



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Special Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual special meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Jana Lapoint; Peter Geiger; Casey Maddock; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Karen Kusiak, Director of Legislative Affairs; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Postsecondary and Educator Preparation Coordinator; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guests: Vicki Wallack, Communications Director, Maine School Management Association (MSMA) and Sara Flanigan, Assistant Professor, University of Maine.

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM.

Introductions: Chair Ault welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment:
No Public Comment

University of New England:

Jason Libby presented an exhibit for the approval of the University of New England Graduate Degree in Inclusion Review Team.

The University of New England was scheduled to have its regular Chapter 114 review in October 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Certification and Higher Education Committee agreed to delay Chapter 114 reviews until 2021. The postponement in the review of this graduate degree would result in a delay in the institution's ability to promote it as a state-approved program. The Certification and Higher Education Committee agreed to hold an abbreviated review specifically for this program in order to maintain the timeline for its initial approval. The following individuals are recommended to serve on the review team:

Dr. Doris Santoro, Bowdoin College
Dr. Heather Ball, University of Maine at Machias

State Board of Education Board Observer – Jana Lapoint

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present to recommend that the State Board of Education accept the proposed review team at the December 21, 2020 Board meeting.

Chapter 115 Review:

The focus of the December 16, 2020 meeting was stated:

- Review draft revisions to Part I, *The Credentialing of Education Personnel*, with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta.
- Review draft revisions to Part II, *Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements*, with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta.

Note: The Committee took a lunch break at 12:30 PM and re-convened the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Deputy Commissioner Chuhta informed the Committee that legislation needs to be written to address suggested language changes to statute before the Committee can deliberate further.

Following much discussion:

- The Committee completed review of Chapter 115, Part I.
- The Committee started to review Part II, but time did not permit for completion of the review.
- It was decided that the Committee will need additional special meetings to continue to review Part II revisions and finalize review of Part I.

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Chapter 115, Part I
- 3) Chapter 115, Part II
- 4) Exhibit – University of New England Proposed Review Team

The next Special Committee meeting to review Chapter 115 is scheduled for January 4, 2021 at 10:30 AM. A meeting on January 5, 2021 is scheduled should it be necessary.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment:

The December 16, 2020 Special Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson Becker, Secretary Specialist
Maine State Board of Education