

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held July 21, 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, July 21st, 2026, Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Cherieann Harrison, Tina Meserve, Scott Richardson, and Susan Walters. A quorum was present.

Attending for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Christina O'Grady, 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 June 16th, 2026. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

FY26 Financial Audit Dates

- Wipfli will conduct Maine Virtual Academy's FY26 Financial Audit during the week of August 3rd.
- Our preliminary meeting with the auditors is July 29th.
- Review/approval of the FY26 Quarter 4 financials will be on the August meeting agenda.

Dr. Browne presented information in place of Jennifer Hight, who was busy with the audit preparations. Wipfli will conduct MEVA's FY26 Financial audit field work during the week of August 3rd. The preliminary meeting with auditors was scheduled for July 29th in the morning.

At the next business meeting Jennifer will present the Quarter 4 financials for the board's review and approval.

Administration.

Dr. Browne presented the Head of School report.

Special Education Monitoring Outcomes:

Tier I, only one (1) CAP item, focusing on evaluation timelines for new referrals. We are addressing this issue. Nice work, special education team!

This monitoring occurred on average every three to four years. The state has changed their methodology and developed accountability tiers for monitoring. MEVA made it to Tier I with a corrective active plan with only 1 item on it. MEVA needed to improve timelines for new special education referrals. For an initial referral, the state team mentioned to focus on the initial school psychological exams, then any additional evaluations, such as speech and/or occupational therapy, could be completed afterwards, so that things are not being held up. The next audit will be in six years.

SY-2025/2026 Annual Monitoring and State Reporting: All Charter Commission and state reporting is complete. Overall school performance is meeting/exceeding expectations on **86%** of measures. Within Academics, the Maine Through Year proficiency is MEVA's highest need, especially within the *male* subgroup. MEVA's interventions include individual-student data-driven course-placements, curriculum mapping, and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

Maine Charter School Commission Performance Outcomes – Spring 2026:

- **Academic – 11/16 meeting (69%).** *Remaining 5 are approaching.*
- **Climate – 5/5 meeting (100%).**
- **Organizational – 6/6 meeting (100%).**
- **Financial – 9/9 meeting (100%).**
- **Overall – 31/36 meeting (86%).**
- **Customization – *non-binding*.**
- *Academic and Climate improved since the prior year.*

Spring 2026 Maine Through Year (MTY) Proficiency

By Grade Level				
Math	State % At/Above	MEVA % At/Above	Difference	Performance
7th Grade	40%	22%	-18%	Not Meeting
8th Grade	42%	26%	-16%	Not Meeting
10th Grade	49%	38%	-11%	Approaching
Schoolwide	44%	29%	-15%	Approaching
Reading	State % At/Above	MEVA % At/Above	Difference	Performance
7th Grade	70%	61%	-9%	Approaching
8th Grade	62%	39%	-23%	Not Meeting
10th Grade	62%	65%	3%	Meeting
Schoolwide	65%	55%	-10%	Approaching
Subgroups				
Math	State % At/Above	MEVA % At/Above	Difference	Performance
SE	12%	5%	-8%	Approaching
ED	31%	24%	-6%	Approaching
Female	43%	34%	-8%	Approaching
Male	45%	28%	-17%	Not Meeting
Reading	State % At/Above	MEVA % At/Above	Difference	Performance
SE	32%	26%	-6%	Approaching
ED	54%	54%	0%	Meeting
Female	70%	65%	-5%	Meeting
Male	60%	42%	-18%	Not Meeting

Spring 2026 Maine Through Year (MTY) by Years at MEVA:

Years vs. Proficiency	
Math	At/Above
All Continuing (N = 87)	36%
2 Years (N = 53)	34%
3 Years (N = 16)	38%
4 Years (N = 18)	39%
Reading	At/Above
All Continuing (N = 86)	62%
2 Years (N = 53)	47%
3 Years (N = 16)	94%
4 Years (N = 18)	82%

As a reference, for our grade levels, state math proficiency is roughly 44%, and reading is roughly 65%. The general trend is student-proficiency improves with years at MEVA.

Donna and Dr. Browne will be meeting with the Charter Commission soon to review end-of-year monitoring. As of now, MEVA did well in all areas, though still needing improvement in academic proficiency. However, this area has improved over last year. Students who remained at the school for more years generally performed better on state assessments. Reading proficiency showed the strongest gains, with 80% to 90% of students reaching proficiency after three to four years. Math proficiency also improved over time but remained lower, reaching about 39%. Compared with the statewide reading proficiency rate of approximately 65%, the school's students performed better in reading, while math remained an area for improvement. As a reference, 44% of students statewide were at or above expectations on the MTY math.

