



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, 2025, at the Burton Cross State Office Building. The following members were present: Chair Paulette Bonneau; Vice Chair Thomas Keller; Wendy Ault; Victoria Cohen; Fern Desjardins; James Ford; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; and Cedar Worster. Abbey Hamilton attended virtually via Zoom.

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director, Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, DOE; Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of MSAD 54 and MSSA Superintendent Liaison; Eric Waddell, Executive Director, MSMA; and Erica Tompkins, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Absent with Excuse: Denham Ward

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll call was taken by Chair Bonneau and she declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by board member, Edmond Morin: The vision of the Maine State Board of Education is that all students will receive a high-quality education leading to graduation with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be prepared for future learning, careers, and life.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEAL: PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Paulette Bonneau, Chair of the State Board, read a procedure for the Board when going into executive session to review requests for review of the Superintendents' decisions on student transfer requests. The Board will be considering requests for Board review

of the Superintendents' decisions regarding requested transfers of students to another school district, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205(6)(F). The Board will go into executive session to consider the requests because each involves reviewing and discussing information contained in student records that are confidential under the federal law known as FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The parents and any attorney representing a parent are welcome to attend the executive session to discuss their particular student's transfer, as are the Superintendents of the school districts involved in that requested transfer.

The Board will review each transfer request in separate executive sessions. Today, the Board has five student transfer requests. After the Board comes out of executive session, the Board will entertain a motion and take a vote on the disposition of the request in public session. The Board's role in these proceedings is to review the Superintendents' decisions based on the record that was before them at the time they made the decision. Although the statute directs the Board to "communicate with" the parties involved, which the Board has done, the Board cannot accept any new evidence pertaining to a transfer request that was not considered or not available in the record at the time of the Superintendents' decision.

The Board provides for public comment, which was explained earlier in the meeting. In the executive session the same rules apply for public comment and there will be a three-minute time limit for comment. This is not a time for debate or a time to introduce new evidence. It is a time for families to highlight the things they want the Board to consider in the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from NE to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:13 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:45 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Ed Morin, and unanimously voted by those present, that it was in NE's best interest, given the information the State Board received, to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from JB to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:49 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:10 p.m.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present, that it was in JB's best interest, given the information the State Board received, to deny the transfer. The transfer was denied.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from MED and MAD to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 2:03 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:30 p.m.

MOTION by Victoria Cohen, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted five in favor (Fern Desjardins, Edmond Morin, Victoria Cohen, Wendy Ault) and three denials (Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, Paulette Bonneau) and one abstained (James Ford), given the information the State Board received, to approve the transfer for MED. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Victoria Cohen, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted five in favor (Fern Desjardins, Edmond Morin, Victoria Cohen, Wendy Ault) and three denials (Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, Paulette Bonneau) and one abstained (James Ford), given the information the State Board received, in the best interest of MAD to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by James Ford, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from JB to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 2:35 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 3:00 p.m.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Victoria Cohen and unanimously voted by those present, given the information the State Board received, that it was in JB's best interest, given the information the State Board received, to deny the transfer. The transfer was denied.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Maine Education Association (MEA) has invited board members to attend a series of winter conferences. On January 24th, they have one in Machias, and on February 21, it will be held at the United Technologies Center in Bangor. They would like participation so members can get to know members and learn more about the board, and recommend a teacher replacement for James' position when that becomes open.
- Paulette attended the NASBE national conference. She attended a ½ day session on AI. Maine was identified as one of the states with a State plan in place and can provide support and PD to districts as they develop their policies and plans. They discussed that the "portrait of a graduate" needs to be revised to include AI to determine what is essential for our graduates. They also stress that AI cannot replace emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills. The 3 R's are not going away, and the development of critical thinking skills in our students needs to be a focus.
- Paulette also attended a session on mathematics and concerns with low achievement. It is a national issue. Professional development material choices and an implementation plan are critical to all states improving scores. Math pathways were also discussed. Maine was recognized for its work and progress in pathways. The workshops discussed that we need to improve teacher development in math across elementary and middle school programs. We need to address teachers' fear; they teach less when they are not comfortable with the subject matter. The topics were timely for our state, particularly with the work that Vicky Cohen will be doing with the State.
- She attended the October 15th public comment session on Chapter 115. Paulette was happy to see that people attend online or in person. She also has attended the CTE Committee meeting and the School Construction Committee meeting during the month of October.

