



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Jana Lapoint; Casey Maddock; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; Jaci Holmes, Federal Legislative Liaison (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guests: Vicki Wallack

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 26, 2020 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 28, 2020 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Fern Desjardins, to accept the October 29, 2020 minutes as presented.

Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Fern Desjardins.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present to table the October 29, 2020 minutes for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

Certification Office Update: *(Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

Status Update:

- Applications – One-week turnaround. Many applications were received in October.
- Phones – An average of 65 to 100 calls a day – wait time between 0 and 20 minutes.
- Eight people work with Stephanie in the Certification Office – three evaluators and five others as support staff.

Processing Update:

- Received data charts on application type, certificate class description, and count for October 2019 and October 2020.
- 38 individuals issued Reciprocity Professional Certificates for a total of 65 endorsements.
- 95 individuals issued Emergency Certificates for a total of 111 endorsements
- 47 Waiver Certificates issued.
- Executive Order has led to current teachers and others applying for additional endorsements to work in schools for this year. The Praxis waiver has encouraged people to apply for certification.
- Ed Techs are applying for emergency certification, which could be a factor in the decline of renewal applications, as the executive order allows for emergency certification, good for one-year to September 1, 2021.

Angel Loreda provided a spreadsheet, which is showing endorsements with waived tests.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

Update on Team Reports:

No Changes since the last Committee meeting on October 18, 2020.

- *Review Team schedules*
 - *UMaine review – December 2020 – CAEP Review will be held virtually. Fern Desjardins will serve as the Board Observer. It was decided that the Board observer for the CAEP review and the State review should be the same person and be a member of the C&HE Committee.*
 - *Bates review – September of 2020 - delayed*
 - *UNE review – October of 2020 - delayed*
 - *UMaine at Machias – Requested delay to April 2020 – Pandemic moved review to November of 2020 - delayed*
- *College of the Atlantic (COA) expressed concerns regarding a review in the Spring.*

In January 2021, the Committee will revisit the status of the reviews.

UNE's Graduate Education Program:

Jason Libby needs to add one additional person to the review team and will forward the names to the C&HE Committee members. Jana Lapoint agreed to be the Board Observer for the UNE review.

Roux Institute On-Site Review:

At the July 20, 2020 State Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the Northeastern University Review Team report of findings that the institution's graduate degree programs as listed in the exhibit be granted initial approval by the Maine State Board of Education from Fall 2020 to Fall 2024. Additionally, the State Board of Education requested an onsite visit to the Roux Institute in 2021 when operations are fully underway to confirm that plans as described in Spring 2020 are materializing effectively.

The Roux Institute contacted Jason Libby regarding an on-site visit. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the visit should be on-site as opposed to a virtual visit. Committee members agreed that the on-site visit should take place sometime between May and October of 2021 as the pandemic allows.

Review of Annual Reports:

Annual Report – Due date was April 7, 2020:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.
- The Committee reviewed the Colby College report.
- The Committee reviewed the template for the Educator Preparation Program Review Annual Program Update and the notification email to be sent out by Jason Libby for the annual reports due on April 7, 2021. The email and form will be sent out in December of 2020 or January of 2021. The Committee had one recommended change to the template. Angel Loreda and Jason Libby will work on the language for the additional question.

Rules that impact Certification and Higher Education Committee:

- Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists, and Administrators – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 119: Adjudicatory Proceedings on Certification Issues – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 138: State Accreditation Standards and Processes – *Joint Rule*
- Chapter 149: Procedures for Obtaining Authorization for Institutions of Higher Education to Confer Academic Degrees or to Offer Degree Courses/Programs In the State of Maine – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 170: Evaluating Requests for Degree Authorization (Maine and Out-of-State Institutions) – *State Board Rule*

Other Business:

Angel Loreda shared monthly themes of the Maine DOE's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education Committee's Virtual Lunchtime Series. All sessions are on the third Thursday of each month:

- November – Human Connection Through Storytelling with John Bear Mitchell. Mitchell will speak about Maine's Wabanaki people and heritage
- December – French American
- January – Martin Luther King

- February – Black History Month
- March – International Women’s Month
- April – African Asian Month – Breaking Glass Ceiling

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – October 26, 2020
- 3) Draft Minutes – October 28, 2020
- 4) Draft Minutes – October 29, 2020
- 5) Colby College Annual Report
- 6) Certification News from Stephanie Fyfe

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting may be moved to Wednesday, December 16, 2020. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the November 18, 2020 Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting at 11:45 AM.