



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 16, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Tom Keller, Victoria Kornfield and Denham Ward, Committee members, and Emily Cummins supported the meeting. Fern Desjardins, chair of the SBE, and Paulette Bonneau, vice chair, also attended.

Participants: Michael Perry, Laura Cyr and Daniel Chuhta, MDOE, Chris Indorf, Director of Operations, Saco and Dayton, Dave Keaton, MACTE, Rose Marie Angell, Jonathan Moody, Superintendent, Gerry Durgin, MIAAA, Jon Doty, Curriculum Coordinator, Christian Elkington, Superintendent, Wendi Malenfant, UMPI, Sarah Howorth, UM, Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, Connor Archer, Courageous Steps Project, Gert Nesin, Holly Blair, and John Krajlic.

1. Call to Order - Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:33 am. Tori and Denham introduced themselves, as did Tom, Fern and Paulette.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Tori Kornfield, and unanimously voted by committee members to accept the September 25, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

4. Higher Education Update - as reported by Michael Perry

A. Michael reported that the team was finalizing the Thomas College EPP report and that report would be coming to the C&HE Committee. The graduate program needs to take a different route to approval and he was working on that.

B. Michael has determined that Beal University has degree granting authority at the associates level and the State Board needs to finalize approval at the bachelors level. Documentation seems to support that this was done but no official paperwork can be located. Beal has submitted an application for masters level degrees and was given temporary approval by the MDOE. Their masters programs are accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) but it is unclear if this is appropriate for both MBA and Masters in Family Nurse Partitioner programs. Denham noted that there is a Maine State Board of Nursing and thought a joint review would be reasonable.

Michael and Denham are the leads on beginning a conversation with the principals at Beal University to determine next steps in degree granting authority. They are to keep Tom informed as well.

There will be a UM off cycle review on October 30. Tori will serve as the SBE Observer.

- C. Regarding Syracuse University, Michael is checking with NC-SARA and Sarah Forster to confirm the validation of the Syracuse/Edward Little High School course offering.
- D. No information on pertinent legislation was related.
- E. Michael noted that a new institution offering a degree in architecture was in the beginning stages of applying under chapter 149.

5. Certification update - as reported by Michael Perry

- A. Michael supplied the committee with the usual slides on application processed last month as well as cumulative data. In September, 2,942 applications were processed. See Attached.

We continue to have a small number of retired teachers take advantage of legislation to regain their certification. Processing time has increased a little and now averages 3 to 3.5 weeks.

- B. The MEIS system is up for revamping through a new RFP that has been posted in the Kennebec Journal and on the state website. Information is posted at State of Maine
Department of Education
RFP# 202407142
Educator Credentialing System

The State of Maine, Department of Education, is seeking proposals regarding an educator credentialing system.

A copy of the RFP, as well as the Question & Answer Summary and all amendments related to the RFP, can be obtained at: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps>

Proposals must be submitted to the State of Maine Office of State Procurement Services, via e-mail, at: Proposals@maine.gov. Proposal submissions must be received no later than 11:59 p.m., local time, on November 21, 2024. Proposals will be opened the following business day.

- C. And D. Regarding CHRC and Certification violation reports, schools have an October deadline and Michael assumes he will have a snapshot of the data by November 15.
- e. 1. Denham's group is working a GIS map and are excited by the possibilities.
2. Michael announced that OHEESS has a temporary full time position available.

6. EPP and TEAMe Update - Dr. Wendi Malenfant, UMPI

Wendi noted that TEAMe will be meeting next month. Thus there is little report from this group.

She reported that UMPI is collaborating with UMM and UMA for a special education certification program that none of them could accomplish alone. On October 29, UMPI will hold a Future Teachers Academy Boot Camp for juniors and seniors. This has been very well received. UMPI is working with CACE on a new teachers support group.

7. LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 - Tom Keller

Tom read the following statement: "Today the State Board of Education is providing an opportunity to deliver feedback on the current Chapter 115. This is not an opportunity for discussion, rather a neutral environment through which the public may provide feedback on the current version of this rule. The Board may ask clarifying questions, but will not be able to answer questions from the public at this time. If you have written copies of your comments available, please email those to laura.cyr@maine.gov and tkeller.sbe@gmail.com. All comments will be collected and reviewed before the revision process begins.

Public feedback on this rule will continue to be collected through December 2024 here at the CHE meetings and in a series of dedicated conversations that will begin in October. Those dates will be available at the next CHE meeting and will be published online."

Several people made comments and provided feedback on Chapter 115 including Christian Elkington, Sarah Howorth, and Jon Moody. All on the call were asked to submit their comments in writing to Laura and Tom.

While some discussion ensued, it was generally using the given comments to provide clarity on the issues being identified. Important concepts noted included:

- State Reciprocity and not assuming their standards are lower than ours
- Models for dual certification, especially with special education
- Use of portfolios or rubrics such as the HOUSSE (high objective uniform State standard of evaluation), and who evaluates them
- A 3 year emergency pathway

8. Other business - the next meeting date is November 20, at 10:30 am as usual.

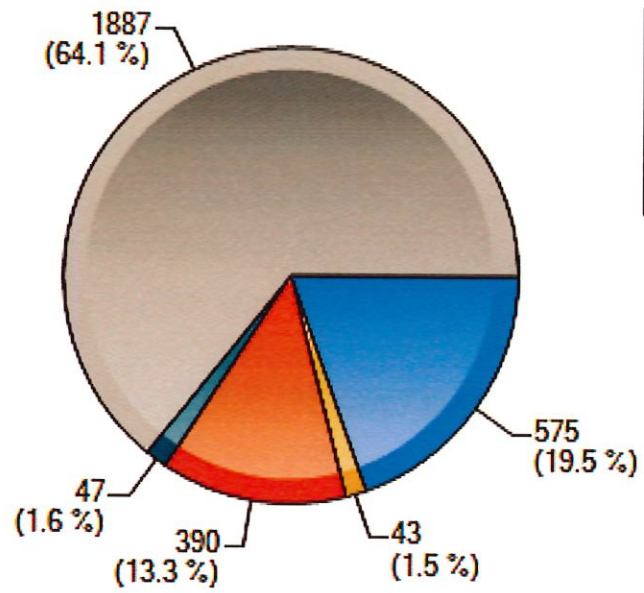
9. Adjournment - with no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Attachments:

Slides from Michael Perry on September certification applications

September 2024 Applications Processed

- Educational Technician Certificate
- Education Specialist Certificate
- Teacher Certificate
- Administrator Certificate
- CHRC Approval

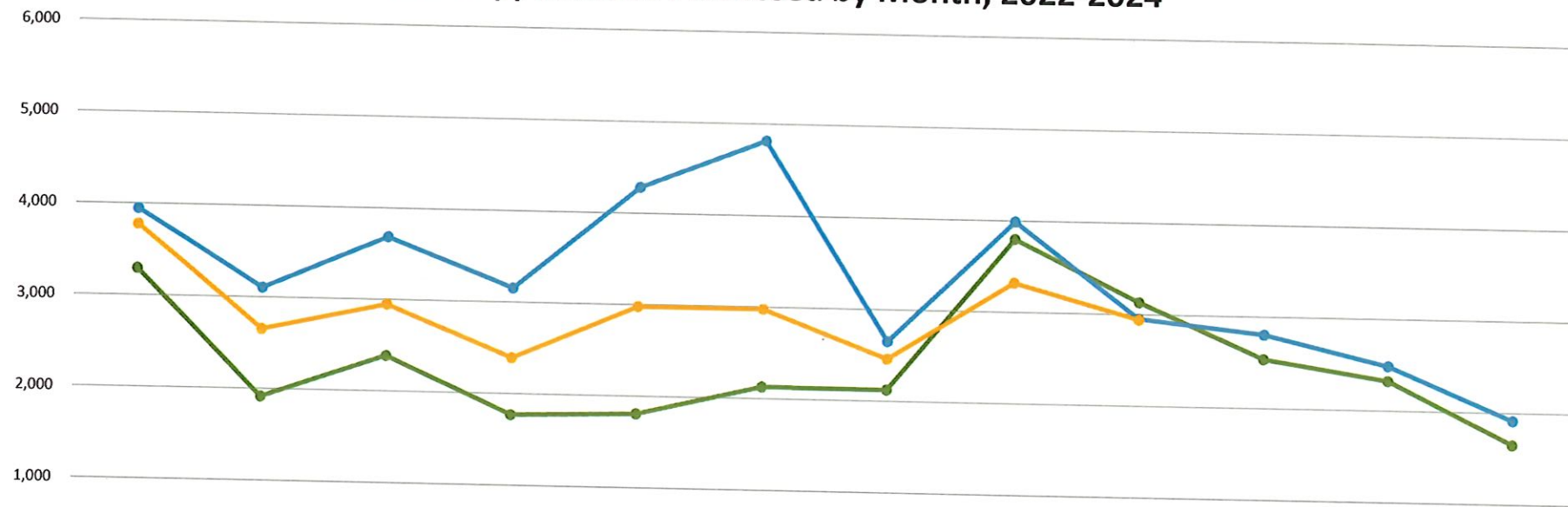


Month Over Month: -11.5% from Aug 2024
 Versus September 2023: -0.3%
 Versus September 2022: -6.1%

Application Type ▲	Certificate Class Description	Count(Certificate Class Description)
A-RET	Teacher Certificate	4
Initial	Administrator Certificate	31
Initial	CHRC Approval	1,877
Initial	Education Specialist Certificate	25
Initial	Educational Technician Certificate	410
Initial	Teacher Certificate	248
Renewal	Administrator Certificate	16
Renewal	CHRC Approval	10
Renewal	Education Specialist Certificate	18
Renewal	Educational Technician Certificate	165
Renewal	Teacher Certificate	138
		2,942



Total Applications Processed by Month, 2022-2024



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
22 Apps	3,294	1,919	2,388	1,770	1,809	2,131	2,124	3,798	3,131	2,539	2,327	1,653
23 Apps	3,949	3,104	3,686	3,154	4,283	4,817	2,655	3,989	2,952	2,805	2,490	1,918
24 Apps	3,778	2,655	2,946	2,393	2,979	2,976	2,462	3,320	2,942			

22 Apps 23 Apps 24 Apps

Applications by month of processing date in MEIS, regardless of certification type or final application status.

