



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the May 26, 2023 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met via Zoom.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fern Desjardins (Chair), Kristin Bishop, Edmond Morin

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ann Pinnette, Department of Education  
Benjamin Sirois, Superintendent, MSAD 33  
Dr. Cornelia Brown, Superintendent,  
Auburn Public Schools  
Donald Bresnahan, Senior VP, BIMS  
Dr. Denham Ward, State Board of Education  
Gisele Dionne, Asst Superintendent, VUESC  
Katie Joseph, Asst Superintendent, RSU 1

Lana Cohen, Portland Press Herald  
Lisa Bernier, Board Member, MSAD 33  
Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education  
Sharon Littlefield, Superintendent, RSU 53  
Scott Brown, Department of Education  
Shawn Knox, Facilities Director, RSU 53  
Nathan McIvor, Department of Education  
Debra Clark, Business Manager, RSU 1

Chair Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the April 28, 2023 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the first agenda item and asked Dr. Brown to speak regarding the revised Design and Funding Approval consideration for Auburn School Department's New Edward Little High School Construction Project. She is currently speaking with community members and organizations regarding the importance of the upcoming district referendum scheduled for June 14, 2023. The Committee discussed how this was an unusual circumstance and reminded those present that if the information regarding the extent of PCBs were identified earlier in the project the abatement cost would have been included in the Concept Budget. After a brief discussion it was motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to place the REVISED Design and Funding Approval Consideration for Auburn School Department's New Edward Little High School Construction Project on the State Board June 14, 2023 meeting agenda.

Chair Desjardins then introduced the next item on the agenda, Updated Fact Sheet for MSAD 33 and RSU 1 fires. The Committee discussed insurance payouts and the potential construction scope

and costs. Scott Brown cautioned the Committee regarding square foot cost projections as there are many variables involved in such calculations. He also stated that a further discussion should occur regarding the debt ceiling capacity before any determinations are made. The Committee then discussed enrollments, historical small school construction projects, possible use of the School Revolving Renovation Fund monies, and concerns of increased maintenance and ownership costs. The Committee determined that more data will be available in future Committee meetings.

The Committee then briefly discussed bills before the Legislature including LD 957, LD 992, LD 1415, LD 1185, and LD 1472. Chair Desjardins reviewed the potential impact bills may have on Chapter 61.

Desjardins asked Brown if northern areas of the state have higher construction costs. Brown explained that labor and materials premiums and transportation logistics would typically result in increased project costs.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.