



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 27, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield and Denham Ward, Committee members, and Fern Desjardins, SBE Chair and Paulette Bonneau, SBE Vice Chair.

Guests: Michael Perry and Dan Chuhta, MDOE; John Kraljic, Eileen King, Penny Bishop, Shelly Tennett, Rose Marie Angell, Fiona McDonnell. It is possible that others attended but I (Tom Keller) recorded as many names as I could.

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:35 am. Minutes were taken by Chair Keller.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham ward, and unanimous vote by committee members to accept the February 28, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment

None were offered.

Higher Education Update

Michael Perry reported the following:

- The EPP review report for Husson University was sent to committee members today. Tori moved to have the committee accept the report, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimous vote by committee. This paves the way for the report to be presented for acceptance by the whole State Board. The goal is to have a representative from Husson University and the Review Committee Chair attend the May SBE meeting to present the report and address questions.
- Syracuse University has submitted a report and a review team is being assembled. Three team members are needed, and Michael is hoping to get someone from Bates, since it is nearby and has expertise in the content area. Tori will be the SBE observer on the team and it is expected to be a one day virtual visit. This is to occur prior to the end of this academic year.

- Michael has been meeting with the AAG’s office regarding the status of Beal University. They are seeking approval for an additional degree. Records were located providing for authority to offer an associate level degree, but none has yet been found for authority at the bachelor’s level although many documents have been found that refer to such approval. They are seeking approval for a Master’s in Nursing and in Nurse Practitioner, and already offers an MBA. It is hoped that an experienced professional will be added to the review team, perhaps from UNE – this was done with the review of the National Institute for Funeral Services. Denham has agreed to be the SBE observer. Michael and Sarah Forster are reviewing the entire Beal University situation.
- The University of Maine has requested an Off Cycle Review. Michael is assembling a team and expects the review to be undertaken in the Fall of 2024. Tori has agreed to be the SBE observer.
- Thomas College and Colby College are due for reviews in the next academic year. See yearly calendar below.
- Michael reported that through NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) and their rule of 10, he approved an experience for 9 students at the Isle of Shoals Marine Lab which is on Maine land for UNH and Cornell students.
- Fern confirmed that at the upcoming SBE meeting exhibits for extensions of reviews by COA, EMCC and MECA+D would be received as well as acceptance of the Husson University report.
- There was significant discussion about fingerprinting fees and the user friendliness of the certification website. There is a review of the website underway and hopefully (my hope) it will be tested with end users providing feedback.
- Denham then reported on progress of the Regional Longitudinal Data Study. There was an introductory webinar and will be a face-to-face meeting in June. One issue is defining “vacancy” as one of the goals of the project is to identify teacher vacancies in school administrative units. Another goal is to create a GIS map interface that will show teacher vacancies across the region by clicking on a town. A roll out is expected next year. There seemed to be some questions as to the data Maine collects and what staff to the Data Study know about that data. Colorado has a similar project in existence and can be reviewed at Direct link to Colorado's GIS mapping for educator workforce:
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/405f12d9c2744386921b1b2a2f4b94aa/page/Page/?views=Teacher-Diversity>.

EPP Review Schedule (NOTE: UMM was due in 2019)

2024-2025

Fall – Thomas College, UMaine Off Cycle

Spring – Colby College

2025-2026

Fall – UMA, UNE

Spring – COA, MECA+D

2026-2027

Fall – EMCC, UMPI

Spring - UMF

2027-2028

Fall - Bates

Spring – St. Joseph’s

2028-2029

Fall - Bowdoin

Spring – USM

Certification Update

- Michael reported that 2,655 applications had been processed last month. A graphic is available. A question was raised concerning the number of uncertified people and if that data was available. It seems one can get it school by school via the NEO database but there is no overview of general trends in locations of uncertified personnel.
- Michael offered a data dig at the next meeting on vacancies, by level and location.
- There were 1,358 violation reports generated. This is relatively flat and depends on the superintendent taking action to correct these. No breakdown is available as to region, location or level although this would be helpful.
- There seems to be a high uptick of conditional moving to full certification.
- Michael is hiring a FTE certification position to fill the vacancy when Erin became Certification Coordinator. There also is an Education Excellence Coordinator position he hopes to fill.
- Some Live and Teach in Maine recruiting data was shared - Information from DOE Communications Team:
"Based on preliminary data from the first year of the campaign, there were 22.1 million impressions of the digital ads featuring teachers talking about how great it is to live and teach in Maine, 1.8 million people engaged with the Live and Teach in Maine website, 63,717 people viewed education jobs, and 1,686 applied."
- The MDOE is working to better align and interconnect the Live and Teach in Maine website with the MDOE Certification Application website.

Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update

Dr. Shelly Tennett of Husson University provided the update. She noted that TeAME is meeting April 26 at Colby College and anticipates much discussion about the recent Husson University review – that went very well. She said she would send us notes from that to provide feedback on the process.

Husson University conducts its own criminal history background check and asked if that was redundant with the state's process. Michael explained that the state process investigated criminal charges or convictions instate and out of state and as well checked an NASDEC (correct?) clearinghouse.

Other Business

- Denham reported that the Professional Standards Board has not met since his last report. He did say there were few active members. Dan reported that the MEA has put forth some new recommendations to the governor's office, and that he has encouraged other organizations to do so as well. Denham posited that involving the PSB would be a step forward and that we should find a way to involve them in the Chapter 115 review. (The PSB has some 22 members making a quorum difficult and membership is rather unspecific, e.g., an elementary teacher. It would be better if this group was comprised of leaders from educator organizations, e.g., Maine Council on English Language Arts, who spoke on behalf of their membership. But that would require a statutory change.)

- Tom then reviewed the preliminary thinking about LD 2221/Chapter 137 Resolve to Amend Chapter 115. No additional funds were appropriated to undertake this work. The committee itself will take up the issues from the report presented to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee with input from the educational community. Two writing teams are envisioned – one on CTE issues and one on Special Ed issues. It was noted that the CEEDAR Center has established a Steering Committee for Maine regarding the Special Education workforce. Michael Perry, Erin Frazier and Tracey Whitcock serve on that and it is expected that at least one of them will also be part of the Special Ed writing team. Denham noted that Part One of Chapter 115 needs some scrutiny.
- Jon Moody should be added to the distribution list for these meetings.
- A recording may be available for those who request it.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.