

## Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held June 18, 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, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Christina O’Grady.

### Opening Items.

**Approval of Minutes.** Nick motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meetings of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**Finance Report.** Jennifer Hight presented the Finance Report.

Per Epicenter, 3-Year Financial Plan: This requirement, added to the Performance Framework in SY22-23, is a budget for each of the next 2 years and projections for the following year. The purpose of this planning process is to inform school leadership & board of the school's financial health going forward. Plans that cover several years show financial trends that otherwise might not be so evident. Often these trends yield a better focus for the Board on where more financial resources are needed and best used to achieve academic results.

Jennifer presented both the two- and three-year budget summaries. The budgets were discussed in a previous financial workshop. Dr. Browne had already provided a copy to the board. Members will see a two-percent (2%) increase in staff salaries and a projected increase in student subsidy. Several grants will no longer apply to MEVA going forward. MEVA did qualify for continued Tier III monies. ARP monies will also be closed out soon. There were plans to use about \$60K towards summer school programs. In this budget there was a large increase in relation to staff benefits. Jennifer went on to explain what each tab of the financial document contained, within the summaries on various budget items.

Donna made the point that we have a healthy fund balance. We were informed by Joe Drago that the fund balance is too much and needs to be utilized. Going forward some of these monies will be applied to summer school.

Jennifer reported, so far, we have used about 400k of the ARP monies which has increased our fund balance. We needed to tap into the monies going forward, which will put MEVA into a small deficit.

Nick motioned to approve the Two-Year (FY25 & FY26) Budget. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

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

Preliminary Spring '24 MEVA's MTY Compared to the State.

**Preliminary Spring '24 Maine Through Year (MTY) Results from the Acacia Platform (All students tested):**

<b>MATH</b>	<b>State – At/Abv*</b>	<b>MEVA – At/Abv</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Grade 7	38%	26%	-12%	Approaching
Grade 8	39%	21%	-18%	Not Met
Grade 10	42%	24%	-18%	Not Met
Total	40%	24%	-16%	Not Met
<b>READING</b>	<b>State – At/Abv*</b>	<b>MEVA – At/Abv</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Grade 7	68%	65%	-3%	Met
Grade 8	64%	68%	+4%	Met
Grade 10	61%	56%	-5%	Met
Total	64%	62%	-2%	Met

\*State – At/Abv represents applicable grade-level averages as reported by Acacia.

**Subgroups:**

<b>MATH</b>	<b>State – At/Abv*</b>	<b>MEVA – At/Abv</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Performance</b>
SE	10%	8%	-3%	Met
ED	26%	20%	-5%	Met
Female	39%	20%	-18%	Not Met
Male	41%	27%	-13%	Approaching
<b>READING</b>	<b>State – At/Abv*</b>	<b>MEVA – At/Abv</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Performance</b>
SE	32%	28%	-3%	Met
ED	52%	59%	+7%	Exceeded
Female	70%	61%	-9%	Approaching
Male	59%	60%	+2%	Met

\*State – At/Abv represents applicable grade-level averages as reported by Acacia at the conclusion of the testing window.

MEVA had the pleasure of having Amy Allen from Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) visit the office recently. The team provided her with some insight and guidance on the state comparison reports within the Acacia platform. Tina asked questions about the preliminary MTY results. She observed that they showed the opposite trends that we were seeing with the NWEA in prior meetings. Dr. Browne clarified what was shared in prior meetings were NWEA MAP Growth results. The MTY assessed proficiency results. MEVA students showed strengths in math growth, but math proficiency was a weakness. On the other hand, MEVA students showed strengths in reading proficiency, but reading growth was a weakness.

Regarding proficiency, Dr. Browne reported that MEVA results need to be within plus/minus five percent (+/- 5%) of the state averages to meet the MCSC performance measures. Dr. Browne made the point that we are paying close attention to students’ algebra knowledge and using MTSS methods to work on these areas in Math. Donna asked if this was the second year of the MTY? Dr. Browne stated, yes. After the past two years, we knew where curriculum adjustments needed to be made.

Donna remembered back when she was a practicing educator, it was challenging to show the results to the board. Donna recognized that the MEVA team was strategizing with math, especially. Donna said that we needed to make some changes in this area. Dr. Browne was confident that MEVA would improve incrementally over time.

**Spring '24 Panorama Survey Results and Performance Overview (Participation %):**

<b>Family (52%)</b>	<b>% Positive</b>	<b>%ile Ranking*</b>	<b>Exceeding (3/3)</b>
School Climate	82%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Safety	93%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
School Fit	70%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
<b>Student (78%)</b>	<b>% Positive</b>	<b>%ile Ranking*</b>	<b>Exceeding (4/4)</b>
School Climate	76%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Safety	93%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Rigorous Expectations	71%	90 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Teacher-Student Relationships	75%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
<b>Teacher (100%)</b>	<b>% Positive</b>	<b>%ile Ranking*</b>	<b>Exceeding (4/4)</b>
School Climate	66%	90 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Leadership	65%	80 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Professional Learning	71%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Feedback and Coaching	62%	90 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
<b>Staff (100%)</b>	<b>% Positive</b>	<b>%ile Ranking*</b>	<b>Exceeding (4/4)</b>
School Climate	77%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Leadership	86%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Professional Learning	77%	99 <sup>th</sup> %ile	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Feedback and Coaching	79%	90 <sup>th</sup> %ile**	≥50 <sup>th</sup> %ile

\*National ranking compared to other non-urban, high schools, with medium (30-70%) disadvantaged student populations.

\*\*National ranking (no demographic criteria available).

**Panorama Survey Spring '24 School Climate by Grade Level:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Survey Completion %</b>	<b>ILP Completion %</b>	<b>Positive School Climate %</b>
<b>7</b>	96%	76%	69%
<b>8</b>	85%	87%	79%
<b>9</b>	83%	90%	72%
<b>10</b>	63%	85%	77%
<b>11</b>	74%	86%	75%
<b>12</b>	84%	92%	85%

Dr. Browne said that the overall survey results of teachers were good. Dr. Browne reported that MEVA was exceeding performance expectations for each stakeholder group (family, student, teacher, and staff) on all measures. Donna was pleased with the results as well.

Dr. Browne shared MEVA’s mission statement and vision that specifically require Individual Learning Plans (ILPs). Donna asked if MEVA reviews ILP’s with students annually? Dr. Browne answered, yes,

we do. Dr. Browne presented the prior year and updated Panorama Survey Action Plans that set the school up for continued success.

### **SY-2023/2024 Panorama Survey Action Plan:**

*Target School Fit: How well do the activities offered at your child's school match his/her interests?*

- **Action Plan (Families): Individual Learning Plans (ILPs).**

*2. Target School Engagement: When you are not in school how often do you talk about ideas from your classes?*

- **Action Plan (Students): Classroom Discussion and extension activities.**

*3. Target Feedback and Coaching: How often do you receive feedback on your teaching? How much feedback do you receive on your teaching? How much do you learn from the teacher evaluation processes at your school?*

- **Action Plan (Teachers): Increase teacher/peer observations and feedback. Review teacher evaluation processes; seek faculty input on professional development.**

*4. Target Feedback and Coaching: How much feedback do you receive on your work? How much do you learn from the evaluation processes at your school?*

- **Action Plan (Staff): Increase staff observations and feedback. Review evaluation processes; seek faculty input on professional development.**

### **Updated SY-2024/2025 Panorama Survey Action Plan:**

*1. Target School Fit: How well do the activities offered at your child's school match his/her interests?*

- **Action Plan (Families): Individual Learning Plans (ILPs).**

*2. Target Rigorous Expectations: Overall, how high are teachers' expectations of you?*

- **Action Plan (Students): Have a healthy competition in class. From Panorama Playbook "Creating a competition around issues such as homework completion, note-taking, or talking during class is an effective way to motivate students to change behavior for the better. This move works to establish routines and increase engagement in what might otherwise be less exciting activities."**

*3. Target Feedback and Coaching: How often do you receive feedback on your teaching? How much feedback do you receive on your teaching? How much do you learn from the teacher evaluation processes at your school?*

- **Action Plan (Teachers): Increase teacher/peer observations and feedback. Implement newly developed teacher evaluation plan.**

*4. Target School Climate: On most days how enthusiastic are the students about being in school?*

- **Action Plan (Staff): Refine daily/weekly/monthly school-home communications to promote student participation and engagement.**

### **MEVA Mission and Vision.**

#### **School Mission:**

Maine Virtual Academy's (MEVA) mission is to develop each student's full potential with learner-centered instruction, research-based curriculum and educational tools and resources to provide a high-quality learning experience for grade 7-12 students who are in need of alternative educational options.

**MEVA will develop an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) with specific learning goals to meet each student's needs.** MEVA's rigorous curriculum is aligned to the eight Maine content areas, the Maine Learning Results, the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards.

**School Vision:**

MEVA will be a leading 21st century public charter school in Maine and will improve student learning outcomes through individualized instruction, as evidenced by student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and the demonstration of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and self-direction. MEVA will empower students to acquire the academic and life skills needed to succeed in post-secondary education and career opportunities. Our graduates will be prepared for college or other postsecondary career training opportunities.

**SY-2024/2025 Individual Learning Plans (ILPs):**

**Specific Learning Goal to Meet Each Student’s Needs:** The student will develop career readiness skills through experiential opportunities.

- What do you do or want to do with your time?

**Career Readiness Experiences/Opportunities:** Employment, internships, virtual job shadowing, volunteering activities, clubs and organizations, portfolio projects, career planning, Early College and AP4ME courses.

- What can MEVA offer you to match your interests?

**New: Additional ILP Questions**

- What are your postsecondary plans?
  - Attend college.
  - Learn a trade.
  - Join the military.
  - Join the workforce.
  - Unsure.
- What is your ideal career when you graduate?
- What is one academic goal that you have for yourself this year?

**MEVA Grade-Level Advisory Groups:**

- MEVA Grade-Level Advisory Groups meet weekly. Students complete their Individual Learning Plan (ILP), Panorama School Climate Survey, and study twenty-first century skills. Students may receive credit if they pass the required content assignments.
- MEVA Grade-Level Advisory Groups have curriculum maps.
- MEVA Grade-Level Advisory Group experience from a teacher’s perspective.

**Advisory – Teacher Perspective (Christina O’Grady):**

- Allows teachers to connect with students in a non-academic manner.
- Allows teachers to build relationships with students.

Christina O’Grady asserted that advisories allowed teachers and students to build relationships by doing some fun activities together and had demonstrated it to be a great experience this year.

**Reporting and Renewal Update:**

- We met with the MCSC administration in early June.
- We are expecting to receive our four-year performance report by the end of June.
- We have scheduled stakeholder focus groups during September, as well as our public hearing.

- State reporting and MCSC Annual Monitoring reporting are in progress and are on time.

Dr. Browne said we should be getting our four-year performance report from the MCSC soon and she will share that with the board. Dr. Browne mentions that State reporting is currently in progress as well. Donna said it was amazing the oversight that charter schools have in comparison to non-charters. The accountability was so much more.

**FY25 ESEA Application Feedback:**

- MEVA has requested FY25 ESEA Application Feedback from all our stakeholders.
- We are dedicating FY25 ESEA funds to providing supplementary instruction (Title I & IV) and teacher professional development (Title II). MEVA has a small Title III allocation, and we are not eligible for Title V funds.
- The comment period for FY25 ESEA Application is closed.

Dr. Browne reported that the FY25 ESEA Application comment period was now closed. She planned to complete the draft application and submit it to the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) for substantial approval in July.

**New Enrollment.**

Here is the most recent student enrollment data as of this morning.

Grade	New	Returning	Total
7	9	0	9
8	8	25	33
9	11	52	63
10	19	71	90
11	18	83	101
12	9	95	104
	74	326	400

On this day, last year, we had seventy-eight (78) new students accepted so we are right on target. There are fifty (50) families who have committed to completing their application. We have fifty-eight (58) new applications since the May board meeting. MEVA is on track to attain our target of four-hundred-sixty (460) students by count day, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Dr. Browne said that we were increasing our enrollment numbers a little bit more this year. The goal was to keep the numbers at a reasonable and manageable amount.

**Governance.**

**MEVA Strategic Goal:**

Indicator	Description	2022-23 Performance <b>BASELINE</b> (Even if not	Short term Goal for SY 2024-25 <b>NEXT YEAR</b>	Long Term Goal SY 2027-2028 <b>FIVE YEARS</b>

		assessed formally)		
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 three out of five (3/5) subgroups achieving the 45% threshold, by next year.	Meet subgroup performance measure in reading, with five out of five (5/5) subgroups achieving the 45% threshold, for SY-2027/2028.

Dr. Browne said that Tina had asked at the last board meeting to specify the number of subgroups and the updated goal included those details.

**Revised Educator Effectiveness Model:**

- In accordance with Chapter 508, we assembled a steering committee, composed of mostly teachers, to review MEVA’s Educator Effectiveness Model.
- Teachers worked through the components and made revisions, based on their preferences.
- We are planning to implement the revised model during SY-2024/2025.

Dr. Browne and Lena Vitagliano stated that the major change to the model was the rubric which was switched from Kim Marshall to the Danielson.

Tina motioned to approve the Revised Educator Effectiveness Model. Nick seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**MEVA Board Professional Development – Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Article Review:**

Donna shared with the board the MSMA articles associated with, “The overview of the hiring process for school boards and school administrators.” This was considered as board training and will help meet the board participation goals for this year. Tina asked if members needed to go onto the portal. Donna said, No, the training was outside the portal, and we would document this professional development with Amy Allen at the commission. Board members completed this article/training review.

**Public Discussion.**

Donna congratulated Dr. Browne and Don Fournier on a wonderful MEVA graduation. NICE JOB! Also, congratulations to Stacey Blanchard, whose son was one of the MEVA graduates. Stacey shared that she got feedback from other families who confirmed that the graduation was wonderful. It went smoothly overall.

Donna asked when summer school began. Dr. Browne reported that summer school started next week.

**Executive Session.**

Nick motioned to enter Executive Session under1 MRSA §405, sub-§6, ¶A & ¶E to discuss employee evaluation. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**Adjournment.** Donna motioned, and moved, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne  
Secretary pro tempore