



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the June 26, 2019 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Jana Lapoint; and Wendy Ault (Board Members). Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; Angel Loredo, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services (Department of Education Staff) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guest: Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, RSU #5

Committee Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 9:50 AM.

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the May 29, 2019 minutes as written.

Certification Office Update: *(Angel Loredo for Stephanie Fyfe)*

- Stephanie Fyfe - away on vacation
- Processing time for applications is three-weeks
- Wait time on phones is 10 to 20 minutes
- Working with developer, running tests that are going well

Rule Chapter Updates:

Chapter 115 – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel:

(Angel Loredo)

- The Ed Committee met on June 12th to look at Chapter 115 for the last time and made language revisions.
- Chapter 115 then went to the House and Senate. It left the House with an emergency component to it meaning it would go into play once the Governor signed it.
- During the course of debate in the House, the sponsor of the bill, Victoria Kornfield, took away the emergency.
- Changes to the rule include grade level spans.
- Jane wants to see the language changes before the July SBE meeting. What the rule language is for July 1st and what the language is for September 19th.

Chapter 13, Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators: *(Jason Libby for Emily Gribben)*

- The changes in Praxis test paperwork has gone to ETS (Educational Testing Service). Thank you to Committee for moving on so quickly.
- Due to her involvement in several of the Think Tanks going on – Praxis has been brought up as far as it being a barrier to some being certified. Emily is hoping to convey information to the Committee in the future.
- She will have an update for the Committee at the July 24 meeting.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

- Annual Team Reports:
 - Received a report from Presque Isle that was submitted on time and the Committee has received the report.
 - In July, Jane will send a second letter requesting a report for those that have not responded to the first letter from Jane. The letter will include the language from Chapter 114 requiring the annual report
- Northern Vermont University
 - Committee should receive report in July.
- Husson University
 - Committee received the Team Report on May 14, 2019. Committee reviewed the report on May 29th and agreed that the full Board should receive the report at the June 12, 2019 meeting. Consideration of approval of the report will take place at the July 10, 2019 Board meeting. The Chair of the team will be in attendance for the July 10th meeting.
- Northern Vermont University
 - The Committee should receive the team report in July.
- Purdue University Global
 - The State Board granted approval in November of 2018 for Purdue Global University to offer a Degree – “Bachelor of Nursing”.
 - Request for Associates Degree in Nursing – a degree level down and the same program and licensure.
 - Jason is requesting that there be a change of authorization to include the Associates degree or review the self-study already produced as it seems redundant to produce a review team, hold a review, etc. for the same review that was completed a year ago and approved six months ago. It takes three days of work for Jason to hold a full team review, even if the review is only one day.
 - A self-study is available for review.
 - Physical presence in Augusta or Lewiston
 - The Committee has concerns with the request and has process questions to resolve. No decision was made at the meeting.
- Beal College Review
 - Review took place on June 13th
 - John Bird was the State Board Observer
 - The draft report is being circulated among the team. Committee should have a report in July.

Strategic Planning:

- I. Strategic Plan Goal 2.1 – Discuss the “observation” role of State Board Members
 - a) Preparation for board observers:

- a. Angel Loreda presented (PowerPoint) to the full Board “The Role of the State Board Observer at Educator Preparation Program Reviews” on July 6, 2016.
 - i. SBE new members since presentation
 - o Wendy Ault – 10/30/17
 - o Fern Desjardins – 4/30/18
 - b. Certification and Higher Education Committee Members assure that a trained observer attend each review
 - c. Observer be a member of the committee and if not a member, observer be present when the committee reviews the report – three or four reviews per year
 - d. Training to include review of handbook and standards in Chapter 114, and review of self-study
 - e. Workshop session at the August 2018 Board Retreat
- II. Strategic Plan Goal 2.2 – Progress report for on-line teacher certification/re-certification process
- a) The Department held a soft rolling out of the new online certification system in November of 2017.
- III. Strategic Plan Goal 2.3 – Review of Chapter 13
- a) Sarah Forster indicated that the State Board maintain Chapter 13 regulation for the cut scores for the PRAXIS exams.
- IV. Strategic Plan Goal 2.3 – PRAXIS – when do we want to have information on and who will gather information for Board presentation?
- a) Need further discussion on PRAXIS
 - b) Malik McKinley, ETS, and Robert Hasson presented to the SBE on PRAXIS at the October 12, 2016 meeting held at Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS) in Hinckley.
 - i. SBE new members since presentation
 - o Wendy Ault – 10/30/17 and
Fern Desjardins – 4/30/18

Jane Sexton distributed a copy of the Certification portion of the State Board’s Strategic Plan (See below on page 4 & 5). The Committee had a discussion on what they had accomplished over the past year. The Committee will present to the full Board during the August Annual Retreat. The Committee reviewed each goal and rationale.

GOAL #2: STREAMLINE AND ENHANCE TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND PREPARATION IN MAINE

The State Board of Education sets as its goal to streamline and enhance teacher certification and post-secondary educator preparation programs.

Rationale: Our students need the very best teachers in their classrooms. Right now, Maine is facing a severe shortage of high-quality teacher candidates at a time when the number of teacher retirements is ramping up steeply. Certification processes that facilitate the smooth & timely credentialing of qualified candidates is crucial to filling those vacancies. Further the very best quality teacher preparation programs possible at the post-secondary level are equally critical to filling the pipeline with highly effective teachers.

Goal 2.1 Higher Education - Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Educational Personnel. Chapter 114

Hold higher education programs to high standards in program reviews

Rationale: "Our students need the very best teachers in their classrooms"

- a) Update the "observation" role of State Board members (*Winter 2018*)
- b) Make well informed decisions in program reviews
- c) Update handbook by creating an appendix with rubrics for each subsection under each standard (*Spring 2018*) **Have not completed**
- d) Create training for State Board members in their "observer" role (*Spring 2018*) **No training took place in a regular meeting**
- e) Start initial training for teams (*Spring 2018*)
- f) Pilot revised handbook with rubrics in appendix on reviews (*July 2018*) **Legislation came as priority – Update "C" before piloting new handbook**

Goal #2.2 – – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel. Chapter 115

Review the certification process

Rationale: "Certification processes facilitate the smooth and timely credentialing of qualified candidates" **Receiving Department of Education reports – Committee Monitors**

- a) Monitor and learn more about recent changes to Chapter 115: LD 404 – Resolve Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115 Certification and Approval of Education Personnel (*Winter 2018*) - **Monitoring**

b) Monitor statutory revisions related to Chapter 115 rule updates as (LD 1569 – An Act to Revise Certification Statutes for Educational Personnel) moves through the process this session (*Spring 2018*) - **Monitoring**

1. Revise Rule 115, Pt. II (Fall 2018)

i. Maintain Alternative Certification Pathways - **Completed – example ROTC**

c) Monitor the on-line teacher certification/re-certification process (*Summer 2018*)

1) Monitor Online Teacher Certification Implementation - **Completed by DOE Staff with updates**

d) Review other certificates (*Fall 2018*)

1) Review Teacher Certification Qualifications (2019) - **Have not looked at**

2. Review Individual Certification Areas for Teachers (2019) - **Have not looked at individual areas**

Goal #2.3 – – Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators. Chapter 13

Review the use of PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II and the cut scores

Rational: “Our students need the very best teachers in their classrooms”

a) Look at/edit the draft administrative letter (*Fall 2017*) - **Emily Gribben, DOE (form - process piece)**

b) Approve the final form – administrative letter (*Fall 2017*)

c) Board workshop on the use of PRAXIS in all higher education programs in Maine (*Summer 2018*) - **Malik McKinley, ETS**

d) Research the data on teacher effectiveness/test scores (*Fall 2018*) – **Researched**

e) Review Praxis Scores & Standards (2019)

f) Study the Relationship between Praxis II Scores & Teacher Effectiveness (2019) - **To do**

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – May 29, 2019 Meeting
- 3) Chapter 114 - Standard #2: Learning Differences
- 4) Chapter 114 – Standard #6: Assessment
- 5) Higher Ed Review Team Checklist Comparison Homework – Nichi Farnham
- 6) Strategic Plan – Certification and Higher Education Goals

Committee to Do List – Future Meeting:

- A. Response from Committee members on the “Strategic Plan Previous Goals”
- B. Review of Beal, Tufts, and Northern Vermont reports, if received by July 24.
- C. Saint Joseph’s – Attend Committee meeting in October
- D. Update on Chapter 115 – Waivers completed by Commissioner
- E. Praxis research on other States by Emily
- F. Handbook for Review Team Members – Maine Educator Preparation Program
- G. Review Wendy Ault’s Draft Changes to Handbook for Review Team Members – Maine Educator Preparation Programs

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Burton Cross State Office Building.

Adjournment:

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.