



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 24, 2023 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met via Zoom on February 24, 2023

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Annear, Principal, Edward Little High School
Paulette Bonneau, Vice Chair, State Board of Education
Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs, Maine Department of Education
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist, Maine State Board of Education
Cornelia Brown, Superintendent, Auburn School Department
Valerie Chiang, School Construction Coordinator, Maine Department of Education
Norm Higgins, Former State Representative, District 120
Nathan McIvor, Office Administrator, Maine Department of Education
Ann Pinnette, Facilities Coordinator, Maine Department of Education

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

MOVED by Kristin Bishop and SECONDED by Fern Desjardins to accept the minutes for January 27, 2023 as written. In favor: Bishop, Desjardins. Abstaining: Edmond Morin. The motion passed.

Fern Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, REVISED Concept Approval for Auburn School Department's Edward Little High School Construction Project. Scott Brown stated that a REVISED Concept Approval is rare and that a new district referendum will be required if the State Board of Education approves this REVISED Concept Approval. Scott Brown and his team developed a Statement of Fact detailing unique challenges faced by the project due to circumstances related to the COVID pandemic. Scott Brown further discussed the increased cost of materials and labor that affected the project and the increased testing, scope, and cost of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) abatement. He noted that an additional amount of \$4,598,331 is needed to address the PCB issue and that material cost increases would be handled through a process using existing contingency funds.

Cornelia Brown explained that the majority of PCBs are in the gymnasium. After discussion with DOE, it was determined that the only course of action was to develop a REVISED Concept Approval and present it to the State Board of Education and the local district for approval of the

additional funds. She stated that the revised plan would keep the project on schedule and school staff should be able to use most of the building by July 1st. Scott Annear noted his great appreciation for the cooperation and expertise of all parties involved in this construction process.

After several questions it was MOVED by Bishop, SECONDED by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present that the proposed exhibit for REVISED Concept Approval for Auburn School Department be placed on the agenda for the upcoming March 8, 2023 meeting of the State Board of Education and that the State Board grant REVISED Concept Approval.

Fern Desjardins then introduced the next item on the agenda, Moveable Equipment for Major Capital Construction Projects. She noted that Chapter 61 Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects provides a definition, funding guidelines, and allowance for modifications to the equipment budgets for projects. Scott Brown provided ideas and options for consideration for future projects that would reduce Moveable Equipment budgets and encourage continued use of existing district owned equipment. After Committee discussion Scott Brown was asked to provide additional information at a future meeting.

Fern Desjardins introduced the next agenda item, Review of Correspondence from RSU 1 & RSU 33. Letters from the superintendents of both SAUs provided background regarding recent fires and requested assistance including emergency replacement projects. After discussion the Committee agreed to invite both superintendents to the next School Construction Committee meeting.

Fern Desjardins introduced the next agenda item, Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Presentation for MSAD 46/AOS 94, RSU 80/MSAD 4, RSU 41/MSAD 41, RSU 82/MSAD 12, RSU 64, Greenville Public Schools, Tri-County Technical Center. There was discussion regarding the presentation to the Committee at the January meeting and the potential sources of funding needed to move the project forward.

The Committee transitioned to Miscellaneous items. Scott Brown provided an update on the school building inventory project, noting that it is funded through a federal grant. The project will collect inventory data from 611 school buildings in Maine. Pinnette added that the software platform should be ready by June. Scott Brown gave a brief update on current Legislature bills that might impact school construction. Paulette Bonneau told the Committee to later examine LD 863, which may have an impact on school construction funding.

The Committee discussed moving the March meeting to March 31st at 9 a.m. to be confirmed.

Fern Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.