

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held August 18, 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, August 18th, 2026. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard (by written proxy), Cherieann Harrison, Tina Meserve, and Susan Walters. Scott Richardson was excused. A quorum was present.

Attending for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Christina O'Grady, Chelsea Osgood, Nicole Hart, 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 July 21st, 2026. Cherieann seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

FY25-26 Quarter 4 Financial Summary.

FY25-26 Quarter 4 Financial Summary: MEVA shows an unaudited surplus of \$422,348.25 for the year ended June 20, 2026. Our audit is being conducted by Wipfli and field work began August 3rd. We do not anticipate any material adjustments made to our financial statements. Financially, health insurance remains our largest concern heading into FY'27. We do have a premium locked in for all of FY'27, but it is significantly higher than the previous year. We are also monitoring salaries to ensure compliance with the minimum teacher salary over the next three years.

FY26 Quarter 4 Financials.

Jennifer Hight, CPA, provided the board with a summary. Next year (FY28) MEVA may have a small deficit due to the health insurance and salaries going up. Jennifer stated there was an agreement to do the FY26 audit early with Wipfli beginning Aug 3rd. She stated that MEVA is in good shape. Now the focus going forward is on this year, FY27. Jennifer ran the budget to actuals and mentioned that there will be some things to discuss at the next board meeting. One large piece in the financials is related to the prepaid health insurance bill of \$190k, the insurance company in error took it out twice. It has been resolved since. Accrued wages were a little over \$260k due to raises and summer stipends.

Tina motioned to approve the FY26 Quarter 4 Financials. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna made the point that surplus funds from last year (FY25) showed \$40K. Donna acknowledged that MEVA had a larger surplus this year. The employee health insurance, unfortunately, had a huge impact.

Jennifer stated luckily MEVA's revenue went up \$317K during FY26. Donna stated that we were fortunate to absorb the billing error taken out of the account. Jennifer stated that it will not affect the FY26 bottom line. It just showed that we prepaid.

Donna stated that our finances are fine, we did a great job, and she appreciated the work Jennifer does.

FY26 Audit Update.

Jennifer recognized the amazing work and effort that Dr. Browne and Jillian Dearborn contributed to the FY26 audit.

Jennifer said that at the next board meeting, we will be able to report details on employee health insurance and be able to project it out.

Administration.

Dr. Browne presented the Head of School report.

Faculty (Monthly) Professional Development Report.

Annual Maine Educator Summit (Conference) Highlights, July 29th:

- Dan Pierce, School Counselor: Lana Sawyer, the Extended Learning Specialist from the MDOE, *Connecting Youth to Community-Based Career Pathway*
- Dr. Christina O'Grady, Curriculum Coordinator: Dr. Jared Horvath, *From the Laboratory to the Classroom - Principles of Learning; Your Brain, Your Life - Foundations of Thinking and Learning.*
- Dr. Melinda Browne, Head of School: Monique Sullivan, Continuous School Improvement Coordinator, *Workshop for Identified Schools.* (An updated comprehensive training report was sent for your review.)

Instructional Technology:

- Don Fournier, Academic Administrator: D2L Brightspace Lumi Pro Tools Training, and Read Theory Demo.

Maine Department of Education (MDOE) Systems Training

- Stephanie Emery, Operations Manager, completed data training on the MDOE's new Connect system.

Progress toward (additional) certification and degrees:

- Carla Hamilton and Lauren Sroka, English Teachers, and Kristen Schmidt, Ed Tech II, registered for fall university classes this month.

Other

- We are offering Orton Gillingham training to teachers.

SY-2025/2026 Annual Monitoring.

- We met with the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) on August 14th.
- Donna and I met with Lana Ewing and Amy Allen. We presented SY-2025/2026 outcomes and analysis. MEVA is likely, fully meeting eighty-six percent (86%) of our performance measures. Lana made the point that MEVA's graduation rates and Accuplacer outcomes are priorities for the Commission – MEVA excels in both areas, so we are in good standing. In the coming school year, MEVA committed to moving the needle on reading growth and the subgroup proficiency measures. We shared data analysis that demonstrated how students are improving incrementally over their years at MEVA.
- We discussed a new customized performance measure that focuses on students' rigorous expectations and relationships with teachers, as measured by the Panorama School Climate Survey.

Donna and Dr. Browne met with the commission. Dr. Browne stated it was very positive. MEVA shared data and analysis. The MCSC asked what MEVA will focus on this SY-2026/2027. MEVA planned to focus on reading growth and proficiency of our subgroups. The MCSC committed to releasing the SY-2025/2026 annual monitoring report within the next month.

Donna reported some of the quotes shared in the meeting were excellent, remarkable, and a great job getting information/reports to the MCSC. They were impressed by the work MEVA is doing.