Tina requested for the slide deck to be sent to the board so they can review the proficiency data on the slides.

Dr. Browne stated what the board got initially was what was reported to the commission. However, since the state finalized the assessment data last week, there were some slight changes which were added to the slides for today's presentation.

Donna asked, can we explain the 3 yr 94% vs 4-year 82% comparison?

Dr. O'Grady said it could be a variety of reasons; one student can impact numbers greatly. The end value could be lower.

Donna asked, what is MEVA's percentage of economic disadvantaged? Dr. Browne stated a little over 50%.

Donna made the point that we will be asked about the scores at the MCSC meeting.

Dr. Browne anticipated that the MCSC meeting will still go well and will be very positive.

Outside Professional Development Report.

- Lauren Sroka, English Teacher: Graduate Course, SED500 Adapting Instruction for Students with Disabilities. Other educators: Kristian Schmidt (Ed Tech II), Carla Hamilton (English Teacher), and Erica Beaulieu (Special Education Teacher).
- Heather Tyler, School Counselor: National School Counselor Conference; "It was impressive!! I learned a lot of great stuff that I would love to share with you. I attended sessions about AI for counselors, introverts, FERPA, McKinney Vento, suicide info gathering tool, motivational interviewing, college admission trends, skilled trades, etc. I am so glad I went; it was very helpful and energizing. Thank you for sending me."
- Dr. Melinda Browne, Head of School: Completed/Completing board training modules offered by National Charter Schools Institute, Board Network, via EdLusion. As of Monday (20th) nine modules were completed. Training log updated and submitted.
- Don Fournier, Academic Administrator, Completed/Completing technology-expanding trainings offered by D2L/Brightspace and Magic School. The count for the past two weeks is nine.
- Maine Educator Summit, July 29th, Dr. Christina O'Grady, Dan Pierce, Dr. Melinda Browne.

SY 26/27 New Enrollment: On track for a full school by October 1st, 2026.

We have 24 seats left to fill. About 1/3 of those "working on applications" will follow through with finalization on their enrollment and their decision on attending MEVA. This is the typical trend. We have plenty to work within these pipelines. Any new interest coming in will be waiting until mid-year to enroll going forward.

7/20					
Grade Level	New	Returning	Grand Total	Working on Applications	Seat Offer
7	20	0	20	12	4
8	20	22	42	9	4
9	28	55	83	7	6
10	44	51	95	20	10
11	29	96	125	9	9
12	20	91	111	11	3
Grand Total	161	315	476	68	36

Governance.

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

Tina motioned to approve JICJ Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna inquired if the explanations of the changes will be removed from the policies before added to the manual. Dr. Browne said, yes, they will be removed.

Second Reading: Revised JIC/JK Conduct and Discipline.

Tina motioned to approve Revised JIC/JK Conduct and Discipline. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Second Reading: Revised Teacher Certification Exemption Policy.

Tina motioned to approve Revised Teacher Certification Exemption Policy. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna clarified that this policy no longer applied due to a state change in law. It was being removed from the board manual.

Assessment Calendar and MTSS framework:

- Reasons for assessments: Maine Charter School Commission Performance Framework, Maine Department of Education requirement, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) progress data, and individual-student course placements.
- MEVA virtual assessments: NWEA MAP Growth math and reading, Accuplacer math and reading, and i-Ready math and reading.
- State in-person assessments: Maine Through Year math and reading, and Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) Science.
- For grades 7-11, the MEVA MTSS program offers in-class and pull-out interventions, and progress monitoring.

SY-2026/2027 Assessment Calendar.

Tina withdrew her motion to approve the SY-2026/2027 Assessment Calendar and motioned to move this item to the administrative portion of the agenda. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Dr. Browne reported that MEVA will only be doing NWEA MAP math and reading going forward. NWEA MAP language usage will not be used in the coming school year.

Tina, Susan, Donna, and Dr. Browne discussed whether the assessment calendar should be listed as a board approval item. The board members believed that this was more of a school administrative line item.

Donna stated that the board leaves it to the administration to make these decisions. The assessment calendar was just informational to the board.

SY-2026/2027 Multitiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework.

In the same way, the board removed the SY-2026/2027 MTSS framework from the governance agenda.

Donna stated that MEVA had been using the MTSS model for a while.

Dr. Browne stated yes that we were refining the model.

Donna made the point that this was informational in how administrators managed the school and was removed from board approval.

Public Discussion.

Dr. Browne said that the next board meeting was scheduled for August 18th. The first day for teachers will be an in-person gathering on August 17th.

Donna thanked Scott Richardson for being present, he had barriers but was still able to participate in the meeting today.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore