

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held May 19, 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, May 19th, 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, and Stephanie Emery.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes.

Tina motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of April 28th, 2026. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

FY27 Budget.

There have been three budgetary workshops so far for the purposes of developing the FY27 budget. The school experienced enrollment growth this year, but the financial benefit of those additional students are factored in the FY27 budget. Jennifer Hight checked the FY27 ED279 and it had not changed. The FY27 budget reflects a substantial increase in subsidy funding tied to those higher enrollment numbers.

Jennifer and Dr. Browne discussed payroll. Jennifer reviewed staffing costs with the board. While salary expenses appeared lower compared to prior projections, this was largely because the salaries line-item reflected replacement hires, rather than the creation of new positions. Jennifer highlighted that MEVA had formerly employed an IT person and did not backfill the role. There is recognition and a need to backfill that role now. Funding for the IT role was included in the budget.

Jennifer discussed health insurance, and premiums, which are paid in full by MEVA for eligible employees-only despite the substantial (sixty percent) increase. The health insurance essentially absorbed the increase in subsidy. There were no big surprises in spending or changes for this coming year.

Education of Unorganized Territories (EUT) funding -tuition payments are estimated based on what we were getting this year.

Donna stated the team did a nice job going through this budget.

Tina asked what the overall percentage increase was in our budget, from '25 to '26? Jennifer said it is a little under ten percent increase in expenses. Donna observed that the biggest portion of the increase is the health insurance.

Donna reported that the finance committee worked together and recommended a six percent (6%) salary increase across the board for all MEVA employees. MEVA had the funds available. The law directed that by fiscal year 2030 we had to pay teachers a minimum annual salary of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). MEVA had to start implementing the increased salaries incrementally, beginning this coming year.

Jen- shared MEVA has given very modest increases of two percent (2%) annually for the past few years.

Tina and Cherieann asked about the starting teacher salary for next year? Dr. Browne reported that currently it was \$40,300 for FY26. Dr. Browne then showed a recommended salary chart, which was adjusted by six percent (6%), which incorporated the proposed increase. Dr. Browne projected that we may need to make more incremental increases in the future until we meet the new mandate.

Tina motioned to approve the recommended FY27 faculty compensation. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Susan motioned to approve the FY27 Budget. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Three-Year Annual Financial Plan

Jennifer said that we have not had a meeting about the three-year annual financial plan yet. Jennifer committed to presenting the plan to the board at the June meeting.

Donna made the point that the charter commission expected us to provide a three-year financial plan annually.

Jennifer said that the three-year financial planning process involves making lots of projections. The commission wants us to update this plan throughout the year.

Administration.

Dr. Browne presented the Head of School report.

Clubs

MEVA Clubs:



Monday - NHS (1:00, Alt weeks), Dungeons & Dragons, Play Prodigy & Read-Aloud (2:00 HD)

Tuesday - Anime, Chess, Coding

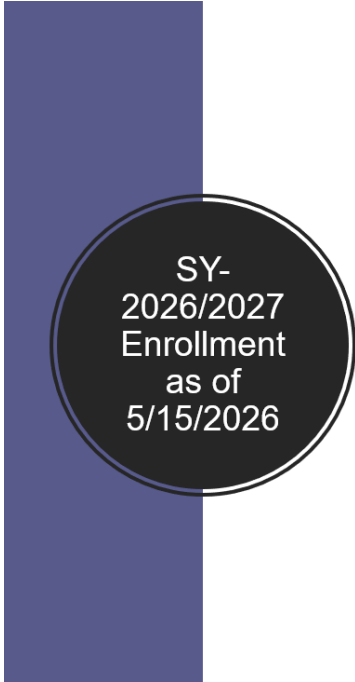
Wednesday - Prodigy, Drama, Gardening

Thursday - Gaming



SY 2025/26 Progress.

- SY 25/26 Progress. Top three clubs are gaming (30+), anime (20+), and National Honor Society (15+).
- FY27 ESEA Grant Application – Seeking Input. In previous years, MEVA used ESEA Funds for supplementary instructional faculty.
- Spring 2026 High School Graduation and Grade 8 Recognition Ceremonies.
- **Friday, June 5th, 2:00 pm:** High School Graduation.
- **Friday, June 12th, 11:00 am:** Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony.
- We will send Zoom invitations to the MEVA governing board.
- SY 26/27 New Enrollment: We are on track for full enrollment on October 1st, 2026.



5/15/26					
Grade Level	New	Returning	Grand Total	Working on Applications	Seat Offers - No Waitlist
7	10		10	8	11
8	6	24	30	10	6
9	16	60	76	7	17
10	23	55	78	7	16
11	14	99	113	11	18
12	9	104	113	7	8
Grand Total	78	342	420	50	76

SE Numbers			
Grade Level	New	Returning	Grand Total
7	3		3
8		8	8
9	2	17	19
10	3	16	19
11	2	18	20
12	3	24	27
Grand Total	13	83	96

FY 27 ESEA Application Comment Period Open.

As a compliance item, Dr. Browne announced that the FY27 ESEA Application Comment Period was still open. The feedback period was advertised to all stakeholder groups, as required, In the past, MEVA has used ESEA funds to pay for supplemental instructional faculty and to support teacher professional development.

Governance.

Annual review of MEVA Strategic Plan.

Dr. Browne sent the MEVA Strategic Plan to the board members in advance. Dr. Browne made the point that the current plan still suited the school.

FY27 Governing Board Meeting Time/Dates.

Dr. Browne sent out to the FY27 Governing Board Meeting dates and posted them on the school’s website. Donna stated meetings will still be the third Tuesday of each month, except for school vacation weeks, which will then be moved to the fourth Tuesday of those months.

Public Discussion.

Donna sent board members a request for feedback on the annual Head of School evaluation, which will be discussed with Dr. Browne in executive session next month.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore