

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held July 16, 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, July 16th, 2024. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Nick Gannon, Tina Meserve, and Susan Walters were excused. A quorum was present.

Attending from Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Lena Vitagliano, Christina O'Grady, and Chelsea Osgood.

Attending from Stride, Inc. was Tom Travia.

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes. Nick motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of June 18th, 2024. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

Jennifer Hight was unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Browne presented a brief finance update:

- Current approved grants: ESSER III/ARP (expires 9/30); School Improvement Grant (SIG) (expires 9/30); Literacy (expires 9/30); FY25 IDEA; Preventing Student Homelessness; FY25 ESEA submitted.
- MEVA is utilizing the Preventing Student Homelessness grant for internet reimbursement.
- MEVA is no longer eligible for SIG funds, per the Maine Model of School Supports.
- The annual audit is scheduled for early fall, with a view towards publishing/presenting the FY24 financials by the December board meeting or earlier. Preliminary work has started.
- The Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) will utilize our approved Three-Year Financial Plan for MEVA's renewal application.
- The Quarter-4 FY24 Financials are due on August 21st.

Nick motioned to table the FY24 Q4 Financials. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

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

SY-2023/2024 Annual Monitoring and Renewal:

- Four-year report indicated that MEVA is meeting all our performance measures, except for math proficiency.
- The report acknowledges the MEVA team's efforts to address our needs in this area.
- MEVA has submitted all data for the SY-2023/2024 Annual Monitoring.
- MEVA has initiated the renewal application, which is due on August 30, 2024.
- MEVA is making plans to facilitate the renewal activities scheduled for September 2024, including stakeholder focus groups and public hearing.

Spring 2024 AP Exam Results:

- We shared MEVA students' Spring 2024 Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Results. The AP Art and Drawing courses were taught by MEVA teachers. The other AP courses, including English

Literature and Composition, and Environmental Science, were conducted by AP4ME with support from MEVA teachers.

- Most MEVA students select Early College courses, rather than the APs. However, we are proud of all the AP students' dedication and hard work completing the courses and sitting for the corresponding AP exams. Students who earn a '3' or higher are likely to be awarded credit by their college or university, though various institutions recognize '2' as well.
- Students' grades were listed, but not names, etc. Five students participated earning scores that averaged to a '3.'
- A huge shout out to the MEVA art students who earned high scores in 2-D Art and Design, and Drawing. Thank you to the MEVA art teachers for running the courses.

Summer 2024 Update:

- MEVA's six-week summer programming is underway, facilitated by thirteen (13) instructors.
- There are one-hundred-fifty-four (154) students participating in enrichment, self-paced courses, and special education extended school year (ESY).
- Enrichment is focused on improving students' math and literacy skills.
- Teachers utilize diagnostic assessments and skill-building activities.
- Self-paced courses serve as credit recovery and advancement.
- ESY provides specially designed instruction and related services to prevent identified students' regression over the summer months.
- Summer Help Desk provides students with high-quality tutoring.
- We host a weekly summer faculty meeting to share progress and collect feedback. Teachers report that they are having fun with the summer students.

Donna asked if MEVA required students to attend summer school. Dr. Browne stated that there is no compulsory summer attendance, but students are recommended and encouraged to attend. The MEVA team does attendance outreach to remind students about the live sessions. We also host summer team meetings with parents/Learning Coaches and students as needed.

SY-2024/2025 New Enrollment:

- We have enrolled ninety-four (94) new students to date, which is up from 20 students as of the June board meeting.

Grade	New
7	13
8	8
9	14
10	23
11	23
12	13

94

- We are on track to attain our target, total SY-2024/2025 enrollment of 460 students by Count Day, October 1st, 2024.

Governance.

Curriculum Mapping Committee and Process.

Dr. Browne outlined a plan for the proposed Curriculum Mapping Committee and Process:

- Our first step is to incorporate feedback already received.
- The curriculum mapping committee needs to be approved.
- The review process will begin in October with grade 7 core courses.
- The committee will send additional feedback, if any, to the Head of School.
- Once maps are updated, the committee will bring them to the board for approval.
- The committee will repeat the same process for grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.
- A public link to the maps is as follows: <https://mva-5033.chalk.com/public>

MEVA is working with Chalk to add the elements: Unit Summaries; Scope and Sequence (Timeline); Assessment Descriptions; and Unit Pacing. The expected implementation time is two weeks.

Nick motioned to approve the Curriculum Mapping Committee and Review Process. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna made the point that Tina will represent the board on the committee.

MEVA Strategic Goals with 2023-24 Baselines: Dr. Browne presented updated strategic goals that focused on reading growth and math proficiency.

Reading Growth.

Indicator	Description	2023-24 Performance BASELINE	Short term Goal for SY 2024-25 NEXT YEAR	Long Term Goal SY 2028-2029 FIVE YEARS
1.4a	Subgroup Performance: Maine State Assessment (NWEA MAP) 3rd-8th	MEVA reported the following subgroup performance: Students on IEPS: 36% Students on 504s: 44% F+R Lunch: 43% Sex/Gender: Male: 32%; Female: 46%	Partially Meet (Approaching) 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-2028/2029.

Math Proficiency.

Indicator	Description	2023-24 Performance BASELINE	Short term Goal for SY 2024-25 NEXT YEAR	Long Term Goal SY 2028-29 FIVE YEARS
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1.1b	Student Academic Proficiency - MDOE Through-Year Assessment, Math	For all students assessed, MEVA reported the following grade level and overall performance (difference from applicable state averages): Grade 7 – 26% (-12%); Grade 8 – 21% (-18%); Grade 10 – 24% (-18%); and Overall – 24% (-16%).	Partially Meet (Approaching) performance measure in math proficiency, with three out of three (3/3) grade levels achieving within fifteen percent (-15%) of the applicable state averages, by next year, for all students assessed.	Meet performance measure in math, with three out of three (3/3) grade levels achieving within five percent (+/- 5%) of the applicable state averages by SY 2028-29, for all students assessed.
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Essential Questions for discussion and exploration:

For MEVA students,

- What are the drivers of reading growth and math proficiency?
- What evidence-based practices will we train and utilize?
- How will we monitor (and communicate) our progress towards accomplishing the two strategic goals of reading growth and math proficiency?

Donna asked if MEVA was aiming to come within fifteen percent (15%) of the state average for math proficiency by next spring (2025). Dr. Browne said, yes, we are working to attain that result for each of the tested grades 7, 8, and 10. Dr. Browne pointed out that MEVA’s seventh grade was within twelve percent (12%) of the state average for their grade level this spring (2024). The team would focus on accomplishing the two strategic goals throughout the school year by utilizing evidence-based practices and progress monitoring.

Donna discussed how MEVA was aligning the curriculum maps with standards covered by the Maine Through Year (MTY) assessments. Dr. Browne reported that the team was disaggregating individual student results to identify the state’s priorities, and we were adjusting the maps to suit.

Public Discussion.

- Heather Tyler, School/Guidance Counselor (grade 10-12), earned recognition from the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Christina O’Grady, Curriculum Coordinator, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation. Great work, Dr. O’Grady!
- Nicole Hart completed her Certification 300 Grade 7-12 Math. Nice job, Ms. Hart!

Donna congratulated Heather, Christina, and Nicole for their accomplishments. Well done! Donna commented that it was difficult to juggle professional development with full-time employment.

Adjournment. Donna motioned, and moved, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore