



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 9, 2020 Meeting

The School Construction Committee held a virtual Zoom meeting on October 9, 2020.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Fern Desjardins, Martha Harris, Jane Sexton, and Peter Geiger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wilson Hess, State Board of Education, Chair
Scott Brown, MDOE School Facilities
Ann Pinnette, MDOE School Facilities
Mary Becker, State Board of Education staff
Abbey Frost, Ellsworth American

Martha Harris called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

Martha Harris asked Scott Brown to update the Committee on the status of the draft letter to Valley Unified Education Service Center. Scott reviewed the several recent communications that led up to the need to send a clarifying letter to Executive Director Ben Sirois. Specifically, Mr. Brown explained the draft letter is focused on two important issues including; the establishment of a governance structure and potential member withdrawal from the Service Center. After a thorough review of the proposed draft letter it was agreed by all members of the Committee that were present that additional language was needed to provide further clarity. The Committee developed a new sentence to be inserted into the letter that would state, “The deadline for submitting documentation of 1) a written plan and 2) evidence that all three boards have voted in the affirmative to adopt the plan is due to the Department of Education by December 31, 2020”.

The Committee would make this amendment to the letter and have it placed on next Wednesday’s State Board of Education meeting agenda for approval.

The next School Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2020 at 1 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 A.M.