

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held May 21, 2024

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a virtual meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on Zoom at 3:00 PM, May 21st, 2024. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, “Nick” Gannon, Tina Meserve, and Susan Walters. A quorum was present.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Jillian Dearborn, Jennifer Hight, Stephanie Emery, Lena Vitagliano, Christina O’Grady, and Chelsea Osgood.

Attending from Stride were Todd McIntire and Tom Travia.

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes. Nick motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meetings of March 19th, 2024. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report. Jennifer Hight presented the Finance Report.

Third (3rd) Quartr 2023-2024 Financial Summary: MEVA shows a surplus of \$698,859 for the nine months ended March 31, 2024. We have utilized \$300,202 in ESSER III revenue for this fiscal year to date. These funds were used to pay salaries for learning loss recovery, guidance services and summer school, and purchased technology services. Salaries and benefits remain our largest expense. As of December 31st, we had 58 employees made up of 10.5 Administrative positions and 47.5 Teachers/Ed-Techs.

Jennifer did a year-to-date comparison. MEVA was \$50k ahead of last year at this time. There was a plan in place for FY24 that includes purchasing computers using federal relief funds. Donna asked if we needed to finish the ARP/ESSER funds by September. Jennifer said yes, we are in the process of adjusting the grant, to suit our current needs.

Jennifer stated, MEVA has about \$500k left to use, and MEVA will not be able to use it all. Some of the funds will be used for summer programming. There will be another finance meeting to discuss this. We have approval to open the grant back up to re-evaluate. The approximate total amount of the grant was \$857k and we used about \$57k. Additionally, MEVA has used \$300k to date which means we have \$500k left to spend by September.

Susan motioned to approve the FY24 Quarter 3 Financials. Nick seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna reported that the FY25 Budget info was sent out to board members and included the two percent (2%) compensation increase. Jennifer stated that the Local Entitlement (IDEA) grant allocations were not yet available. Jennifer assumed level funding. We were also waiting for additional clarity on the School Improvement Grant (SIG) because MEVA was no longer eligible for this support. Regarding the SIG Grants4ME allocation of \$46k, it was uncertain that these funds would remain.

There is no budget planned for FY26 yet. There were different items that need to be reviewed and discussed before the plans are made. Dr. Browne recommended that the board move forward with discussing the faculty compensation motion. Donna stated, after the financials were evaluated, there was money available for a two percent (2%) increase to stay competitive with local school districts.

Jennifer observed that health benefits and salaries were increasing. The totals FY25 Budget shows a \$300k increase overall, although other expenses decreased. MEVA was on a good track financially.

Tina motioned to approve the recommended FY25 faculty compensation increase of two percent (2%). Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve the FY25 Budget. Nick seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Susan motioned to table the Two-Year Budget. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Dr. Browne committed to scheduling a financial workshop in advance of the June governing board meeting, for the purpose of discussing the Two-Year Budget and Three-Year Plan.

Administration. Dr. Melinda Browne presented the Head of School Report.

Spring '24 NWEA MAP Growth and Accuplacer Results:

- MEVA attained 95%+ participation on the spring '24 NWEA and SY-2023/2024 Accuplacer.
- Regarding MCSC performance measures, MEVA is meeting our NWEA MAP Growth targets for math and language usage and approaching our target in reading. We are approaching our targets for MS subgroups.
- MEVA is meeting the MCSC performance measure for Accuplacer math and reading and is approaching the math subgroup target, which is an ongoing special education priority.
- Reading growth for all percentile bands is our biggest concern for NWEA MAP growth improvement.

Here are the final Spring '24 NWEA MAP Growth participation rates and results.

Spring 2023-2024							
	Math	Reading	Language	Overall Completion Rates			
7th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		Math	Reading	Language
8th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	7th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
9th Grade	96.3%	96.3%	96.3%	8th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
10th Grade	95.3%	95.3%	96.5%	7th & 8th Grade Cumulative	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
11th Grade	94.2%	93.2%	93.2%				
Schoolwide	96.4%	96.1%	96.4%	SE Completion Rates			
					Math	Reading	Language
				7th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
				8th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
				7th & 8th Grade Cumulative	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
				9th Grade	95.83%	95.83%	95.83%

				10th Grade	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
				11th Grade	100.00%	95.45%	95.45%
				Schoolwide	98.82%	97.65%	97.65%

Fall '23 to Spring '24 NWEA MAP Growth: Percentage of Students Meeting Projections:

Grade	Math	Reading	Language Usage
7	50%	41%	52%
8	61%	40%	55%
MS Total	58%	41%	54%

Exceeding Math.
 Meeting Language.
 Approaching Reading.

Fall '23 to Spring '24 MAP Growth:

- MEVA’s Fall '23 to Spring '24 MAP Growth results include students who enrolled mid-year. One-hundred percent (100%) have participated.
- A preliminary look at these results presents strong progress towards students’ growth targets.
- Grade 7 & 8 (combined) percentage of students meeting growth targets:
 - Math – 58%.
 - Reading – 41%.
 - Language Usage – 54%.
- Grade 7 & 8 students exceeded expectations in math, approached expectations in reading, and met expectations in language usage.

Winter '24 to Spring '24 NWEA MAP Growth: Percentage of Students Meeting Projections:

Grade	Math	Reading	Language Usage
7	52 nd	60%	48%
8	51 st	46%	44%
MS Total	51st	50%	45%

Meeting Math, Reading, and Language.

Winter '24 to Spring '24 MAP Growth:

- MEVA’s Winter '24 to Spring '24 MAP Growth results include students who enrolled mid-year. One-hundred percent (100%) have participated.
- A preliminary look at these results presents strong progress towards students’ growth targets.
- Grade 7 & 8 (combined) percentage of students meeting growth targets:
 - Math – 51%.
 - Reading – 50%.
 - Language Usage – 45%.
- Grade 7 & 8 students met expectations in all three subjects, by achieving the 45% threshold overall.

Custom Measure – Fall '23 to Spring '24 NWEA MAP Growth: Median Growth Percentile:

Grade	Math	Reading	Language Usage
7	50 th	36 th	48 th

8	63 rd	37 th	52 nd
9	67 th	50 th	60 th
10	52 nd	49 th	63 rd
11	46 th	50 th	57 th
School Total	56 th	47 th	57 th

Meeting Math and Language.
Approaching Reading.

Custom Measure – Winter '24 to Spring '24 NWEA MAP Growth: Median Growth Percentile:

Grade	Math	Reading	Language Usage
7	53 rd	54 th	45 th
8	50 th	45 th	43 rd
9	60 th	42 nd	58 th
10	60 th	35 th	64 th
11	65 th	41 st	61 st
School Total	59 th	42 nd	54 th

Meeting Math and Language.
Approaching Reading.

Middle School (Grades 7 & 8) Subgroups Percentage of Students Meeting/Exceeding Fall '23 to Spring '24 Growth Projections:

Subgroup (Grades 7 & 8)	Math	Reading	Language Usage
Special Education (SE)	41%	36%	45%
Section 504	56%	44%	47%
Economic Disadvantage (ED)	55%	43%	54%
Male	50%	32%	48%
Female	64%	46%	58%

Exceeding 504, ED, & Female Math, and Female Language.
Meeting SE Math, Female Reading, and SE, 504, ED, and Male Language.
Approaching SE Math, and SE, 504, and ED Reading.
Not Meeting Male Reading.

SY-2023/2024 Accuplacer Data:

MEVA is meeting math and reading Accuplacer targets.
Percentage of Students with College Readiness Indicator of 239 or above in reading = 87%.
Percentage of Students with College Readiness Indicator of 226 or above in math = 88%.
Percentage of Participation = 95%.

SY-2023/2024 Accuplacer Subgroup Data: Percentage of Students with College Readiness:

Subgroup	Math	Reading
Special Education (SE)	65%	77%
Section 504	90%	88%

Economic Disadvantage (ED)	93%	84%
Male	89%	97%
Female	86%	84%

Exceeding 504, ED, Male, and Female Math, and 504 and Male Reading. Meeting SE, ED, and Female Reading. Approaching SE Math.

SY-2023/2024 Accuplacer Summary:

- 171 Students are likely to graduate by June 7th, of these students 163 completed Reading and 162 completed Math (95% participation).
- Overall, 87% of students assessed were college-ready in Reading and 88% in Math.
- The subgroup metric is 75% of students meeting the college-ready mark, we are meeting in every subgroup except students with an IEP in math (64.5%).

Stacey said she had attended a workshop recently with the university system and they said that the university is now also accepting Accuplacer results. This assessment is not only isolated to community colleges. Donna confirmed that the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) is looking for schools to administer the Accuplacer. She asked, will they look at the percentage of students who persist or percentage who are college ready? Dr. Browne said the MCSC is expecting 75% overall and within each subgroup, which MEVA is meeting/exceeding, outside of Special Education math.

Dr. Browne reported on the in-person participation as of May 20th in the state’s Maine Through Year (89%) and science (87%) assessment. MEVA was on track to achieve ninety-five percent (95%) participation by the closing of the windows.

ESEA Comprehensive Needs Assessment:

- MEVA maintains a schoolwide ESEA program.
- During winter and spring ’24, MEVA conducted data-review sessions to inform our Comprehensive Needs Assessment process.
- MEVA is updating our Comprehensive Needs Assessment by logging SY-2023/2024 outcomes in math, literacy, and school climate.
- MEVA includes goals based on our spring NWEA MAP Growth and Panorama School Climate Survey.

FY25 ESEA Grant Application – Seeking Comment:

- MEVA dedicates ESEA funds for Title IA instructional staff, who provide supplementary instruction, in accordance with our schoolwide program. MEVA utilizes Title IIA monies to support teachers’ certification through graduate-level university courses. Title IIA also buys the MEVA Vector Platform that houses teacher training.

SY24/25 New Enrollment (5/20):

Here is the most recent enrollment data:

7	6
8	7
9	10
10	13

11	14
12	8
Total	58

On this day last year, we had 60 new students accepted so we are right on target. There are 37 families who have committed to completing their application. We have 64 new applications since the March Board meeting. MEVA is on track to attain our 450-460 student target by October 1st, 2024.

Charter Contract Renewal Update:

- MEVA is submitting preliminary renewal materials to the MCSC on May 24th.
- MEVA is meeting with the MCSC administration, via Zoom, on Monday, June 3rd, at 10:00 am, for the Spring Renewal Visit.

Governance.

Long Term Strategic and Financial Planning:

The charter commission administration hosted a strategic goal development workshop on May 15th, which MEVA attended, and created the following draft goals.

Indicator	Description	2022-23 Performance BASELINE (Even if not assessed formally)	Short term Goal for SY 2024-25 NEXT YEAR	Long Term Goal SY 2027-2028 FIVE YEARS
1.4a	Subgroup Performance: Maine State Assessment (NWEA MAP) 3rd-8th	MEVA reported the following subgroup performance: Students on IEPS: 47% Students on 504s: 45% F+R Lunch: 46% Sex/Gender: Male: 36%; Female: 55%	Partially Meet subgroup performance measure in reading, with most subgroups achieving the 45% threshold, by next year.	Meet subgroup performance measure in reading, with all subgroups achieving the 45% threshold, for SY-2027/2028.
3.5	Board Training	Less than 80% of required courses have been completed	Partially Meet/exceed board training performance measure, for SY-2024/2025.	Meet/exceed board training performance measure, with all board members completing their required training, for SY-2027/2028

Donna observed that MEVA staff were doing great in growth. Tina asked for clarity in the third column on the word 'most.' Tina suggested adding more specific language (e.g., 4 out of 5). Dr. Browne reported that 'most' refers to the majority. MEVA took a dip this year in fall to spring reading growth; our results were not as strong as the 2022/2023 school year.

Tina wanted to hear more details about what we were working on with the special education (SE) students. Tina made the point that subgroup interventions may vary. For example, the males may need a different type of intervention than SE. However, if reading skills improve, then math and language usage will also improve. Donna requested that Dr. Browne bring the goals with additional details to the June meeting.

Stacey motioned to approve the MEVA Strategic Plan. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Dr. Browne presented MEVA's ESSER Use of Funds Plan and ESSER Continuity of Education Plan for review, as grant compliance items. There were no proposed changes to the plans, which are reviewed every six months and posted on MEVA's websites.

The proposed FY25 Governing Board Meeting Time/Dates were shared with the board prior to this meeting. Dr. Browne said regular monthly meetings are on the third Tuesday, at 3:00 pm, via Zoom. However, there are some adjustments due to holidays and school vacations.

FY25 Governing Board Meeting Dates:

- July 16, 2024.
- August 20.
- September 17 – *Annual Meeting*.
- October 22.
- November 19.
- December 17, 2024.
- January 28, 2025.
- February 25.
- March 18.
- April 15.
- May 20.
- June 17, 2025.

Donna sent the 2024 Governing Board Self-Assessment survey and results to board members. In August, the board can revisit this topic and set goals. All board members nodded their heads in agreement with Donna's plan.

Public Discussion.

High School Graduation is Friday June 7th at 2pm. Dr. Browne will send the Zoom link to board members to participate if desired.

Donna reported that Tina found a publication through US News and World Report, regarding the top ten High Schools in Maine. MEVA made the top ten!

Donna expressed congratulations to Dr. Browne and the team.

Adjournment. Donna motioned, and moved, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore