



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the September 30, 2015 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nichi Farnham; Jana Lapoint; Jane Sexton; and William Beardsley (Board Members) Student Board Member Gwen Viles by phone. Kathy Hollicker, Certification Coordinator; and Charles Lomonte, Educator Effectiveness Coordinator (Department of Education); and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Associate.

Guest: Bill Webster, Superintendent, Lewiston Public Schools

Nichi Farnham called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by Nichi Farnham and voted 3 in favor with one member abstained (Jana Lapoint) to approve the August 26, 2015 minutes as written.

Higher Education Update (written report):

Angel Loredo presented a written report:

1. The Circus Conservatory of America postponed their state review. They have up to the first week in December to re-schedule. Otherwise, they will not make the legislature schedule.
2. For the next Board meeting, he will be submitting an exhibit for UMPI's request for a year extension to the spring of 2017.
3. The State Authority Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) will be presented at the October Board meeting for a vote of approval.

Rule Updates:

- Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators (*Kathy Hollicker*)
 - Chapter 13 was amended in 2015.
- Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel (*Angel Loredo*)
 - Gwen Viles attended the Bates Team Review at the end of September with Peter Geiger as the Board Observer. Gwen gave the Committee an update of the review and said it was a wonderful experience for her.
 - The University of New England Team Review will be held October 25 to October 28. Jane Sexton will be the Board Observer.

- Chapter 149: Procedures for Obtaining Authorization for Institutions of Higher Education to Offer Degree Courses/Programs in the State of Maine (*Angel Loreda*)
 - Chapter 149 was amended in November 2008.
- Chapter 170: Standards for Evaluating Request for Degree-Granting Authorizations and for Out-of-State Post-Secondary Institutions Seeking to Offer Academic Credit Courses/Programs in Maine (*Angel Loreda*)
 - Chapter 170 was amended in November of 2008.
- Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel (*Kathy Hollicker*)
- Chapter 118: Purposes, Standards and Procedures for Educational Personnel Support Systems
 - She will be attending a conference with other states in October.
 - The training materials need to be updated and mentors need training.

Legislation:

- LD 1370: An Act to Improve the Quality of Teachers (carry-over bill) – Higher Education is working on this LD. The Committee will receive an update at the next meeting.

Certification Update: (Kathy Hollicker)

The DOE has a three week contract with the University of Southern Maine (USM). Amy Johnson will be reviewing the statute and rule chapter 115 to see how the two align with each other. Kathy will receive a written summarized report at the end of the three weeks, and she will provide an update to the Committee at their next meeting. The next step will be to receive comments and concerns from stakeholders.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present for the Certification Committee of the State Board of Education to try to make the certification process in Maine less complicated.

SBE Strategic Plan:

The Committee worked on the Certification and Higher Education section of the State Board Strategic Plan and Goals going forward.

- During the next calendar year, in an effort to align and streamline the Maine Department of Education Teacher Certification process, our committee will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders input in restructuring and simplification of the certification process.
- The Committee wants to both vertically and horizontally streamline the certification process. Vertically means the layers of the things you need to do and horizontally means reduce the number of endless proliferation.
- Send a letter and survey to stakeholders, including teachers, principals, and superintendents to get an idea of what the concerns are regarding the current certification process in Maine.
- *Stakeholders List*: Maine Education Association (MEA), Maine School Management Association (MSMA), Maine School Superintendents Association (MSSA), Maine Principal's Association (MPA), etc.

2016 Board Meeting Calendar:

The Committee discussed dates for the 2016 Certification and Higher Education Committee

meetings and agreed to meet the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Handouts:

- Higher Education Report
- State Board of Education Strategic Plan

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building.

The Committee agreed to move the Wednesday, November 18, 2015 meeting to Thursday, November 19, 2015.

Adjournment:

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.