



## MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

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### STATE OF MAINE

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The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on November 9, 2005, at the Agnes Gray Elementary School, West Paris with the following members present: Chair James Carignan; Vice Chair Phil Dionne; Joyce McPhetres, Wes Bonney, Ann Weisleder, Jack Norris, Ellie Multer, Janet Tockman, and Jean Gulliver.

Also present were: Scott Brown, AIA, School Construction; Judith Malcolm, Team Leader, Support Systems Team; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Note: Since the minutes for the October 12, 2005, have not been approved by the Board Jack Norris requested that the following clarification be noted on the record: That during the vote for the MSAD #31 Concept Approval consideration, he was under the impression that the vote being taken was for a previous standing motion, i.e. table consideration of SAD 31 Concept Approval for one month. Therefore, when he cast his vote in opposition to not granting Concept Approval, his intention was to cast his vote in favor of NOT granting Concept Approval consideration for the MSAD #31, addition to and renovation of Penobscot Valley High School.

#### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### RECEIPT OF THE BATES COLLEGE REVIEW TEAM REPORT

##### APPROVAL OF THE REVISED VISITATION TEAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Approval of the revised Visitation Team for the University of Maine was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Regular Business for further discussion.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted to approve the remaining consent agenda item.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

### APPROVAL OF THE VISITATION TEAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Note: Due to family emergency Dr. Richard Willis was not able to participate and complete the team review process.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Wes Bonney, and unanimously voted to approve the adjusted list for the state team members for the University of Maine State/NCATE program approval and national continuing accreditation visitation scheduled for November 5-9, 2005, and that Dr. Lucy Stroble, Coordinator, School of Education, University of Maine at Presque Isle, be designated team co-chairperson. It is further understood that Dr. Richard Willis was not able to complete the team review due to a family emergency and that the team continued its review without his participation.

### MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; SAD #21 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Statement of Fact: SAD #21's application for a Major Capital Improvement project followed the reorganization of the district. The Canton School in SAD #21 was rated number 12 on the 2001-2002 Priority List. The Peru Elementary School was rated number 13 on the same list. When additional funds were identified to build an additional school beyond the eleven that were originally on the Special Priority List, Peru and SAD #21 both voted to accept Peru into the district and the Capital Improvement project then addressed both the Canton and Peru needs. The district then went through an extensive study to determine if other issues could be addressed. This project replaces two very poor structures, solves crowding issues at the high school, allows the district to abandon its portable classrooms, and also improves housing for the central office staff. The new school will house all Pre-K through grade 5 students and the school will be built in Peru. This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

#### Project Information:

Project: SAD #21 Elementary School

Superintendent: Dr. Thomas Ward

Principals: vacant

Architect: Lyndon Keck, Portland Design Team

Schools Closed: Canton Elementary School; Peru Elementary School

Superintendent Ward has provided the following project description statement:

The new SAD #21 PK-5 Elementary School will replace two learning facilities that have served the communities of Canton and Peru well, but desperately need to be replaced with a "state of the art" technologically advanced educational facility. Canton

Elementary School housed approximately 50 students in a K-4 grade configuration. Peru Elementary School housed approximately 174 students in a K-8 grade configuration. With the merging of Peru into SAD #21 the opportunity is ideal to bring all students in the district together PK-12 with a new PK-5 elementary school located centrally in Peru. This configuration will allow students in SAD #21 to enter PK and continue with the same classmate's right through graduation. Students would no longer transition into classes at different levels and be labeled as students from Canton, Peru, Dixfield, or Carthage but students of SAD #21. We will be bringing three elementary schools into one. Canton and Peru Elementary will be closed and Dixfield Elementary will house the Central Office, Secondary Alternative Education, and provide additional classroom space for the high school. This will promote and enhance consistency in curriculum, which is directly connected to the Maine Learning Results standards. The ongoing work on the Comprehensive Local Assessment System will be greatly enhanced by improved communication and staff development time for sharing and common scoring of assessments.

We presently have full day Kindergarten and the Board of Directors has voted to support a PK program with the building of a new elementary school as we do not have the necessary space at this time. A PK program would be very effective in our rural geographic location. This would allow us to impact most of our children at an even earlier age.

This reconfiguration of the school district will provide the structure to support equitable educational programming for all students PK-12 at all grade levels throughout SAD #21. It will further enhance our efforts to achieve the goals of the District's High Achieving Outcomes and State of Maine Learning Results.

Project Budget Information:

Estimated total Project Cost: \$14,012,035

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$13,511,527

Local Only Cost: \$380,508

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000

Commissioner Recommendation: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board grant Concept Approval to SAD #21 for the district's Pre-K through Grade 5 elementary school and approve the budget as presented.

MOVED by Joyce McPhetres, seconded by Janet Tockman, and unanimously voted to grant Concept Approval to SAD #21 for the district's pre-K through Grade 5 elementary school and approve the budget as presented.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Gendron reported on the following:

- That the reorganization of Child Development Services is moving forward.
- That the Department staff has begun the necessary work to draft the Recommended Funding Level report, which will be presented to the Board during its December 14 meeting.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- That the Chapter 118 Stakeholders Committee continues to meet to revise Chapter 118.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### Ellie Multer:

- That a task force was convened because of LD 1349, An Act to Encourage Neighborhood Schools. The group held its first meeting on October 25 and not all the invited participants were able to attend the initial meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that Ellie would draft a report and circulate it to the members of the study group for comment.

#### Ann Weisleder:

- That she continues to serve as a member of the Certification Committee, which has been meeting regularly.
- She also participated as an observer on the State/NCATE program approval and national continuing accreditation visitation team for the program review of the University of Maine, which occurred on November 5-9, 2005.

#### Janet Tockman:

- That the Certification Committee met to discuss the issue of military individuals who have been called to active duty. Individuals who are serving their country in the military have in fact had their license automatically extended, but the issue remains that when the individuals return to civilian life they are allowed or granted only six months to "catch up" in order to renew their license. The Certification Committee is considering extending this to a full year in order to allow the individual(s) enough time to complete any related requirements/criteria.

#### Jean Gulliver:

- That she will be chairing the Insured Value Factor Study Group. It is hoped that this small group of individuals will convene for its first meeting on Thursday, November 17.

Joyce McPhetres:

- That she attended, as did Phil Dionne, the Teacher of the Year ceremony at Colby College. It was a small celebration compared to past ceremonies, but with an enthusiastic crown.

Phil Dionne:

- As mentioned earlier by Joyce, he also attended the Teacher of the Year ceremony.
- That the Maine Jobs Council held a meeting and it will be producing its annual report over the next few months. The purpose of the report is an “advisory” for the Governor.
- That the State Workforce Investment Act requires that in October a report be submitted to the federal government.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the November 9, 2005, meeting at 5:00 p.m.