



**School Construction Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the May 15, 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, and Edmond Morin

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, 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

John Suttie, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 23

Chair Fern Desjardins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the seventh 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*. In addition to the letter dated May 8, 2026, John Suttie, RSU 23 Superintendent of Schools, attended the meeting to provide additional comments on his district's planning and investments "through multiple cycles under the expectation of a consistent process." He asked the State Board to consider a grandfather provision or transition framework for districts on the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle Final Priority List.

Desjardins then reported on the Chapter 61 presentations she made to the Maine School Superintendents Association (MSSA) Executive Committee on May 8 and at the State Board of Education's workshop on May 14, 2026. With both groups she covered the changes being proposed in Sections 1-5 and 7-12. She emphasized the consideration of an *Application* versus *Selection Process* in Section 2, *Cost Sharing* in Section 12, clarified some of the other proposed changes, and answered questions from attendees at the meetings. Desjardins distributed a copy of the "Maine School Construction Funding Formula: A Needs-Based, Incentive-Driven Reform Framework" that she

received from Superintendent Jeremy Ray after the MSSA Executive Committee meeting. It will be discussed in a future meeting.

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 agreed to postpone the review of tabled items and instead, move directly to an initial review of sections 13-15.

- Section 13. Project Compliance Review
  - No changes proposed.
- Section 14. Non-State Funded Projects
  - No changes proposed.
- Section 15. Integrated, Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility
  - New title of the project – “Regional Integrated Educational Facility”
  - Clarification of the consolidation and integration of schools, career and technical education, and post-secondary opportunities
  - Deletion of the “one campus” design
  - Emphasis on a consolidated governance and administrative structure
  - Evidence of commitments to higher education and industry partnerships
  - Providing a description of the integrated mission and goals for the new facility
  - Providing a timeline for the implementation of the new facility
  - Providing clear descriptions of the integration of programs at the facility
  - Description of the professional development plan for faculty and staff
  - Description of the organizational structure, anticipated cost savings, and program opportunities for all other schools and programs in the participating districts

The next School Construction Committee meeting with Chapter 61 team members will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 27 in person at the Cross Office Building in room 500 and remotely for those wishing to attend via Zoom. The team will return to tabled items in Section 10, subsection 4; financial items with the Director of Public School Finance; Section 6; and receive an update from RSU 17.

Desjardins adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.