



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a special meeting on September 8, 2025, virtually via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Paulette Bonneau; Vice Chair Thomas Keller; Wendy Ault (joined at 11:32 AM); Victoria Cohen; Fern Desjardins; James Ford; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; and Denham Ward.

Others Present: Erica Tompkins, State Board of Education Office Specialist II

Absent with Excuse: Abbey Hamilton and Cedar Worster

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

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

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by Chair Bonneau: 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.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No adjustments to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Paulette Bonneau, Chair of the 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 be going into executive session to consider the requests because each one involves reviewing and discussing information contained in student records made confidential by 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 for the discussion of their particular student's transfer, as are the Superintendents of the school districts involved in that requested transfer. The Board will review each of the transfer requests in separate executive sessions. Today, the Board has nine 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' decisions.

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 Victoria Kornfield, 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 RT 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 9:11 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 9:34 AM.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by James Ford, and voted five in favor with three opposed (Paulette Bonneau, Thomas Keller, and Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the State Board received, it was in RT's best interest to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, 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 HS 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 9:38 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 10:03 AM.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted that given the information the State Board received, it was in HS's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, 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 KG 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 10:05 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 10:31 AM.

MOTION by Victoria Cohen, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted that given the information the State Board received, it was in KG's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, 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 WC 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 10:34 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 10:46 AM.

MOTION by Denham Ward, seconded by Thomas Keller, and voted five in favor with three opposed (Victoria Cohen, Fern Desjardins, and Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the State Board received, it was in WC's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Edmond Morin, 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 PG 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 10:49 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 11:15 AM.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded Victoria Cohen, and voted six in favor with two opposed (Fern Desjardins and James Ford) that given the information the State Board received, it was in PG's best interest to disapprove the transfer. The transfer was disapproved.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, 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 RG 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 11:17 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 11:33 AM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Thomas Keller, and voted eight in favor with one abstention (Wendy Ault) that given the information the State Board received, it was in RG's best interest to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

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 RW and LW 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 11:36 AM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 12:01 PM.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and voted seven in favor with two opposed (Thomas Keller and Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the State Board received, it was in LW's best interest to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and voted seven in favor with two opposed (Thomas Keller and Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the State Board received, it was in RW's best interest to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

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 CP 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 12:05 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:02 PM.

MOTION by James Ford, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and voted five in favor with four opposed (Wendy Ault, Paulette Bonneau, Thomas Keller, and Victoria Kornfield) that given the information the State Board received, it was in CP's best interest to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Fern Desjardins
Member, Maine State Board of Education