Vice Chair, Thomas Keller

- Tom attended one day of the MSMA Fall conference. It is a useful conference and one member of the Board should attend.
- He participated in a discussion on the local portfolio option with Heather Perry, Paulette Bonneau, Jonathan Moody and Jon Doty.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on October 31.

The committee recommended three exhibits that will be taken up under New Business:

1. Site Approval consideration of the RSU 53/MSAD 53 new Elementary/Middle School construction project.
2. Approval consideration of the Major Capital School Construction Final Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle.
3. Approval consideration of the Approved Projects List and that the assigned calendar year within which Concept Approval shall be obtained for Project 1 is 2027 and for Project 2 is 2028.

- The committee finalized plans for the School Construction Committee’s workshop presentation held this morning by Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, MDOE and Fern Desjardins.
- Fern reported on the September 26 and October 10 meetings of the Governor’s Commission on School Construction. On September 26, the Commission reviewed and discussed the draft of essential roles, responsibilities and elements of an organizational model. At the October 10 meeting, commission members again reviewed the new essential elements, discussed whether the Maine DOE would assume responsibility for the new elements along with their existing responsibilities, and further considered a hybrid model. Since those two meetings, Chair Landry sent Commission members a draft concept paper regarding Consolidation and a draft on Energy Efficient Schools. Fern forwarded both drafts along with her suggestions to School Construction Committee members to request feedback. She included their feedback for both documents within her responses to Chair Landry on November 6.
- Commissioner Makin moved the deadline for Part II of the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility application from May 26, 2026 to October 31, 2026. Part I was due October 31, 2025.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on October 22, 2025.

- Michael Perry gave an update on higher education issues. Michael provided updates on several higher education program reviews, including those for the University of Maine at Augusta and the Northeastern out-of-state program, with reports expected in November. He also discussed a new application from the Classical Planning Institute seeking temporary state authorization to offer online PhDs in neoclassical architecture, pending both state board approval and NECHI accreditation. The institute aims to follow a model similar to the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, with a residency component in Italy, and is seeking legislative sponsorship for full degree-granting authority. The group discussed upcoming events and reviews, including MECA+D in three weeks and a mid-cycle review for UMaine Machias, which will integrate their programs under UMaine’s approval. They also addressed the status of Beal’s review, noting that additional evidence requested by the review team had been received, and plans for a physical campus visit and virtual review are underway. Michael Perry will provide the committee with the Northeastern’s out-of-state program approval application report once all review team members submit their portions. Michael Perry will prepare the Classic Planning Institute/Academy temporary approval recommendation for the State Board.
- Regarding revisions to the EPP Annual Report questions and format, Denham noted that he would prepare a draft for our December meeting. Denham will present plans to modify the annual EPP report format to include questions about AI incorporation and longitudinal data tracking of career paths of graduates.
- Tori Kornfield and Vicky Cohen reported that they attended one meeting of the Student Teacher Incentive Study Group and that would likely be the extent of the meetings. Sam Warren of the UMS is preparing a report.

- Michael Perry gave an update on certification issues including his usual stellar data visualizations. Michael reported that September 2023 saw 3,198 certifications processed, marking the busiest September in recent years, with communication outputs up significantly. Michael Perry will share the DOE's response letter to the ECA committee regarding certification and criminal history background check violations with the committee.
- Shelly Tennet of Husson University provided a TEAME and Husson report. The Teacher Educator Alliance of Maine met on September 19th and plans to meet again in November and the spring. They discussed student teaching compensation for LD1327, with concerns about funding and equity across institutions. The group also talked about various models for student teaching, including residency models and cooperative partnerships. Shelly shared updates on Husson's enrollment and a new pilot program partnering with a local middle school for incoming freshmen. The discussion touched on the importance of supporting new teachers and the implementation of literacy and numeracy plans across campuses.
- Vicky shared updates on the numeracy and literacy plans, noting that while the reading plan was well developed, the numeracy plan was only 2 pages long. Both state activities involve preservice education. Vicky is to meet with Beth Lambert and Peter Lancia at the MSMA conference regarding the Math Advisory Council.
- Regarding Other Business, the committee discussed the public comment period for Chapter 115, which ends on Friday, with approximately 30 people having attended the public hearing. The committee considered voting on the proposal before the State Board meeting in December, with the ultimate goal of presenting it to the legislature on January 9th.
- The committee discussed scheduling a special meeting to review and vote on Chapter 115 before the December 11th state board meeting. Due to Denham's absence from November 9th to 25th, they agreed to hold the special meeting on December 2nd at 11 am to vote on the changes, with Tom and Laura preparing the materials beforehand.
- The committee confirmed their next meetings would be held on November 19th and December 17th, with a note about moving to the third Wednesday to avoid holiday conflicts.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education Committee met virtually via Zoom on Thursday October 30th.

- Paulette Bonneau reported on her attendance at a national conference in Texas. She explained that Texas career academies are integrated into the general high school structure. Their funding appeared less robust than Maine's despite Maine educators concerns about resources.
- Maine students train on equipment that closely reflects what they will encounter in college or the workforce. In many other states, students must travel to community colleges to take dual enrollment classes, creating scheduling and access issues that Maine's vetted instructor system avoided.
- She attended several workshops on math, looking at math pathways. Paulette noted the way Maine's system is designed with Maine CTE instructors vetted by

the community college with students getting college credit while they are at the CTE. In many states the kids have to go to the community college to take those classes to get the credit creating scheduling and other issues.

- At the conference, the Dana Center recognized Maine as successfully implementing math pathways. Paulette said Maine should recognize that its position is ahead of many other states. Ed asked about graduation credit in the Texas model. Paulette explained students received graduation credit for programs as part of their pathway, but they had to complete the entire pathway.

Financial Reports: Briggs Trust/Perkins V:

- Melissa Sherwood reported they were wrapping up FY25 Perkins with the spend-down deadline of September 30th for schools, so schools were just submitting their final reimbursements. She said CTE's have done a really great job of spending down all their funds this year. It's been a huge goal to not leave any funds left unspent. They had also just wrapped up the first quarter of FY26 and so, at that time had FY26 Perkins, Perkins Reserve, and two state grants that were out to schools. She said CTE's were starting to spend down those funds.
- Regarding the federal transfer of Perkins from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor, Melissa reported no disruption in FY26 funding. Schools maintained 100% access to FY 26 Perkins funding, although there's been a bit of a delay. The department was working with DOE Finance and DAFS to navigate new federal systems. She notes that there's been a reduction in the number of CTE representatives at the federal level, but Maine is still able to get in touch with its contact people. Melissa said their team was starting to work on the comprehensive annual report, CAR, for Perkins, which is due every January.
- Ed asked whether the comprehensive annual report would go to Education or Labor. Melissa explained that the Perkins portal remained active and their federal contacts at OCTAE were still responsive, despite staff reductions from six or eight representatives to two. Dwight Littlefield confirmed the changes involved no interaction with Maine's state Department of Labor. There had been no state-level discussions about following the federal model.
- Regarding the Briggs Trust, Melissa said, as of October 22 there was \$251,000 in available funds to be awarded. They are expecting MACTE to draw down some of those funds for its Summer Conclave. Ed Morin noted the Briggs balance had grown substantially. He proposed forming a committee to explore different uses for Briggs funding and adding a discussion to a future agenda. Wendy Ault and Paulette Bonneau endorsed this approach. Paulette noted they were expecting a mid-year report from MACTE in January.

Updates:

State Director's Update:

- Dwight Littlefield said that CTE enrollments across the state stand at more than 11,000 students, that compares to 8,075 in 2018. Digging into what's happening across the state he said there are 89 different programs being offered. About 78% of those enrolled in CTE are in 25 programs. The top five are CTE exploratory, which is a survey program, primarily for freshmen and sophomores, followed by automotive programs, carpentry, culinary arts and the nursing assistant programs. The department had shifted the conversation toward adding sections of successful programs rather than starting entirely new program types.

- Dwight also said that just because a student can't get into the first program they're interested in, it doesn't mean they're out in the cold, that they'll be able to get a spot in another program that interests them. He said waitlists are complex. Directors didn't turn students away—they worked to find placements. They had data showing 70-80% of students getting their first choice, with others placed in alternatives. Wendy asked about situations where high schools had limited slots at CTEs. Dwight said this was handled locally through discussions between directors, principals, and superintendents. The state didn't mandate specific slot allocations. These conversations were happening more frequently with better results than five or ten years ago. Dwight explained they were updating catchment areas to understand enrollment patterns. He said catchment areas were updated in the department and were last reviewed in 2002. They needed to work at the town level using census data, then connect towns to high schools and high schools to CTEs.
- The department is updating Chapter 232, Maine's CTE regulations, which haven't been revised in 45 years. In November, Laura Cyr was scheduled to facilitate a conversation at the MACTE meeting to gather director feedback. By January, they aimed to have a draft ready for public comment. The revision would consolidate four different rules into a single Chapter 232. Dwight also said the CTE Team is gearing up for school reviews.

Community College Update: (Mercedes Pour)

- Mercedes expressed her gratitude to Melissa Sherwood for sending detailed narratives explaining Perkins processes. The system was interviewing for Joan DeCosta's replacement the following week, with Melissa participating. She said, in terms of their dual and concurrent enrollment space, they made a policy change so that students who are in CTE pathways would get an extra six credits in those pathways. This is a new thing for Maine. The Community College System wants it to work for their students. She said she has been able to engage closely with the student services directors, or like roles across the 27 CTEs, and they invited her to dialogue when we were at the CTE conference. So, they are definitely going to have to go back and forth and learn and tweak and make it better for the schools and the students. Recent conferences showed pathways as the field's direction—moving from accumulating credits toward intentional course-taking aligned with career goals. Mercedes said they are still in the transition phase after having introduced new computer software.

MACTE Report: (Bill Tracy)

- Bill Tracy reported that the fall conference at Lewiston drew over 450 attendees, 14 vendors, and 34-plus sessions. MACTE was in transition without a traditional executive director. They redirected some of the salary funds to hire Adam Provost and his Creative Ser Group for communications and administrative support. The executive board planned to meet the following day to discuss transition and a potential capital campaign. Bill said they might need a different organizational structure with multiple positions rather than a traditional executive director. This transition was happening because MACTE was growing.
- MACTE was discussing replacing the Conclave planned for next August with a summit to engage more effectively with traditional high schools and businesses. The capital campaign would help fund leadership positions while reducing the

burden on schools to use Perkins funds for those positions. MACTE has established a relationship with the National Guard for meeting space. Dwight continued meeting weekly with Kevin Lavoie and Bill Tracy.

- MACTE remained active in Chapter 115 discussions, supporting the portfolio pathway for teacher certification while ensuring it worked for CTE instructors. They were advocating to change the requirement that endorsement hours occur within five years preceding initial application. Bill said that's hurting Ed Techs working in a program.
- MACTE has set aside February 10-12 for CTE Month presentations at the Hall of Flags in Augusta, organizing by region and including the community college system. Paulette noted the State Board meets on February 12th and suggested board members visit during breaks.
- Bill said there have been discussions about MACTE involvement at the DOE summit in August.
- Paulette Bonneau asked about certification discussions regarding consistency and equity. Bill said in the superintendents' proposal provided flexibility for both regional and center models. One of the concerns is that if MACTE proposes changes that are too substantial, adding the CTE portfolio as a piece, that it will delay the process, something they don't want.

