



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the May 22, 2024 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, via Zoom. The following members were present: Chair Thomas Keller, Victoria Kornfield and Denham Ward, Committee members, and Fern Desjardins, SBE Chair. Emily Cummins supported the meeting.

Guests: Michael Perry, Christina O'Neal and Laura Cyr, MDOE; Sherry Brown, Jonathan Moody, Gerry Durgin, Katie Rybakoba, Rose Marie Angell, Fiona McDonnell, Mallory Cook, Holly Blair, Gay McDonald, Mohamed Musavi, and Don Denico.

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Denham ward, and unanimous vote by committee members to accept the April 24, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion passes.

Public Comment

None were offered.

Higher Education Update – Michael Perry

An EPP site visit calendar, as of 06 May 2024, has been created, by institution and by date. Visits are noted for into the Spring 2029 semester.

UMaine has asked for an off-cycle review so they can add some programs. Michael indicated that this will require a different process, for the adding of programs.

UMaine Machias has agreed for a review visit separate from UMaine. This will occur in the Spring of 2025.

EPP Annual reports from Bates, Bowdoin, COA and Colby were reviewed. Tori motioned and Denham seconded that these reports be accepted and placed on file. A unanimous vote ensued.

On December 15, 2023, Bowdoin College submitted a request for a two-year delay before their next EPP review. Tori made a motion to accept this, Denham seconded and it was passed unanimously. An exhibit will be prepared for the next State Board meeting, recommending this change.

Certification Update – Michael Perry

In April, 2,393 applications for certification were processed. Michael provided a pie chart and table of recent activity. Tori expressed concern about rural areas probably having more conditional and emergency certified teachers, but has no data on this. Michael indicated he would try to get this data.

There is a 3 to 3 and a half week processing time and less than 10 minutes wait on the phone. One meeting participant indicated that she got through directly on the phone on multiple occasions.

Relative to the CHRC violations report, 1,383 people have been found to be in violation which is a slight uptake. These data as well need to be broken down but the issue is usually one of a paperwork error or miscommunication between the NEO system and the MEIS system.

Denham reported that the Regional Longitudinal Data Study was progressing, and the pilot underway.

Educator Preparation Programs/Teacher Educator Association of ME Update – Katie Rybakova, Thomas College

Katie surveyed TEAME members and provided their information to the Committee. One issue that keeps reemerging is the clause that says “Holds a valid Maine professional teaching certificate with a pre-K-3, K-6, 5-8, 6-12, or pre-K-12 endorsement”. By specifying these endorsements, teachers who hold endorsements such as K-8 are required to apply for a new endorsement that is part of the list. In the LD 485 report to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, we noted that this was an issued and suggested the clause be changed to “Holds a valid Maine professional teaching certificate.” We cannot make this change until the new Chapter 115 rules are presented in January, 2026.

LD 2221/Resolve to amend Chapter 115 – Tom

Input was taken and discussion ensued on 3 topics – Athletic Director certification, the “700” endorsement and Chapter 115, Part 1.

Following discussion no changes were proposed to the language suggested in the LD 485 report regarding the Athletic Director certification.

Following discussion, a suggestion was made that rather than changing the 700 certification, which 104 teachers in Maine now hold, a “701 Technology And Engineering Education” endorsement be added to “**1.5 Endorsement: Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 Teacher (All Subjects Other than Art and Music)**”

- A. Function:** This endorsement on a teacher certificate allows the holder to teach students pre-kindergarten through grade 12 in one of the following endorsement areas: 510 physical education, 517 dance, 520 health, 625 theater, 640 business education, 670 family and consumer science, 680 computer technology, and 700 industrial arts/technology education.” (page 9 of Chapter 115, Part II).

We began discussion of Chapter 115, Part 1, but there were too many issues for this to be well addressed before the meeting ended. So we will take this up next time. Denham pointed out that Section 6 does not seem to allow for ‘pathway 2’ type certifications. Tom had questions about the use of the terms credit hours and semester hours. Another question is about the impact of a Protection From Abuse order on certification.

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. Next meeting is June 26, 2024 at 10:30 am.