



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the June 25, 2021 Meeting

The School Construction Committee held a virtual Zoom meeting on June 25, 2021.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Geiger, Chair. Fern Desjardins, Wilson Hess, Cynthia Murray-Beliveau

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Becker, State Board of Education staff  
Nathan McIvor, MDOE School Facilities  
Scott Brown, MDOE School Facilities  
Jim H. Hartford, MDOE School Facilities  
David Leavitt, RSU 54/MSAD 54  
Brent Colbry, RSU 54 /MSAD 54  
Jonathan Moody, RSU 54 /MSAD 54  
Andy Johnston, Atlantic Resource Consultants  
Patrick Carroll, Carroll Associates

Peter Geiger called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.

Motioned by Fern Desjardins, seconded by William Hess, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the March 24, 2021 minutes as written.

Scott Brown provided an overview of the proposed site in MSAD 54/ RSU 54. Located in Skowhegan, the new facility will combine Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School, North Elementary School, and Bloomfield Elementary School in a new PreK-5 elementary school. The proposed site merges Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School's parcel of land with adjoining land from the National Park Service. Jonathan Moody then began a presentation on the school district's demographics and current facilities, and said that the new facility will replace four schools in total, making it easier for the district to produce consistent continuity of service and student experience across all its schools. Andy Johnston and Patrick Carroll detailed the site selection process, and noted how efficient access to traffic, utilities, and construction space, made MCS Elementary School's land the most desirable site for a new facility. MCS Elementary School's bus barn will be moved to North Elementary School to make room for the new facility. The committee clarified that the proposed site would not require the purchase of adjacent land from the National Park Service, but would instead require a conversion cost (approx. \$1.9 million) that transfers the land from NPS to RSU 54 / MSAD 54, as both are public entities.

Fern Desjardins motioned to put a site approval meeting for the project on the State Board of Education's agenda for July 14th. Seconded by Wilson Hess

The Committee had a brief discussion regarding pending legislative bills including LD705, Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine's Public Schools. Scott Brown noted that the proposed bill would require revisions to rules 60, 61, and 125. Wilson Hess discussed his recent conversations with bill sponsor and his support for the bill.

Peter Geiger asked if there were any additional items to be discussed under the Miscellaneous agenda item. There were none and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.