



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the June 10, 2020 Special Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Jana Lapoint; Wendy Ault; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; and Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes for approval.

Rule Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel

- a) Standards – Analysis of Colby report, one standard at a time
 - i. Standard Two – Jane Sexton
 - ii. Standard Three – Jana Lapoint
 - iii. Standard Four – Wendy Ault

Review of Colby College Team Report:

Colby College (Wendy Ault was the board observer) – Due to individuals from the Committee and DOE staff committed to attend other Zoom meetings, time did not allow for review of the Colby College Team report during the May 27, 2020 Committee meeting. The Committee agreed to hold a special meeting on June 10, 2020 prior to the State Board business meeting.

The Committee reviewed the report page by page and had an extensive discussion.

Wendy Ault, as the board observer presented to the Committee. The site review team took the review incredibly seriously and were very thoughtful about the process. The team engaged her in every aspect and guided her in which meetings she should participate in. Wendy was incredibly impressed by the depth of the site review and she felt very much a part of the team.

She did not participate deeply in any of the conversations, but the team was very respectful about asking her opinion when it was appropriate. Overall, she is a strong proponent of liberal arts education and she believes great teachers are made when they combine education in a liberal way with pedagogy and methods courses. Wendy stressed that we want Colby educated students to be teaching in our classrooms. The young lady with whom spoke to the team and is teaching in Yarmouth was very impressive and well versed. She was as complimentary about her program as she was critical about some aspects. What Wendy finds most difficult and troubling is the fact that they have changed their requirement so that student teaching now is too often an add on after students graduate. Fewer and fewer students are pursuing certification and there are currently no students that will complete the program. There were some aspects of the program that were impressive. Adding the social justice component with all that is going on in the world now is a positive thing for Colby to include.

The review team was chaired by Dr. Heather Ball of the University of Maine at Machias. The review took place September 22-24, 2019. The review team reviewed the institution’s self-study using Chapter 114 standards and has recommended five-year program approval for the following programs:

- Secondary education 7-12 (English, social studies, life science, physical science, mathematics)
- K-12 foreign language in French, Spanish, and German

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Colby College conditional program approval from Fall 2019 to Fall 2021 for the Colby Professional Teacher Certification Program. By May 2021, the unit must submit an interim report of progress toward meeting Standards 1 and 2.

Annual Report – Due date is April 7:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. Reports that have been received by Jason Libby and forwarded to Committee Members:

Annual Report From:	Date Received:
Bates College	February 10, 2020
Bowdoin College	January 27, 2020
College of the Atlantic	April 7, 2020
Eastern Maine Community College	April 7, 2020
Husson University	April 9, 2020
MECA	May 28, 2020
Saint Joseph’s College	May 13, 2020
University of Maine Farmington	April 6, 2020
University of Maine at Machias	April 16, 2020
University of Southern Maine	April 7, 2020

June 24, 2020 Meeting Topics:

- Northeastern University Update
- Annual Report Update
- Upcoming Team Review Schedule

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Colby College Team Review of Findings
- 3) Annual Reports received to date

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment: The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.