Educate Maine Update: (Kate Howell)

- Kate Howell reported Educate Maine registered pre-apprenticeships with Region 10 in automotive and Mid-coast in carpentry. Four CTE professionals were participating in the Education Leaders Experience cohort. Educate Maine also had a table at the CTE conference.
- Educate Maine has launched their Maine Spark survey. They received a grant through Nellie Mae to continue the initiative and needed to establish the next goal. Their previous goal was 60% of Mainers to have a credential of value by 2025. Kate said there is about a two year lag before they find out if that happened. In the meantime, they need to start working on a new goal. They would continue stakeholder engagement through conferences, virtual sessions, and the online survey.
- Educate Maine Symposium tickets were on sale with numerous CTE sessions on the agenda.

Reports from the Field:

- *Bill Tracy*, who is the director of the Hancock County Technical Center in addition to being MACTE President, said they had their advisory dinner coming up that night with over 120 people planning to attend. He said that's something the school is really excited about, except for space, which is a really tough fit. He said they are looking next year for a couple changes. Bill said they are exploring a Co-Op Program. They also want to get a firefighter position. He said the Ellsworth Fire Department has reserved space and has an instructor ready for them that HCTC wouldn't have to cover for a couple of years.
- *Kevin Lavoie*, Director of St John Valley Technical Center said, with the approval of DOE, they are working at moving their advanced technologies to preengineering programming for a launch next year to meet a need from the business stakeholders within the region. Also looking to launch co-op programming next year. The school is working hard at acquiring more homeschool students, something that seems to be successful. Also looking to

launch this upcoming year a summer forest innovation program that ties in heavily with their forest management program. They've received a \$250,000 three year grant through Brewer High School as well as the Maine Tree Foundation. They were also launching a Green Jobs Fair at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

- *Bobby Deetjen*, Director of the Mid Coast School of Technology, said they were prepping for Professional Advisory Committee meetings. He said it's a challenge to get everyone into their building. They actually are talking about a meeting that evening being the last in person PAC night, just based on the fact that they have so many people coming into the space. It's also really difficult to get everyone there on the same night and get the needed information. He said they are exploring some different ways to do that. They're exploring a kind of partnership with St George and Maine Maritime Academy to create a seamless transition for their pre K through eighth grade program. It would make it pre K through 12th grade or fourteen or sixteen and get students their associates degrees, and then on to get their bachelor's degrees.
- *Amanda Peterson*, Director of United Technology Center said they were welcoming 650 8th graders, all the eighth graders from all 16 middle schools in their catchment area who come for an experience and tours and to spend the day. UTC will be hosting a Fusion event with young business professionals from the region through the Bangor Chamber. They had analyzed their enrollment process since moving to EnrollTrack. Out of 778 accepted students, 19 didn't accept their spots and were dropped. They were also examining why 90-100 students dropped prior to start or within two weeks. Ed asked if Amanda would share findings analyzing attrition. Amanda agreed.
- Putting on another hat, SBE Chair, CTE Committee member and Biddeford Regional Technical Center Director Paulette Bonneau reported they are also exploring ways to handle PAC meetings. She said they have received two Anatomage Tables which the company describes as the most advanced real-human-based 3D anatomy and medical education system. These are for their Health Occupation programs. They started a small engine class for 8th graders, mostly boys but there are a few girls. Paulette said, given that 25 percent of her students have an IEP or 504 plans, she also plans to ask for funding for a special education teacher.

New Business:

- The CTE Committee finished up its meeting with consideration of the first quarterly Perkins report for fiscal year 2026. Paulette moved to accept the Perkins report ending September 30th, 2025, for submission to the full State Board. Wendy seconded. Erica Tompkins called the roll. Paulette, Wendy, and Edmond voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Paulette noted that, in December, the State Board would review all committees and the strategic plan was up for renewal in 2026. She wanted to encourage collaboration on future goals with MACTE and the state. Wendy suggested adding this to the November agenda. Ed said this group has the right composition to ensure strategic plans remain relevant.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The committee has not met, but Fern Desjardins will testify before the Joint Standing on Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on November 14th. She will testify as the Chair of the Construction Committee in support of LD 1312: An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund.

Student voices (Cedar Worster, Abbey Hamilton, and James Ford):

- Abbey Hamilton participated in the student cabinet and sees the cabinet as a platform for feedback representative of Maine's students. She is planning to return to Maine in December.
- Cedar Worster suggested the board have a "student comment period" Another idea she has is for the student to have an agenda item from the State Board to gain student feedback. The student cabinet will now be meeting on Wednesdays. The Student Cabinet is focusing on the results of the Measures What Matters, teacher workforce and morale, student mental health, and Brightspot Peer-to-Peer sharing.
- Cedar Worster was invited to participate in the Maine's Green School Conference. She facilitated and guided a table discussion related to green schools.

Student Membership (Edmond Morin):

No Report at this time.

Numeracy Advisory Council (Victoria Cohen):

- Vicky has been asked by the Maine DOE to be the Chair of the new Numeracy Advisory Council (NAC).
- She met with Beth Lambert and Peter Lancia (the Chair of the new Literacy Advisory Council) after the MSMA conference.
 - We decided on the size of the group, the use of an application for council members, and to develop council protocols.
 - Purpose of the council is to advise, guide and champion numeracy and literacy
 - Vicky is prioritizing practitioners for the council.
 - She is also prioritizing geographic representation and grade band representation.
 - Plan to form a team of 10-12 people and there is an application process
 - Drafting a council protocol
- The Numeracy Action Plan (NAP) is meant to heighten student engagement, and increase teacher confidence.
- NAP activities will put meat on the bones of the NAP.
- NAC will guide and champion these activities.
- Vicky's first goal, once the council is formed, is to develop relationships with the council members, to develop a sense of "team."
 - She is eager to make sure we feel trust and respect for each other, that we bring our collective buckets of expertise to share, and that we come with more questions than answers.

- Vicky is also hoping that they have opportunities to try out the activities that the DOE brings to them, before they guide and champion.

From Vicky's conversation with Beth Lambert:

- The DOE can't mandate curriculum but it can make it available.
- The state is responsible for state standards.
 - DOE's job is to make HQIM easy and beneficial.
 - The DOE will create resources and materials, and do the training.
- NAP's materials are curriculum agnostic.
 - They're meant to supplement whatever each district is already doing.
 - They're meant to fill in the crevices, and will help teachers select HQIM.
- There will be a Numeracy Summit Institute, and a math at-home toolkit.
- The Math Collaborative wants to be involved with home activities, and a Math Night, and a pediatrician's sheet for parents on how to do math at home.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield, Thomas Keller, and James Ford):

The Charter Commission met on November 12, 2025.

- There are 2,082 students participating in charter schools.
- Charter Schools are attracting homeschoolers.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

The Professional Standards Board did not meet. No report.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors/Finance & Audit Committee (Fern Desjardins):

- October was a busy month for NASBE as committees finalized details for the Annual Conference. The Finance and Audit Committee finalized the FY2026 Budget to recommend approval to the Board of Directors. Directors approved the budget on October 27, 2025 at their in-person meeting in Austin, TX. They also discussed NASBE and CEO goals for 2026.
- NASBE Annual Conference 2025 was held in Austin, Texas on October 27-29, 2025. Chair Bonneau, Denham Ward, and Fern attended. Pre-conference sessions held on October 27 included a high school visit, sessions on high school transformation and AI in education, Board of Directors meeting, a roundtable with the Conference Planning Committee, and optional member meet ups.
- October 28 and 29 each began with musical selections from area schools. The opening general session on the 28th was a keynote by Ashlie Crosson, 2025 National Teacher of the Year, and the general session on the 29th was on California's Quest to Unlock Math Potential in All Students. Concurrent sessions on both days included topics in math, educator workforce, the principalship, high school transformation, student engagement, high-quality instructional materials, AI, micro-credentials, parliamentary procedure, accountability through collaboration, and education policy and legislation. Attendees met by area (northeastern, southern, central, western) for one of the sessions and

transportation was provided for all to attend State Night at the Texas Science Natural History Museum.

- Fern voted for the Maine State Board of Education at the Delegate Assembly and the following changes were made to NASBE's bylaws to move away from NASBE as an organization taking positions or weighing in on federal issues to an organization that provides information, alerts and resources so that state boards are informed of issues and can take positions, if they wish to do so.
- In the Purposes article, text was changed to more clearly articulate NASBE's role in facilitating the gathering and dissemination of information, data and research.
- In the Board of Directors article, new language provides rigorous conditions that need to be met for the establishment of an organizational position by the Board of Directors.
- In the Committees article, the Public Education Positions Committee and the Governmental Affairs Committee sections were eliminated.
- With the vote taken at the Delegate Assembly, provisions previously adopted are sunset.
- In other action taken by the Delegate Assembly, Matt Donaldson of Georgia's State Board was elected as secretary-treasurer as Fern's second two-year term ended, and Fern was elected chair-elect. Texas was an outstanding host for the conference. Next year's Annual Conference will be in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fern reminded Board members to read the November NASBE News emailed by NASBE Communications on Friday, November 7. It keeps members informed on what's taken place in the last month and what's ahead. As a reminder, the final NASBE Exchange for 2025 will take place on Monday, December 1 at 4:00 pm. It will include a federal update, regional breakouts, and a discussion on, "How can NASBE support you most effectively in the year Ahead?"

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224).

As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224) requires a designated eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020 and has been re-approved in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Further requirements are as follows:

SEC. 121. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ELIGIBLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of an eligible agency under this title shall include:

(3) convening and meeting as an eligible agency (consistent with State law and procedure for the conduct of such meetings) at such time as the eligible agency

determines necessary to carry out the eligible agency's responsibilities under this title, but not less than 4 times annually;

The State Board of Education Chair has requested, in accordance with Title 20-A, Section 405, 7, that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team submits a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the first report for FY2026.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the quarterly report for the period of July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

REQUEST MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM - APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PRIORITY LIST FOR THE 2024-2025 RATING CYCLE.

STATEMENT OF FACT: On July 9, 2025, the State Board of Education received the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List recommended by the Commissioner of the Department of Education. The Department then sent a packet of information, including an Evaluation Report, to the superintendent of schools of each evaluated application. The Evaluation Report included the scores for each category and sub-category used by the Department to rate that application based on the criteria in Rule Chapter 61, State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. The school district's receipt of that packet initiated a 30-day period for districts to appeal their point rating through an administrative review process. The Commissioner received one request for an administrative review. A Review Committee appointed by the Commissioner reviewed the request and determined that there was not a scoring error and notified the district of their decision which constituted final agency action.

As the Administrative Review period has now closed, the Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the Proposed Priority List. Upon approval by the State Board the list becomes the Final Priority List.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On October 31, 2025 the School Construction Committee recommended that pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15905, subsection 1 and Rule Chapter 61, State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, this exhibit be placed on the November 13, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board of

Education approve the Major Capital School Construction Proposed Priority List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the priority list for the 2024-2025 rating cycle.

REQUEST MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM – APPROVED PROJECTS LIST FOR THE 2024-2025 RATING CYCLE.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The State Board of Education approved the Final Priority List on November 13, 2025. The Commissioner is now recommending advancing the highest rated project to the Approved Projects List. In accordance with Rule Chapter 61, State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 5 Approved Projects List, “Placement on the Approved Projects List is an acknowledgement that the pupils in the rated facility have a significant need to be housed under improved circumstances. It does not assure replacement of the facility(ies) that received the rating.”

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the Approved Projects List. It is further recommended that the assigned calendar year within which Concept Approval shall be obtained is 2027 for project 1 and 2028 for project 2.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On October 31, 2025, the School Construction Committee recommended that pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15905, subsection 1 and Rule Chapter 61, State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, this exhibit be placed on the November 13, 2025 meeting agenda and that the State Board of Education approve the Approved Projects List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle. It is further recommended that the assigned calendar year within which Concept Approval shall be obtained is 2027 for project 1 and 2028 for project 2.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to to approve the Approved Projects List for the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle and that the assigned calendar year within which Concept Approval shall be obtained in 2027 for project 1(RSU 1- Dike-Newell School) and 2028 for project 2 (RSU 33 Dr. Levesque Elementary/ Wisdom High School).

REQUEST MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; SITE APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU 53/MSAD 53 - NEW ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

STATEMENT OF FACT: RSU 53/MSAD 53 Superintendent Sharon Littlefield requests that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval for a new elementary/middle school to be constructed in the Town of Pittsfield.

