

## **MSBA Adopted Resolutions Delegate Assembly, October 2020**

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MSAD 11

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Lucy Richard  
MSAD 1

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CSD

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#### **MAINE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS**

Hannah King, Esq., Chair

### **Board Meeting Remote Participation**

The Maine School Boards Association believes what we have learned about remote participation in board meetings during the coronavirus pandemic supports a law change allowing such participation absent a health emergency. The technology is available to allow robust discussion on issues and real-time face-to-face deliberations not only with fellow board members, but with the public. MSBA supports introducing legislation in the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature that would allow such meetings under the public records law, if the local School Board votes to adopt the practice.

### **Building Stronger Family Support for Education**

The Maine School Boards Association believes greater involvement by parents or guardians in their child's education is essential to assure better outcomes for students. Parents or guardians who are not engaged in their child's early learning at home are less likely to be engaged when their child goes to school. Outreach to and support of those who care for children in the home are essential first steps in creating a successful partnership between caregivers and schools. The ultimate goal is to identify the needs of both adults and children in the household and connect them to appropriate services and learning opportunities.

### **Equity in Education**

All students, regardless of their race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, age or economic status deserve equitable opportunities and support to learn in Maine's public schools. The Maine School Boards Association believes all district leaders should facilitate a self-examination and discussion around recognizing bias and stereotyping and adopt policies and practices that eliminate them, and that the Maine DOE should provide support for this purpose.

### **Development of Distance-Learning Plan**

The coronavirus pandemic upended classroom instruction in school districts and revealed both positives and shortcomings in our ability to do distance learning. What was implemented by necessity should now be improved by design. Distance learning should not just be the fallback in a crisis, but rather used to provide equitable learning opportunities to all Maine students regardless of their location. The Maine School Boards Association calls for a plan that addresses professional development for teachers; assessment of devices; high-quality connectivity in all parts of the state; development of online curriculum appropriate to age groups; and, intentional use of online learning to enhance curriculum and expand learning opportunities for all students. Funding for online learning should be part of the school funding formula. MSBA will actively participate in the development and implementation of such a plan.