



## 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 September 10, 2014, at Mt. Blue High School, Farmington, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Peter Geiger; Vice Chair Martha Harris; Nancy Perkins; Steven Pound; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; Nichi Farnham; William Beardsley; Ande Smith; Alyssa Wardwell; and Gwendolyn Viles.

Also present were: Commissioner Jim Rier; Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities; Jaci Holmes, Federal State Legislative Liaison; 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 Martha Harris, seconded by Nancy Perkins, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the August 12, 2014 minutes as written.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF THE TEAM FOR THE REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT MACHIAS TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

MOVED by Steven Pound, seconded by Nancy Perkins, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Consent Agenda.

### NEW BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM DESIGN AND FUNDING  
APPROVAL CONSIDERATION RSU #64 NEW PREK-5 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Morison Elementary School was rated 1st on the 2010-2011 Rating Cycle Priority List for major capital construction projects. The new school is being built on a site in town that was already owned by the RSU and was approved by the State Board of Education on March 13, 2013.

The new Elementary School will be built in Corinth, Maine, and house 581 students grades preK through grade 5. The project received State Board of Education Concept Approval on November 13, 2013. The subsequent referendum passed with an 83% vote in favor of the project.

The new school will be a two story building that is highly energy efficient, will be heated with wood pellets, and designed to take advantage of natural sunlight. The school will replace the Morison School in Corinth and close the other four elementary schools in the RSU.

The 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.

RSU #64 is requesting Design and Funding Approval for a new RSU #64 Elementary School qualifying under State of Maine statutes and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

#### Project Information

Project: RSU #64 Elementary School

Superintendent: Rhonda Sperrey

Principal: To Be Determined

Architect: Harriman Associates

School(s) to be closed: Bradford Elementary School, Kenduskeag Elementary School, Stetson Elementary School, Hudson Elementary School and Morison Elementary School in Corinth

#### Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: November 13, 2013

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU #64 for a new preK-5 school in Corinth, Maine as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding as presented.\*\*

**CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On September 2, 2014 the Construction Committee voted to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval for the RSU #64 new preK -5 Elementary School construction project.

\*\*This approval constitutes Design & Funding Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, which states:

*"Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects."*

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Steven Pound, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Design and Funding Approval for the RSU #64 new preK -5 Elementary School construction project.

## REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH RULEMAKING CHAPTER 61 – RULES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

STATEMENT OF FACT: Chapter 61 Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects governs the expenditure of Maine taxpayers' dollars in support of safe and effective schools that support the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century education. Extensive needs for improved education facilities across the state make it imperative that the rules be kept clear, current and supportive of the state's education goals. The Department of Education and the Construction Committee of the State Board of Education have worked jointly to propose modifications to Chapter 61.

Key aspects of this revision include:

- To bring clarity to the language;
- To bring consistency to the language and;
- To revise Chapter 61 to comply with recent statutory changes.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the attached proposed draft amendment to Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a major substantive rule. It is further recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education authorize proceeding with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On September 2, 2014, the Construction Committee voted to recommend that the State Board of Education grant approval to proceed with rulemaking Chapter 61 – Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by William Beardsley, and unanimously voted by those present to grant approval to proceed with rulemaking Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, as amended.

## REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH RULEMAKING CHAPTER 60 – NEW SCHOOL SITING APPROVAL

STATEMENT OF FACT: Much of the statutory language pertaining to Chapter 60 has been repealed and the remaining information is presently contained in Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 7, Site Selection.

The reason for this proposal is to eliminate Chapter 60, New School Siting Approval in its entirety.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the proposed elimination of Chapter 60, New School Siting Approval, a major substantive rule. It is also recommended that the State Board of Education authorize proceeding with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On September 2, 2014, the Construction Committee voted to recommend that the State Board of Education grant approval to proceed with rulemaking Chapter 60 – New School Siting Approval.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to grant approval to proceed with rulemaking Chapter 60, New School Siting Approval.

## REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILE PROPOSED JOINT BASIC SCHOOL APPROVAL RULE FOR THE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS TO REFLECT QUALITY STANDARDS OF PROGRAM PRACTICE

**BACKGROUND:** The State Board is responsible for Joint rules on Basic School Approval with the Maine Department of Education. The Department of Education convened a workgroup of early childhood professionals in 2007 to develop recommended quality standards of program practice after a careful review of current research at that time. These Recommended Quality Standards of Program Practice have been posted on the Department's Public Preschool web page since that time. Seven years have passed and there has been significant focus and research across the country on the importance of quality early childhood experiences on young children's developing brains and the sustained positive outcomes as these children enter the k-12 system. The Department reconvened a representative grouping of early childhood professionals, comparable to the prior workgroup, to review the Recommended Standards in their current form and to make recommendations for further refinement based on the newest research. The Department has drafted proposed regulations that would serve as the basic elements of public preschool programs in order to be an approved program for receipt of Essential Programs and Services subsidy. *These proposed program standards have only four additional clarifying statements from the original recommended standards.* These regulations would ensure a consistent standard throughout the state.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the State Board of Education authorize the initiation of rulemaking to make the proposed amendments above to Chapter 124 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Nancy Perkins, and voted four in favor with five members opposed (William Beardsley, Nichi Farnham, Jana Lapoint, Heidi Sampson, and Ande Smith) to authorize the initiation of rulemaking to make the proposed amendments above to Chapter 124 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Motion is Lost.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### ***Construction Committee (Martha Harris):***

The Construction Committee met on September 2, 2014. Present were Martha Harris, Chair of the Committee; and Peter Geiger (Board) Scott Brown, Ann Pinnette, and Stephanie Clark from the Department of Education. Others present were: Rhonda Sperrey, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 64 and Jeff Larimer, Harriman Architects & Engineers

Minutes from the August 4, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

The chair then opened the meeting; Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, gave an overview of the Design and Funding Approval request for a new preK-5 school in Corinth, Maine. Mr. Brown explained no significant changes have been made to the budget or construction plan with the exception of the heating source for the new school. The original plan was to include a geothermal heating system, but upon further research wood pellets proved to be a better fit for the school: with a pellet manufacturing mill in town, and a cost savings of around \$400,000 the district decided both the community and the school district would benefit from using wood pellets. Jeff Larimer, of Harriman Architects and Engineers, noted that propane would be available as a backup source of heat. Mr. Larimer also presented the site and building plan for the new school to the committee. Rhonda Sperrey, Superintendent of Schools, RSU #64, commented about how having the districts' prek-5 students under one roof will improve the curriculum and a sense of community for all involved. During the presentation it was stated that RSU 64 has hired a commissioning agent, as well as Rodney Boynton as their Project Administrator. Mr. Brown completed the presentation by telling the committee that Commissioner Rier has recommended the Design and Funding request move forward to the State Board of Education for approval.

Martha Harris moved to approve, Peter Geiger confirmed the motion.

Mr. Brown then brought up the topic of the revisions to Chapter 61 and 60. He and the School Facilities team have made proposed revisions to Chapter 61 which include, incorporating some of Chapter 60 rules into 61, deleting and updating old and repealed language. Copies of the proposed revised Chapter 61 were handed out, discussed, and approved by the committee.

There being no further business, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.

The next Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2014. The meeting will be in room 541 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Certification and Higher Education (Nancy Perkins):***

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following participated: Chair Nancy Perkins; Jana Lapoint; William Beardsley; and Nichi Farnham (Board Members); Mark Cyr, Certification Coordinator; (Department of Education); and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Associate

Mark Cyr noted that the issues with Iron Data are continuing. Iron Data was working with the certification department to update what is on line and streamline some of the certification processes.

Nancy Ibarguen is no longer with the department.

Notices reminding support personnel of upcoming renewals will go out this fall. There will be about 11,000 due to the five-year fingerprinting cycle.

Chapter 13 will be re-opened to update tests relating to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and physical science.

Questions were discussed around Smarter Balanced and the proficiency based diploma. These questions, such as who piloted the Smarter Balanced tests and has the test been normed, will be forwarded to Peter for a discussion with the Commissioner.

Chapter 115 governs the certification process for all educators. There has been much activity around attempted piecemeal adjustments to the chapter. The committee voted to proceed with the re-opening of Chapter 115 by sending the request first to Board leadership. Board leadership endorsed the proposal. Sarah Forster was contacted for procedure. Sarah recommended a meeting with the Department of Education (DOE) that will occur Thursday afternoon. The Board will be updated as we move forward and we will do an overview of Chapter 115 at a workshop session if the Board wishes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2014. The meeting will be in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Career and Technical Education (Steven Pound):***

The Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) held a meeting on Friday, September 5, 2014, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Peter Geiger; Committee Chair Steven Pound by phone (Board Members); Margaret Harvey; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education.

Meg Harvey updated the Committee on the following: The new Career and Technical Education Certification Rules became effective in May of 2014. The program specific assessment tests for

CTE teachers are being selected and correspondence and guidance is being crafted to the field.

Four schools are not in compliance with the common calendar. They are Lewiston, Portland, Bangor and Dexter. Lewiston and Portland have met with the Commissioner and Dexter will be meeting with the Commissioner.

A Common Core and CTE Crosswalk has been developed and distributed to the full Board.

A revision of the new law for Cosmetology has been received and is being reviewed by the Department of Education leadership. The program will be beneficial to CTE students and funding can come from Perkins funds.

All annual reports are in and financials look good.

The next CTE Committee meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2014. The meeting will be in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

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

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

- This month was busy but more for the release of the 2015 Farmer's Almanac than education.
- On September 2, he attended the Construction Committee meeting.
- He attended a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee meeting on September 5.
- Work is being done (thanks to Nancy) on identifying a couple projects and finding an intern for University of Southern Maine (USM) to assist us on research. More to come.
- Peter reminded members of a note they received that the Capitol Parking Garage will be closed for approximately two months to undergo renovations and repairs. Work is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 and will be completed no later than October 31, 2014. Mary will pass out a map with parking options.
- Martha and he met with Commissioner Rier, Randy Kassa, and Sarah Forster to assess the appeals process that has been in place for a year. Minor recommendations have been put forward.

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

- She attended the following meetings on September 2<sup>nd</sup>; a Leadership Committee meeting, the Construction Committee meeting, an Agenda Review meeting with the Commissioner, and a meeting with the two leaders of the Maine Cohort for Customized Learning.
- She had a telephone conference with Peter Geiger and Andy Coburn, the Dean of Muskie School. They have asked Nancy Perkins to draft a project for research. They have received an email from Caroline Ball who is in charge of internships and she and Peter will be having a conversation with her.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### **William Beardsley:**

- He has been looking at pre-school teaching models.
- He attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on August 27.

#### **Nichi Farnham:**

- She attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on August 27.

- She has been assigned to review her first Charter School application.

**Jana Lapoint:**

- She attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on August 27.
- She has been busy with Charter Commission work.

**Nancy Perkins:**

- The Mentoring Materials Stakeholder Group met on August 13. Doug and Shirley Spaulding with Mark Cyr and herself met concerning the status of materials on the website. Anita Bernhardt and Laurie Halligan joined the group to review the materials.
- On September 8, the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) meeting canceled so she met with DOE staff concerning opening Chapter 115.

**Steven Pound:**

- He attended the Leadership Committee meeting on September 2.
- He attended a STEM Council meeting on September 5.
- He attended the CTE Committee meeting on September 5.
- During the past month he has attended and participated in several meetings representing his position with Cianbro and they all tie into education.

**Ande Smith:**

- He has been very busy with Charter School Commission work.

**Gwendolyn Viles:**

- She has been preparing for a golf match to take place on Thursday, September 11.
- She is trying to keep up with her mountain of homework.
- She is excited for the project her taxidermy class is undertaking. They are preparing study skins of birds for the Maine Department of Agriculture to teach airport personnel how to recognize the birds that are at most risk of causing plane malfunctions during take-off/landing.

**Alyssa Wardwell:**

- She has been attending multiple dual enrollment classes at different colleges, and then going to her high school for the remainder of the day.
- She is the captain of her soccer team.
- She is taking AP classes and she is also tutoring some AP talent students.
- She was asked to work with special education kids. The kids come to the gym at her school and she partners up with one of the students. She talks and does an activity with the student.

**BUDGET:**

Steve Pound presented the budget as of September 8, 2014.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dr. Tom Ward, Superintendent of Schools, Mt. Blue Regional School District hopes that he and his staff gave the Board a real feel of what they are trying to accomplish at Mt. Blue High School and their ability to move forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Steven Pound, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the September 10, 2014 State Board of Education meeting at 2:45 PM.