



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 31st, 2023 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Cross Building, 11 Sewall Street, Augusta. There was also a remote attendance option.

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Valerie Chiang, Department of Education
Roberta Hersom, Superintendent, RSU 49
Kathy Cogan, Architect, CHA Architecture
Benjamin Winschel, Architect, CHA
Architecture

Laura Cyr, Department of Education
Nathan McIvor, Department of Education
Sandra Bourget, State Board of Education staff
Scott Brown, Department of Education
Sharon Littlefield, Superintendent, RSU 53

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

Motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the September 21st, 2023 minutes as written.

Motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to accept the October 3rd, 2023 minutes as written.

Scott Brown presented an overview of the Design and Funding Approval Exhibit for the RSU 49 New Elementary School Construction Project. He reviewed where the project is on the State's 21-step construction process and provided additional historical information on the project.

Superintendent Hersom started her presentation by referencing the district referendum that was held on November 8, 2022. She informed the Committee that the state/local portion passed but the local only portion was voted down. Therefore, the project scope has been reduced to meet only the amount supported by the state/local funds with the most significant changes occurring in the gymnasium area. She then informed the Committee of other minor changes and the progress that has occurred since the Board granted Concept Approval in September of 2022.

Motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present that the exhibit be placed on the November 8, 2023 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant

Design and Funding Approval to RSU 49/MSAD 49 for a new grades 3-6 school construction project as presented and waive Chapter 61 Section 6.2.F., Time Limitations, (3), pursuant to Section 2.5.C, whereby the State Board finds reasons for a waiver.

Chair Desjardins introduced the next agenda item, Chapter 61 Update and introduced Laura Cyr who updated the Committee on the status of the draft and led them through the approval process and timeline. Laura discussed the public process including the November 21st public hearing in room 103 of the Cross Office Building and provided further details about the required steps of the process through final adoption. Committee members asked several questions regarding the process and the public hearing requirements.

Under the Miscellaneous Agenda item Mr. Brown discussed the upcoming work of revising the Department's school planning guideline documents. Brown informed the Committee of the timeline and would like to have further discussions with them once a contract is in place and the work has been initiated.

The Committee's next meeting will be on November 28th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 500.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.