



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 26, 2022 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met via Zoom on August 26, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Fern Desjardins (Chair), Wilson Hess, Kristin Bishop

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Brown, MDOE School Facilities staff
Valerie Chiang, MDOE School Facilities staff
Norm Lemire, Oak Point Associates
Nathan McIvor, MDOE School Facilities staff
Patrick Manuel, RSU 1 Superintendent
Roberta Hersom, RSU 49 Superintendent
Kathy Cogan, CHA Architecture
Ben Winschel, CHA Architecture
Lou Ensel, RSU 1 Board Chair

Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Motion by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the July 29, 2022 minutes as written.

Scott Brown provided an introduction of the RSU 49 New Elementary School Construction Project, noting that it was first on the MCIP Priority List. Superintendent Roberta Hersom introduced her team, presented the proposed project, and explained how the project will meet the future Pre-K through 6 educational needs of RSU 49. She further expanded on the components of Early Childhood education and childcare within the project and discussed the value these programs bring to the region. Her presentation included a review of the public process and the upcoming straw vote.

Architect Kathy Cogan then presented plans of the building, elevations, and site layout. She spoke in detail regarding the design, mechanical systems, and how the project will save the district in overall facilities operating costs.

After several questions and further dialog, Wilson Hess motioned that the Committee recommend the RSU 49 Concept Approval Exhibit be placed on the September 14, 2022 State Board of Education's business agenda with the Committee's recommendation of approval. The motion was seconded by Kristin Bishop and voted unanimously to approve by those present.

Chair Desjardins then introduced the next meeting agenda item regarding the recent fire at RSU 1 Dike Newell Elementary School. Superintendent Manual stated that most of the classrooms were damaged beyond repair and that the students have been moved to the old Bath Regional Career and Technical Center building as a temporary measure. He reviewed the challenges this presents to the community and district and is working with their insurance carrier. He asked about the emergency provisions in Chapter 61 Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and its applicability to the situation. He will keep the Committee updated on future developments and invited members of the Committee to visit the school. His also expressed the Community's interests in combining the district's two old elementary schools into a new facility.

Chair Desjardins then introduced an Exhibit, Additions to the Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. Brown explained that the Exhibit would add RSU 17's Oxford Hills Middle School and Agnes Gray Elementary School to the list which would allow those projects to begin the planning process. Wilson Hess motioned to approve the Exhibit for Additions to the Approved Projects List for the 2017-2018 Rating Cycle. The motion was seconded by Kristin Bishop and voted unanimously to approve by those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.