RSU 53/MSAD 53 hired CHA Consulting to complete a New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Manson Park Elementary School and conduct further studies of the other

elementary and middle school buildings in the district. This analysis resulted in a recommendation for new construction of a grades PreK-8 Elementary/Middle School which would include students from the Manson Park School (grades PreK-K), Vickery School (grades 1-4), and Warsaw Middle School (grades 5-8).

A thorough site search led by CHA was conducted to find a site that could support the needs of the new consolidated school project. The search began with a total of 10 potential sites in the district. The sites were evaluated using criteria developed by the design team and the school district. This process identified the existing school site of Vickery Elementary School and Warsaw Middle School at 167 and 170 School Street in Pittsfield as the best site for the new school. The existing site is 16.42 acres and there will be no site acquisition costs. A local business has committed to a philanthropic donation of contiguous adjacent parcels totaling 6.02 acres to the school district contingent on a successful referendum. These parcels will greatly enhance the project.

This proposed site is in the heart of the community in Pittsfield and benefits from good access and is well served by utility and transportation infrastructure. Site investigations and environmental analysis studies have been conducted and have not revealed any issues of significance. The new school can be constructed while the existing schools remain operational. A completed Site Application is on file with the Department of Education and meets all the applicable criteria of Rule Chapter 61, State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

In a public meeting on September 8, 2025, constructing a new facility on this site was endorsed by a straw poll vote of 44 in favor and 1 abstention.

Project Information: Project: RSU 53/MSAD 53 New Elementary/Middle School
Construction Project
Superintendent: Sharon Littlefield
Architect: CHA Consulting
Engineer: Gorrill Palmer
Schools to be closed: Manson Park School, Vickery School, Warsaw Middle School
Site Acreage: Existing school site 16.42 acres
Donated parcels 6.02 acres
Total acreage 22.44 acres
Purchase cost: \$0

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU 53/MSAD 53 for a new Elementary/Middle School construction project as presented.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On October 31, 2025 the School Construction Committee recommended that pursuant to MRS Title 20-A §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, this exhibit be placed on the November 13, 2025 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU 53/MSAD 53 for a new Elementary/Middle School construction project as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Edmond Morin, and unanimously voted by those present to approve Site Approval to RSU 53/MSAD 53 for a new Elementary/Middle School construction project as presented.

RECEIPT OF UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE CHAPTER 114.

BACKGROUND: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific credential areas included in their review.

A review team approved by the State Board of Education visited the University of New England on October 5-8, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by University of New England staff to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team’s findings.

Now, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education may formally receive documents to review in preparation for taking final action on the University of New England’s EPP approval request.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education receive the University of New England EPP Self-Assessment Report and University of New England EPP Review Team Report prior to taking final action regarding the University of New England’s Educator Preparation Program approval at the Board’s next regular meeting.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to receive the University of New England EPP Self-Assessment Report and University of New England EPP Review Team Report prior to taking final action regarding the University of New England’ Educator Preparation Program approval at the Board’s next regular meeting.

RECEIPT OF UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT AUGUSTA EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE CHAPTER 114.

BACKGROUND:

Educator preparation programs (EPPs) in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific credential areas included in their review.

A review team approved by the State Board of Education visited the University of Maine at Augusta on October 19-22, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and

recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by University of Maine at Augusta staff to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team's findings.

Now, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education may formally receive documents to review in preparation for taking final action on the University of Maine at Augusta EPP approval request.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education receive the University of Maine at Augusta EPP Self-Assessment Report and University of Maine at Augusta EPP Review Team Report prior to taking final action regarding the University of Maine at Augusta's Educator Preparation Program approval at the Board's next regular meeting.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and unanimously voted by those present to receive the University of Maine at Augusta EPP Self-Assessment Report and University of Maine at Augusta EPP Review Team Report prior to taking final action regarding the University of Maine at Augusta's Educator Preparation Program approval at the Board's next regular meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Erica Tompkins by the 15th day following the month the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The November 13, 2025 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.