

## **Maine Learning Innovations**

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 27, 2026

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a virtual meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on Zoom at 4:00 PM, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Cherieann Harrison, Tina Meserve, Scott Richardson, and Susan Walters. Stacey Blanchard was excused. A quorum was present.

Attending for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Christina O'Grady, Chelsea Osgood, Lila Theriault, Jennifer Hight, Jillian Dearborn, and Stephanie Emery.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

### **Opening Items.**

#### **Approval of Minutes.**

Susan motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Cherieann seconded. All in favor, so moved.

#### **Finance Report.**

##### **FY25 Form 990.**

Scott motioned to approve FY25 Form 990. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Jennifer Hight made the point that the FY25 Form 990 followed the approved, audited financials.

#### **ED279 and Education Unorganized Territories (EUT) funds.**

Dr. Browne stated that the ED279 will be coming soon, potentially in a week. Dr. Browne also provided information that the EUT (Education of Unorganized Territories) will pay twice the amount of the EPS rate (approximately). MEVA had not received any funds yet for the four (4) current students.

Donna gave clarity to the new board members, that the EUT were not funds received by MEVA in the past.

Dr. Browne added additional clarification that the state in past years paid charter public schools' subsidy as part of the ED279 for EUT students instead of having the EUT pay the funds to the schools.

Donna mentioned that there were more funds to be had by separating the funds from the ED279.

Dr. Browne stated the EUT funding was different because it is real time billing based on current, active enrollment.

Susan Walters inquired how much money was received per student from the EPS? Dr. Browne estimated about \$7,000 - \$8,000 per student. However, the school spent about \$12,000 per student – federal grant awards covered the gap.

### **FY27 Budgeting.**

Dr. Browne committed to reaching out to the finance committee which consisted of Donna Pelletier, Susan Walters, Jennifer Hight and Jillian Dearborn, for the purposes of scheduling meetings. Dr. Browne noted that the committee typically meets at least once in February. Donna and Susan agreed and stated early afternoon would be a good time.

Donna asked Dr. Browne to check with school staff to see what they may need for the next school year. Dr. Browne began this process by requesting that Don Fournier survey staff needs ahead of the budgeting window.

### **Administration.**

Dr. Browne provided the Head of School Report.

SY-2025/2026 Progress:

- We attained 95% participation in the Winter '26 NWEA MAP Growth math, reading, and language usage, administered to grades 7-11.
- Results were distributed. Do you have any questions?
- We are using the data to inform our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and course placements.
- Semester-1 Passing results by course were distributed. Do you have any questions? Faculty are focusing on using data to optimizing students' course placements.

Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) Mid-Year Check in Meeting:

- We met with the MCSC administration on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, for the annual mid-year check-in.
- We discussed MEVA's progress, highlighting our Continuous School Improvement Plan. We recognized the contribution of the MEVA governing board.
- We will receive a report within the next few months.

Dr. Browne reported that the MCSC asked if MEVA will see better state testing results in the spring. Dr. Browne informed them that she is hopeful.

Donna stated it went well and the MCSC was very complimentary of what MEVA is doing. Donna further mentioned that Dr. Browne was right to point out that the longer students stay at MEVA the better their scores are.

Key Components to MEVA's Continuous School Improvement Plan:

- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) informed by assessments and teachers' observations:**  
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1763144389/mevak12com/esyuv8uvb1qmsztueyfy/MEVAAcademicPlan11142025.pdf>.
- **Curriculum Maps:** <https://mva-5033.chalk.com/public> **and Review Cycle:**  
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1765973129/mevak12com/peggcvyfjobaotg6hgtq/ApprovedCurriculumReviewPlanCycle12162025.pdf>.
- **Professional Learning:** <https://www.mainevirtualacademy.org/essaesserlauerresources/meva-professional-learning-pl-meeting-materials>.

Our Continuous School Improvement Plan Addresses MEVA's Needs, according to Maine's Model of School Supports:

Student Group	TSI Student Groups and Indicators Flagged for Three Consecutive Years				
	Chronic Absenteeism	Progress ELA	Academic Achievement ELA	Progress Math	Academic Achievement Math
	ES	ES	ES	ES	ES
Economically Disadvantaged	☹	✓	☹	✓	☹
Students with Disabilities	☹	☹	☹	☹	✓
White	☹	✓	☹	☹	☹

## Governance.

### First Reading: Updated Title IX Policy and Procedures (AC, ACAA, ACAA-R, ACAB & ACAB-R).

Susan motioned to move the Updated Title IX Policy and Procedures (AC, ACAA, ACAA-R, ACAB & ACAB) to a second reading. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Cherieann asked if the recommended policies/procedures came from their attorneys. Dr. Browne and Donna reported they come from Drummond and Woodsum and workshops that they hosted.

### First Reading: EHB/EHB-R Records Retention Policy and Procedure.

Tina motioned to move EHB Records Retention Policy and Procedure to a second reading. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

### First Reading: Financial Records Retention Procedure.

Susan motioned to move the Financial Records Retention Procedure to a second reading. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**First Reading: GBJ Personnel Records and Files Retention Policy.**

Tina motioned to move GBJ Personnel Records and Files Retention Policy to a second reading. Cherieann seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**First Reading: GBN/GBN R-1 Federal Family and Medical Leave Policy and Procedure.**

Tina motioned to move GBN/GBN R-1 Federal Family and Medical Leave Policy and Procedure to a second reading. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina asked if MEVA had been paying into family leave. Dr. Browne and Jillian provided clarification that this policy was federal and that MEVA had been paying into Maine Leave, which was mandated.

Donna mentioned that Maine's new leave program went into effect in May. We needed to keep an eye on any changes.

**First Reading: GBO Maine Family Care Leave.**

Tina motioned to move GBO Maine Family Care Leave to a second reading. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**Second Reading: Updated IJJ instructional and Library Media Materials Selection Policy.**

Cherieann motioned to approve IJJ instructional and Library Media Materials Selection Policy. Scott seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**Resignations and Retirements – Lena Vitagliano, Special Education Administrator**

Donna reported that our Special Education Administrator worked at MEVA for five years. She did a nice job with staff. She moved to another state. Donna reported that there was a replacement for Lena's position. Dr. Browne had nominated Lila Theriault.

**New SY2026/2027 Position.**

Tina motioned to approve Lila Theriault, Special Education Administrator. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Lila provided some information about herself. She taught for twenty years. Lila loved MEVA and appreciated the consideration to approve this position.

**Public Discussion.** None.

**Adjournment.**

Susan motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Tina seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne  
Secretary pro tempore