



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the January 27, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paulette Bonneau, Vice Chair, State Board of Education (by Zoom)

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

Ann Pinnette, Facilities Coordinator, Maine Department of Education

Nathan McIvor, Office Administrator, Maine Department of Education

Kevin T. Jordan, Superintendent, AOS 94

Rhonda Sperrey, Superintendent, RSU 64

Kelly MacFadyen, Superintendent, SAD 4/ RSU 80

Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 1:01p.m. and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

Motioned by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the October 24, 2022 minutes as written.

Kevin Jordan presented an update regarding the integrated, consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Project that would impact MSAD 46/AOS 94, RSU 80/MSAD 4, RSU 41/MSAD 41, RSU 82/MSAD 12, RSU 64, Greenville Public Schools, and Tri-County Technical Center. He stated that representatives from the district involved have made seven trips out of state to visit schools in Massachusetts. Superintendent Jordan then discussed the work that has been done on governance structure including legislation and also discussed the local support for the project. He also

discussed the need for and importance of identifying financial resources to support the planning process. To date they have been unable to secure funding to support the next steps of Site Selection and Educational Visioning. They will continue to pursue all avenues for financial support and look forward to returning to provide additional updates to the Committee in the future. Chair Desjardins stated the Committee's continued support for the project.

Desjardins then introduced the next agenda item, moveable equipment in Major Capital Construction projects. She reviewed rule language and past amendments to the percentages allowed in projects for moveable equipment. She also reminded the Committee of the challenges of providing needed equipment while keeping in mind the overall statewide needs for school construction. The current percentage for projects is 6%. Motion by Kristin Bishop, seconded by Desjardins, and voted unanimously by those present to request that the Office of School Facilities prepare a recommendation for lowering movable equipment percentages to the Committee.

Under the Major Capital Construction Update Scott Brown discussed the challenges encountered at the Edward Little High School project due to the COVID pandemic and increased costs in hazardous abatement work. Superintendent Dr. Cornelia Brown provided additional details regarding the project and stressed the pandemic-related challenges such as labor and supply shortages. Superintendent Dr. Brown also discussed that the scope of PCB abatement has increased significantly since the project's approval and will cost an additional \$4 million. She also mentioned that the project is 75% complete and that the new school is expected to open on July 1st.

Regarding a miscellaneous item: committee meetings will now begin at 9 a.m. This start time can be adjusted if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.