

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held June 16, 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, June 16th, 2026, Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Cherieann Harrison (by proxy – Tina, written permission provided), Tina Meserve, Scott Richardson (by proxy – Donna, written permission provided), and Susan Walters (by proxy - Donna, written permission provided). 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.

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes.

Tina motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of May 19th, 2026. Susan seconded (by proxy). All in favor (including members by proxy), so moved.

Finance Report.

Three-Year Annual Financial Plan.

Jennifer Hight shared/reviewed the financial projections over the next three years with the board. The purpose of these projections was to help guide the board and to highlight areas of potential worry. Jennifer identified employee health insurance as the greatest area of concern. As a result, she recommended that the board explore other options or resolutions in the years ahead.

Tina asked, about how much is in the fund balance at this time? Jennifer reported 3.4 million in the fund balance; we have the funds to sustain the health insurance costs, but the question is for how long?

Tina motioned to approve the Three-Year Annual Financial Plan. Stacey seconded. All in favor (including members by proxy), so moved.

Administration.

Dr. Browne presented the Head of School report.

SY 25/26 Progress.

MEVA had a successful special education file audit. The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) team that came to conduct the audit complimented MEVA’s organization and stated it surpassed what they have seen elsewhere. MEVA submitted minor remedials and was waiting for the final report. Lila Theriault, Special Education Department Team Leader, stated it was a wonderful collaboration and complimented Dr. Browne for being a very effective leader.

MEVA received the Spring 2026 Panorama School Climate Survey (provided and monitored by the Maine Charter School Commission) results and Dr. Browne distributed the (classic) reports to board members. MEVA exceeded expectations in all monitored areas. This year MEVA improved in the student rigorous expectations category by ten percentile points.

Donna stated that she reviewed the results and saw how the school improved from last year.

Dr. Browne shared the action plan for the coming school year that will be posted in the minutes.

SY-2026/2027 Panorama Survey Action Plan

- Target **Rigorous Expectations (Students)**: Overall, how high are teachers’ expectations of you?
 - Action (Students): Reinforce the ‘rigorous expectations’ messaging to students.
- Target **Teacher-Student Relationships (Students)**: How strong the social connection is between teachers and students within and beyond the school.
 - Action (Students): Promote grade-level advisory groups as venues to meet your teachers and peers.
- Target **School Fit (Family)**: How well do the activities offered at your child’s school match his/her interests?
 - Action (Family): Link Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) to school activities and projects.
- Target **Leadership (Teachers)**: When the school makes important decisions, how much input do teachers have?
 - Action (Teachers): Send surveys to teachers in advance of making important decisions, to gather feedback, as appropriate. Discuss outcomes at Professional Learning (PL) meetings.

SY 25/26 Annual Monitoring, State Reporting was in progress and are expected to be completed by the deadlines.

SY 25/26 New Enrollment was on track to fill the school by October 1st, 2026.

6/15					
Grade Level	New	Returning	Grand Total	Working on Applications	Seat Offer
7	13	0	13	9	14
8	13	23	36	4	13
9	18	58	76	6	20
10	32	52	84	11	14
11	19	96	115	9	27
12	16	95	111	7	8
Grand Total	111	324	435	46	96

FY 27 ESEA Application Comment Period Closed.

As a compliance item, Dr. Browne announced that the FY27 ESEA Application Comment Period was closed. 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. Given MEVA's ESEA Schoolwide status, Dr. Browne reported that MEVA planned to move a teacher to the Title IA role, and utilize Educational Technicians, across the core content areas.

Governance.

SY-2026/2027 New Teacher Hiring Scale (effective July 1st, 2026).

Tina motioned to approve the SY-2026/2027 New Teacher Hiring Scale (effective July 1st, 2026). Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Stacey asked about salaries upon hire, were skills and certifications considered. Dr. Browne made the point that teachers were required to be certified, and their salaries were based on years of experience.

Donna clarified that incoming hires were considered by certifications, degrees, and years of experience. MEVA planned to use the new salary scale to inform salary offers.

Stacey asked, how the proposed scale impacted current teachers? Dr. Browne stated that MEVA provided a six percent (6%) salary increase for the coming school year across staff to work towards being equitable.

Tina motioned to group policies listed B through D. Stacey seconded. All in favor (including members by proxy), so moved.

A. First Reading: JICJ Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools.

Dr. Browne explained the governor's executive order on cell phones in schools. This new rule banned cell phones during school academics and activities. Dr. Browne committed to doing the best we could with it. Any in-person activities at MEVA were required to follow this rule.

Tina inquired, with the new policy will there be any guidance given to parents. Dr. Browne stated it would be covered in onboarding sessions to parents and included in the Parent Student Handbook.

B. First Reading: Revised JIC/JK Conduct and Discipline.

C. First Reading: Revised Teacher Certification Exemption Policy.

Dr. Browne reported that in the past, charter schools were not required to employ certified teachers, who could be qualified in another way, such as advanced degree in their subject/field, etc. However, MEVA always hired certified people but still had the exemption policy in place.

Donna made the point that the rules had changed recently and now required all schools to have certified teachers in place; the exemption policy no longer applied.

Tina motioned to move grouped policies B through D to a second reading. Stacey seconded. All in favor (including members by proxy), so moved.

Public Discussion.

Executive Session

Tina motioned to enter Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405, sub-§6, ¶A & ¶E to discuss employee evaluation. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore