



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the June 28, 2023 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, via Zoom. The following were present: Chair Wendy Ault, Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield, and Denham Ward (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Michael Perry, Acting Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; and Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education Office Specialist.

Guests: Rose Angell, Penny Bishop, Mallory Cook, and Cynthia Dean.

Chair Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Items Requiring Follow-Up:

Michael Perry will follow up on Beal University Degree-Granting site visit request. A review committee will be formed. He is also working to identify a team for Syracuse University's request for renewal site visit.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the April 26, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Higher Education Update:

- A draft EPP site visit schedule has been created. Michael wants to meet with EPPs to confirm dates and get their input on possible discussions of Chapter 114.
- The UMM site visit was postponed due to the pandemic. Michael will contact them.
- Husson University, Maine College of Art & Design, and Unity College are all due for a review at the end of 2023. Michael will begin to form review committees.
- Colby College, EMCC, Thomas College, and UMA are all due for a review at the end of 2024.
- Sarah Forster is reviewing a draft document regarding the Roux Institute.

Review of Annual Reports for Chapter 114 Approved Programs:

16 colleges submit this report to the Committee. The reports are due each year by April 7. With Title II being added to the annual reports, it has made them longer.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following reports:

- College of the Atlantic
- EMMC

The Committee will continue review of annual reports starting with Husson University at the July 26, 2023, meeting.

Certification Update:

- 4,237 applications were received in May which is a 35% increase over April and a 135% increase year to year.
- Processing time for new applicants is approximately four weeks. The team received authorization for overtime hours from mid-June to mid-July to help alleviate this. As a result, processing time has dropped back to three weeks.
- The interview phase for the Certification Coordinator position is complete.
- The team viewed 13,474 educator profiles in May.
- 2,550 violations has decreased to 1,177 currently.
- The State Board of Education is required to report to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee by January 15, 2024, on potential changes to Chapter 115.
- A Longitudinal Data Project with the Region 1 comprehensive center is underway.
- The office reached out to Special Education Directors whose districts will be affected by emergency certification in 282.
- Schools who teach using an interdisciplinary model at the middle school level have expressed concern as the old rule certified K-8 and the new rule certifies K-6.
- We may know next month whether the Federal Education Department approved the Educator Shortage Areas list.

Update from the University of Maine Educator Preparation Program:

On behalf of the UMaine System EPPs, Cynthia Dean from UMA attended today's meeting. She said the Teacher Educator Alliance of Maine (TEAMe) finally reconvened on June 7. The major topics of discussion were Chapter 115 and program reviews. They plan on regular in person meetings beginning in the fall and will make a concerted effort to include a representative from all EPPs to present in Certification & Higher Education meetings.

Andrea Stairs-Davenport is working with Paulette Bonneau on the State Board of Education August Retreat to be held on the USM Portland Campus. The UMaine System is hoping each campus will highlight their education program initiatives.

On May 24, UMaine held a Special Education Summit, which was well attended. Discussion included accessibility of courses, cooperating departments, individual campus initiatives, and clinical opportunities. In addition, a Special Education teacher apprenticeship application has been approved with the Department of Labor.

The Maine Residency Program is continuing but is in jeopardy due to funding. Most University System campuses are considering Home Grown Residency Programs and how best to serve students.

UMA, UMM, and UMPI are collaborating to form a cooperating department specifically for Special Education. UMPI is continuing with their competency-based education programs.

Other Business:

- Diana Doiron will put together a document on all programs and initiatives.
- We are aware of most of the information in the MEPRI Report on Emergency-Certified Teachers. One item of interest is the mechanism to get information for emergency certification requirements to principals. Perhaps more capacity is needed. Providing emergency-certified teachers with support and mentors is critical to their success.
- Please review the C&HE Committee Policy for updates or changes.
- The process continues for hiring the Director of the Office of Higher Education and Education Support Services position.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

The June 28, 2023, Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist
Maine State Board of Education