



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 29, 2020 Special Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual special meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Jana Lapoint; Peter Geiger; Casey Maddock; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Karen Kusiak, Director Legislative Affairs; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guests: Andrew McCullough, Teacher, Brunswick High School; Kathy Yardley, Associate Provost and Dean, University of Maine at Farmington; Maryellen Mahoney-O'Neil, Associate Dean for Academic Services, University of Maine; Jane Stork, Principal, Etna-Dixmont School RSU 19; Cheryl Woodard, Pre-K Teacher, Libby-Tozier School RSU 4; Andrea Mercado, ELL Teacher, Lewiston; Vicki Wallack, Communications Director, Maine School Management Association (MSMA); Holly Couturier, Executive Director – Professional Division, Maine Principals' Association (MPA)

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Introductions: Chair Ault welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment:
No Public Comment

Chapter 115 Review:
The focus of the October 29, 2020 meeting was stated:

- Revisions to Teacher endorsements

Teachers and Educational Specialists: General Certificates and Endorsements:

Andrew McCullough, Member of the Consensus-based Rulemaking Committee, and teacher at Brunswick High School, presented the Teacher endorsements.

Changes in language:

- Kindergarten – change to Pre-Kindergarten throughout the document
- Social Studies – change to Social Studies or Social Sciences
- Birth to school age 5 – change to birth through Kindergarten
- Additional 6 credit hours for all teaching certificates (to include diversity-centered content related to today's classroom, as well as human or child development and other psychology options)

Following much discussion, it was decided that the Committee will continue to review the Teacher endorsements at the November 19, 2020 Special Meeting of the Certification and Higher Education Committee.

Rule Chapter 115 – Timeline:

The Committee discussed the aggressive rulemaking timeline. It was suggested that the State Board of Education may wish to consider extending the current proposed timeline.

Timeline:

10/6: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Overview
- Admin

10/8: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Ed Specialists
- CTE

10/14: State Board of Education meeting

Deputy Commissioner will present an overview of the conversations, issues and general proposals; C&HE Committee Report

10/26: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Special Education
- Part I

10/29: State Board Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting

- Teacher

11/4: State Board of Education meeting – seeking adoption

11/5 or 11/6: File with Secretary of State of Maine

11/11: Post in Secretary of State Newspaper ad and a DOE Priority Notice

12/1: Public Hearing

12/14: Comment period ends

12/28: Respond to all comments and make any changes to the rule based on comments

TBD/If needed: Emergency State Board meeting if changes

12/28: Submitted to the Attorney General’s office for review of form and legality

1/8/2021: File with Secretary of State as Provisionally Adopted

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Teacher Endorsements

The next regular Certification Committee meeting was rescheduled from November 25 to Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The next Special Committee meeting to review Chapter 115 is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment:

The October 29, 2020 Special Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson Becker, Secretary Specialist, Maine State Board of Education