



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the January 29, 2021 Meeting

The School Construction Committee held a virtual Zoom meeting on January 29, 2021.

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
Dan Chuhta, MDOE Deputy Commissioner
Scott Brown, MDOE School Facilities
Ann Pinnette, MDOE School Facilities

Jim Harford, MDOE School Facilities
Daniel Stockford, Brann & Isaacson.
Abigail Frost, Ellsworth American
Charles Pelletier – WFKTV4

Martha Harris called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M.

Motion by Peter Geiger, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted unanimously to accept the December 18, 2020 minutes as written.

Martha Harris then provided the Committee a brief history and status update of the Valley Unified Education Service Center project. She reviewed several significant recent events and communications including mediation, the October 15, 2020 joint letter from the Commissioner and the State Board regarding governance and the December 30, 2020 deadline, and the responses to the letter from each district involved in the project.

After an extensive Committee discussion that included statements of support for the project and disappointment by its lack of progress, Martha Harris asked if the Committee was ready to vote. Jane Sexton made a motion recommending that the Valley Unified Education Service Center project be removed from the Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Approved Projects List. Peter Geiger seconded the motion and the Committee vote was unanimous.

Martha Harris asked if there were any additional items to be discussed under the Miscellaneous agenda item. There were none and the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 P.M.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2021 at 1 P.M.