basketball Team for next year.
- She will be attending the Norway Savings Bank Student Recognition Banquet in recognition of receiving the A+ Student Athlete of the Month.

Heidi Sampson:

- She has been receiving updates of the Baxter Academy events that have been going on, as two of the students that attend Baxter work for her and one of the students is on the Robotics Team.
- She participated in the student interviews for a new student member to the Board.
- She attended a forum that the Maine Education Association (MEA) hosted. It was well organized and informative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

The State Board of Education April 15, 2015 meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.