



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the December 18, 2020 Meeting

The School Construction Committee held a virtual Zoom meeting on December 18, 2020.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Fern Desjardins, Martha Harris, Jane Sexton, and Peter Geiger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wilson Hess, State Board of Education, Chair

Mary Becker, State Board of Education staff

Pender Makin, MDOE Commissioner (joined 1:35 P.M.)

Scott Brown, MDOE School Facilities

Valerie Chiang, MDOE School Facilities

Ann Pinnette, MDOE School Facilities

Jim Harford, MDOE School Facilities

Ken Kunin, South Portland School Dept.

Jodi Mezzanotte, South Portland School Dept.

Michael Johannig, WBRC Arch + Engineers

Abigail Frost, Ellsworth American

Martha Harris called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

Motion by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted by those present, with Peter Geiger abstaining, to accept the November 20, 2020 minutes as written.

Martha Harris then asked Scott Brown to present to the Committee the exhibit for the Major Capital School Construction Program. Scott introduced the exhibit, Design and Funding Approval Consideration for the new South Portland Middle School Construction Project. Scott provided a brief history of the project and then introduced Ken Kunin, Superintendent of the South Portland School Department. Superintendent Kunin updated the Committee on events since Concept Approval, including the successful referendum vote, and thanked the State Board for their continued support of the project. He asked his architect, Michael Johannig, if he would like to add anything regarding the project. Mr. Johannig stated that there have been no changes of significance to the plan since Concept Approval and he wanted to particularly recognize Jodi Mezzanotte for her work and dedication the project. He also briefly discussed the work and improvements that have occurred to the security plan for the project. After several questions and further discussion, a motion was made by Peter Geiger, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the Commissioner's recommendation and move the exhibit forward to the January 13, 2021 State Board of Education meeting and recommend that the State Board grant Design and Funding Approval to the South Portland School Department for the new Middle School construction project as presented.

As a Miscellaneous Agenda item Martha Harris asked Scott Brown to update the Committee on the status of the Valley Unified Education Service Center project. Mr. Brown reported that he had been informed of a mediation session that is scheduled to occur on Monday December 21, 2020 with all three districts participating. After further discussion the Committee agreed to look forward to receiving the expected formal communication from the districts by the December 31, 2020 deadline.

Martha Harris asked if there were any additional items to be discussed under the Miscellaneous agenda item. There was none and the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 P.M.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2021 at 1 P.M.