



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the January 28, 2022 Meeting

The School Construction Committee held a virtual Zoom meeting on January 28, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Geiger (Chair), Fern Desjardins, James Ford

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Becker, State Board of Education staff
Scott Brown, MDOE School Facilities staff
Jim Harford, MDOE School Facilities staff
Ann Pinnette, MDOE School Facilities staff
Nathan McIvor, MDOE School Facilities staff
Shelly Chasse-Johndro, MDOE Federal Programs
Kelly MacFadyen, Superintendent, RSU 4

Xavier Botana, Superintendent, Portland Public Schools
William Stockmeyer, Drummond Woodsum
Kevin Jordan, Superintendent, AOS 94
Steve Ingalls, RSU 64 Board Member
Rachel Ohm, Portland Press Herald
Eamonn Dundon, Portland Regional Chamber
Robert Foster, Member of Public

Peter Geiger called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

Motion by Fern Desjardins, seconded by James Ford, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the December 3, 2021 minutes as written.

Chair Geiger introduced the first agenda item and asked Xavier Botana to speak regarding Portland Public School's request for waiver of Chapter 61 rule requirements for consideration of an Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility. Superintendent Botana outlined the school district's justification for the request. Then attorney Stockmeyer provided further reasoning that they felt supported their request. After a number of questions from the Committee and discussion, Fern Desjardins made a motion, seconded by James Ford, that the School Construction Committee recommend that the State Board of Education not grant the request for a waiver. The Committee voted unanimously in support of the motion.

Chair Geiger then introduced Kevin Jordan and asked him to provide an update about the third ranked Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Program project. Superintendent Jordan started his presentation by introducing Superintendent MacFadyen who stated the strong support and excitement in her district for the project. Superintendent Jordan and Superintendent MacFadyen further discussed the regional committee that has been established and that its members have toured consolidated schools throughout Maine and Massachusetts to help prepare for their project. The committee will also discuss cost-share formulas, site selection, and pursuing dual accreditation with community colleges for some courses. After other comments and questions Chair Geiger thanked the presenter and complimented them on their work.

Shelly Chasse-Johndro briefed the Committee about allowable uses of federal emergency funds. She addressed the allowable use of emergency funds for construction projects. She then reviewed a listing of approved projects with the Committee and answered questions from Committee members.

Scott Brown provided a brief update on Major Capital School Construction and discussed a facilities inventory project that has been initiated.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 P.M.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.