



School Construction Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the May 1, 2026 Special Meeting

The School Construction Committee met in Room 500, Burton Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta and remotely via Zoom.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Fern Desjardins, Chair, Paulette Bonneau, and Edmond Morin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, Department of Education

Paula Gravelle, Director of Public School Finance, Department of Education

Ted Hall, School Facilities Consultant

Lyndon Keck, School Facilities Consultant

Ruey Yehle, School Facilities Consultant

Craig Flowers, Office Specialist, State Board of Education

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the sixth meeting of the School Construction Committee's review of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Desjardins introduced the first item on the agenda, *Public Comments*. No one presented comments at the meeting nor did team members receive public comments by email.

Desjardins introduced the next item on the agenda, *Updates on Amendments to Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects*. Team members briefly discussed a few items that were tabled in prior meetings.

- Section 1. Definitions
 - #25 "Industry Training Center" – Chair Desjardins emailed Laura Cyr and is waiting for a response.
 - #36 on "Moveable Equipment" and #37 on "Non-Allowable Expenditures" – Team members Yehle, Pinnette and Bonneau are working on these items.
- Section 6. School Construction Eligibility and Approval Process

- Chair Desjardins suggested changes in Section 6, subsection 1, which included the elimination of paragraphs A-C but keeping paragraphs D and E. Team members did not make a decision. The section will be revisited at a future meeting(s).

The team then moved to agenda item “*Sections 9-12, Group Discussion & Proposed Amendments.*”

Section 9. Design and Funding Approval

- Tom Keller’s comment on Section 9, subsection 3 on Life Cycle Analysis was taken up for discussion. The team agreed that “most cost effective” refers to long-lived materials and systems. They provide the best long-term value. It does not imply “cheapest”.
- By consensus, two changes were made in Section 9:
 - In the first line of subsection 3, insert “and material assemblies” between “alternatives” and “with”.
 - In subsection 5, change “state/local” to “state and/or local”.

Section 10. Final Funding Approval

- Team members tabled action on the 4% for Moveable Equipment in subsection 4, paragraph A.
- In (4)(D), “will” was changed to “may” and “state/local” to “state and/or local”.
- Subsection 5 was tabled for further consideration.
- Subsection 6, last line, include “at local cost” between “Representative” and “to” and delete “the additional.”

Section 11. Financing School Construction

- Insert a new subsection 4 on “Cost Sharing” as discussed at the April 14 team meeting. Include the minor changes agreed on today. Adjust the subsection numbers that follow.
- Subsection 4, paragraph F – Change all “State/Local” to “State and/or Local”.
- Subsection 5, paragraph C(3.a) – Change “state/local” to “state”.
- Subsection 6, paragraph B – Include “on the local-only share” between “lost” and “will”.

Section 12. Bonding of Major Capital School Construction Projects

- Sections 12(4)(C) and 12(4)(D) – Change “2024” to “2030” and “2025” to “2031”.

The next Special School Construction Committee meeting with Chapter 61 team members will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 15 in person at the Cross Office Building in room 500 and remotely for those wishing to attend via Zoom. The team will revisit tabled items in sections 1-12 and begin discussions on sections 13-15.

Chair Desjardins and Ted Hall will meet May 2 at 9:00 a.m. to edit sections that have been reviewed by the team.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.