Dr. Browne said we shared data on how our students were doing. We looked at the statistical measures. One observation was when seventh (7th) graders came to MEVA the fall Maine Through Year (MTY) score dataset had a high level of variability due to students coming from various educational settings. Then in the spring the MTY score variability moved down, which showed we are making a difference. We planned to continue refining our techniques on this research.

Dr. Browne presented a new, proposed customized performance measures on school climate. This is non-binding; it is what the school would like to work on in the coming year. We planned to coach faculty on how to promote these ideas, which should improve the experience of MEVA students.

MEVA's Proposed new Customized Performance Measure.

Proposed new customized performance measures for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA): Effective for SY-2026/2027 and beyond, two new goals, which would (if approved) replace all prior goals.

To promote an engaging virtual school experience, MEVA will annually, incrementally, improve:

1. School Rigorous Expectations.
2. School Teacher-Student Relationships.

As measured by the ‘percent favorable’ on the Panorama Student Survey, administered each spring. (The previous spring results serve as baselines.)

Exceeding – *Increase* of greater than 5%.

Meeting – *Increase* of 1% to 5%.

Approaching – *Decrease* of 0% to 5%.

Not Meeting – *Decrease* of more than 5%.

SY-2026/2027 Launch.

- We hosted an In-Person Faculty Day on August 17th.
- Faculty attendance was strong.
- We utilized the time for department team building and planning.
- Faculty launch of SY-2026/2027 continues for the following two weeks.
- The first day of classes is Monday, August 31st.

Curriculum Mapping Update.

- We are following the board-approved curriculum plan.
- Phase II for math.
- Phase II: Data gathering and meeting, program philosophy, and setting goals.
- Phase II: Piloting new curriculum, likely the following year.
- We can consider changes to curriculum plan, if needed.

Faculty Evaluations Systems.

- We distributed the teacher (was previously approved by the board) and staff evaluation systems.
- We use a modified version of the teacher evaluation system for ed techs (support teachers). The updated document is forthcoming.

SY-2026/2027 New Enrollment.

- MEVA has filled all available seats for SY-2026/2027. We will backfill any withdrawals until Oct. 1st.
- Our SY-2026/2027 enrollment window will reopen for mid-year, incoming students.

8/13						
Grade Level	New	Returning	Grand Total	Working on Applications	Seat Offer	Waitlist
7	22		22	6	0	11
8	28	22	50	2	0	6
9	27	51	78	5	5	7
10	53	51	104	7	4	11
11	32	96	128	6	1	18
12	26	90	116	5	3	11
Grand Total	188	310	498	31	13	64

MEVA has a full school; we will only backfill seats as we go until October 1st (10/1). We will shut enrollment down for October then start the midyear enrollment process in November.

This will be the second consecutive year that we have filled the school to capacity, due to approved (by the MCSC) enrollment expansions. MEVA has attained the statutory maximum (of no more than five hundred students) for our school.

Tina wondered if there was a strategy on enrollment, given the data that highlighted the improvement that students made who stay. Donna/Melinda/Stephanie collectively stated that we enrolled students as they come on a first-come-first-serve basis, independent of their grade levels.

Governance.

Review MEVA's Annual Insurance Certificate – Shared with the board in the packet.

Review MEVA's Instructional Technology Toolbox.

The board reviewed a teacher-facing guide that detailed the virtual tools MEVA used to engage students in the classroom. MEVA was working on the implementation of the Brightspace Lumi tool and Read Theory.

Don Fournier stated that surveys were sent to teachers annually that determined their technology usage. The Brightspace platform was the virtual “building.”

Policies GCFB – GCOA (C through F on the meeting agenda).

Cherieann motioned to group policies C- F. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Cherieann motioned to approve grouped policies C-F. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Proposed FY27 Governing Board Goals.

1. The MEVA Board will promote academic excellence by ensuring all students receive a rigorous and relevant education to prepare them for college and/or careers.

Objective 1: The MEVA mission statement will be read, by rotating members, at start of each Board meeting

Objective 2: Review current MEVA strategic goal/plan (5/17/22) by October, 2026.

Objective 3: Update strategic goal/plan by March, 2027.

Objective 4: Engage with the community to communicate the school's mission and support advocacy as measured in December, 2026 and April, 2027.

2. MEVA Board members will complete at least one professional development opportunity related to governance by December, 2026.

3. MEVA Board members will attend at least 80% of all scheduled monthly meetings.

Cherieann motioned to approve the FY27 board goals, Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna discussed the planned FY27 training for the board, which was housed on MEVA's Vector Platform (likely FOAA training and AI). We planned to present the specifics at the September meeting.

Public Discussion.

Stacey provided a resource: "Stuff the Bus" event in Sanford, Maine, on Saturday from 9 am to 4pm. Nonresidents were welcome after 11am.

MEVA started for the teachers yesterday and students on August 31st.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore