



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 29th, 2024 Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta.

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
Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education

Jonah DeWaters, Civil Engineer, Oak Point Associates
Sarah Smith, Interior Designer, Oak Point Associates
Jeremy Ray, Superintendent of Schools, Saco Public Schools
Meg Parkhurst, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Saco Public Schools

Guest: Bruce Bryant, Fmr. State Senator for District #19, Rumford

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 December 29th, 2023 minutes as written.

Chair Desjardins introduced the next agenda item Major Capital School Construction Program Concept Approval Consideration for the Saco Public Schools Elementary School Construction Project. Brown provided background information before introducing Superintendent Ray and his Team.

Superintendent Ray reviewed the status, age, and condition of the current elementary school buildings in the district and the impact that the proposed project will have on education in Saco.

He also stated that a separate PreK and K school is proposed to be constructed next to the school using local funding. He reviewed the site plan, floor plan, and elevations with the committee. He also reviewed the work that has been completed on traffic planning and mitigation including access to the Eastern Trail.

After further discussion it was moved by Morin, seconded by Bishop, and voted unanimously by those present 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 April 10, 2024 State Board meeting agenda and the State Board grant Concept Approval to the Saco School Department for a new grades 1-5 Elementary School construction project as presented.

Chair Desjardins introduced the next agenda item Legislative Update. She provided a brief update on three bills (LD 1415, LD 2170, LD 2181) that impact school construction. Those bills are still being worked on and additional information on them and other legislative bills will be available at the next Committee meeting.

Chair Desjardins introduced the next agenda item School Building Standards & Guidelines Update.

Brown noted that Harriman is working on the new versions of the MCIP building standards and guidelines documents, with the project due to be completed in December 2024. He will provide further information as the work progresses.

Chair Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be on Friday, April 26th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 500.