



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the September 23, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Jana Lapoint; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Chuhta; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guests: Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, RSU #5

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:34 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 August 26, 2020 minutes as amended.

Rule Chapter 115 Update: *(Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta)*

Deputy Commissioner Chuhta updated the Committee on the foundational work of the Chapter 115 Committee that has been meeting weekly since the last week of May.

The Committee met for many weeks all together as one group to work on priorities of simplicity and flexibility and then broke into sub-groups. The sub-groups included:

- Teacher group – looks specifically at teacher endorsements
- Administrator group
- Special Education group
- CTE endorsements

The Administrator group is essentially done and are providing a suggested new format on how the rule could be written going forward.

At the September 23rd Chapter 115 Committee meeting, there will be a deadline established for a conclusion. The Committee will be reviewing questions regarding PRAXIS. What is the prognosis for PRAXIS? What will take its place?

Ed Specialist – the DOE has taken on the role of revising the endorsements. A few groups have weighed in. The school psychologist group, school library specialists (librarians) group, and CTE all made presentations.

It was suggested that the Certification and Higher Education Committee hold several special meetings to review Chapter 115 in sections.

Wendy Ault, Peter Geiger and Deputy Commissioner Chuhta will be meeting on Thursday, September 24th to develop a strategy for how to proceed with presenting Chapter 115 to the Certification and Higher Education Committee and the full State Board of Education.

Certification Office Update: *(Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

- Support staff were receiving 75 to 100 calls a day; once school started – 60 to 75 calls per day.
- Initial certification applications were a 2 to 3-week turnaround over the summer. Building new certificates in MEIS has put the Certification office in a holding pattern.
- The Governor’s Executive Order has prompted current teachers to apply for additional endorsements.
- Teacher renewals are relatively flat – a positive indicator.
- Many Ed Techs are applying for emergency certification, which could be a factor in the decline of renewal applications.
- Executive Order – Two components that will affect this Committee.
 - Waiving PRAXIS, time consuming but going very well
 - CHRC (background check) temporary been more challenging to implement in system than expected. Temp will expire 30 days after conclusion of civil emergency.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

Jason Libby reported he sent an email, in mid-August, previously approved by the Committee, to Educator Preparation Program units with reviews in the Fall of 2020. As UME will be undergoing a CAEP review, they did not receive the email.

Update on Team Reports:

- *Review Team schedules* – Jason has spoken with Bates College and the University of New England (UNE) – Outside visitors are not currently welcome at Bates or UNE. Team recruitment is difficult at this time with the COVID-19.
 - *UMaine review – December 2020 – CAEP Review will be held virtually. The DOE does not have full control of the CAEP review. The five-year agreement with CAEP’s term ends in November. The Board observer for the CAEP review and the State review should be the same person and 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) responded to the above email with additional questions which Jason answered. COA expressed concerns regarding a review in the Spring.

In January 2021, the Committee will discuss the status of these reviews.

UNE's Graduate Education Program:

Jason requested consideration of the Committee to continue discussion for the UNE Graduate Education Program. Approval for education programs and special education endorsement areas. A delay could potentially affect their program. This would be an initial approval as opposed to a renewal.

After much discussion, it was suggested that Jason Libby provide a recommendation for the Committee to consider.

- Review a timeline – provide unit documentation within the next month
- Meet requirements of Chapter 114
- Jason Libby contact UNE with a potential path forward pending full review
- Intent review of entire institution
- Abbreviated self-study needed
- Member of SBE to review with DOE staff – someone from special education (2 people) and higher education folks (2 or 3 people)
- Jana Lapoint agreed to serve on the team
- Jason Libby will email Wendy Ault, Wilson Hess and Jana Lapoint following his conversation with UNE

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and unanimously voted by those present for the Committee to move forward with the process for UNE and that Jana Lapoint will work with Jason Libby.

Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC):

Jason Libby briefed the Committee on a program at EMCC. A Learning Facilitator program has been developed in conjunction with EMCC. The program was created to address some of the workforce needs in education. Particularly to get folks interested in serving as a substitute or long-term substitute teacher, or a learning facilitator that might be able to work as a classroom teacher remotely. This is part of the Governor's executive order released on August 26, 2020 (pg#3). Money was transferred over to EMCC. There is a bootcamp training. There is a certification connected to this program. Emily Doughty is working with EMCC. Jason will keep the Committee updated on this program.

Review of Action Agenda (2021):

Discussion Starters:

Teacher training and certification to meet teacher shortage and maintain quality

- Conduct a comprehensive reauthorization for Chapter 115 Rule using inclusive processes**
- Encourage reciprocity reform
- Review Praxis scores as a credentialing standard

** On-going DOE or Legislative initiative

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the action agenda for 2021 and focus on Chapter 115.

Review of Annual Reports:

Annual Report – Due date was April 7, 2020:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.
- Annual Reports not received to date: Jason sent a reminder to the two colleges in mid-September.
 - Colby College – no update.
 - Thomas College – Jason Libby should receive it soon.

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*

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – August 26, 2020
- 3) Certification News – Stephanie Fyfe
- 4) Action Agenda – 2021

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the September 23, 2020 Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting at 12:08 PM.