



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta. There was also a remote attendance option.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Valerie Chiang, School Construction Coordinator, Department of Education  
Nathan McIvor, School Facilities Staff, Department of Education  
Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist, State Board of Education  
Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education  
Norm Lemire, Project Coordinator, Oak Point Associates  
Jonah DeWaters, Civil Engineer, Oak Point Associates  
Jeremy Ray, Superintendent of Schools, Saco Public Schools  
Meg Parkhurst, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Saco Public Schools  
Unidentified iPhone guest on Zoom

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 November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins asked Scott Brown to introduce the first agenda item, Major Capital School Construction Program; Site Approval Consideration for the Saco Elementary School Construction Project. Mr. Brown presented the exhibit and a brief history of the project including a successful recent community meeting and straw vote. He then asked Superintendent Ray to provide further information and address questions from committee members.

Superintendent Ray presented information supporting the need for a new site as well as the district's plan for consolidation of the district's elementary schools. He provided a detailed summary of the site selection process which identified a parcel near Route 1 in Saco as the best site for the project. He explained how the site is immediately adjacent to a city owned parcel where the city intends to build a PreK - K school at the same time as the state funded elementary school. He further reviewed the extensive testing and studies that had been completed on the site including

infrastructure, traffic, soils and environmental analysis, wetlands, and site test fits. After several questions from the Committee, Chair Desjardins asked for a motion.

Motioned by Bishop, seconded by Morin, and voted unanimously by those present to recommend that pursuant to Title 20-A M.R.S. §15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, that this exhibit be placed on the January 10, 2024 State Board meeting agenda and that the State Board grant Site Approval to the Saco School Department for the new Elementary School construction project as presented.

During the Miscellaneous agenda item Scott Brown updated the Committee on the Office of School Facilities current work. The update included the School Facilities Inventory project (40% complete), the LD 1415 Legislative Report, and the Building Standards & Guidelines project. He also reviewed the status of all projects on the Approved Projects Lists.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 500.