



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the April 28, 2023 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta. There was also a remote option.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Fern Desjardins (Chair), Kristin Bishop, Edmond Morin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rep. Amanda Collamore, District 68
Ann Pinnette, Department of Education
Ben Hall, MSAD 53 School Board
Donald Bresnahan, BIMS
Gerard Castonguay, MSAD 53 School Board
Lisa Bernier, MSAD 33 School Board
Gisele Dionne, Asst Superintendent VUESC
Tim Walton, Walton External Affairs

Mark Brooks, Cianbro Corporation
Peter Vigue, CEO, Cianbro Corporation
Nathan McIvor, Department of Education
Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education
Scott Brown, Department of Education
Shawn Knox, MSAD 53 Dir of Operations
Sharon Littlefield, MSAD 53 Superintendent

Chair Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the March 31, 2023 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first agenda item and asked MSAD 53 representatives to present their information. Superintendent Littlefield and Director Knox presented concerns about the placement of MSAD 53's construction project on the Major Capital Improvement Program Priority List. They reviewed their district's building conditions and need for new construction. They also provided historic information of current and past applications and rating cycles. Their request is that they continue their position on the current Priority List and not be superseded by the funding of Emergency Projects. Rep. Amanda Collamore, Hall, Vigue, and Walton all spoke in support of moving forward with funding for their project without disruption. Insurance coverage and a separate funding mechanism for funding Emergency Projects were also discussed.

Chair Desjardins then invited MSAD 33 representatives to review their situation and provide an update regarding their insurance settlement. Assistant Superintendent Dionne provided historic information regarding their fire and current facilities information. She also provided clarification and information on their insurance settlement.

Desjardins concluded that funding limitations would not allow for funding of the next projects on the Priority List and the Emergency Projects. She stated that she will continue to develop a statement of fact regarding the history of Emergency Projects and meet with the Commissioner to review the fact sheet.

The Committee then briefly discussed bills in the Legislature relevant to school construction including L.D. 1415, L.D. 1472, and L.D. 1842.

The Committee then discussed the in-progress fact sheet for the MSAD 33 and RSU 1 fires. Desjardins said that fact collection so far indicates that the State Board only replaced what was lost from structures in previous emergency approvals and that MSAD 33 is claiming that 100% of its facility is now unusable and that RSU 1 is claiming that 60-65% of its facility is unusable.

Dionne mentioned that after the fire in MSAD 33's facility, Pre-K and K are now located in modular units requiring students to walk outside to access physical education, lunch, music, art, and assemblies. She said that the district is significantly insured, but that replacement costs were originally calculated for 1950s construction prices and that there may be difficulty getting value adjusted to reflect current USD.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.