

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held September 15, 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, September 15th, 2026. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Cherieann Harrison, Tina Meserve, Erin Shannahan, and Susan Walters. Scott Richardson was excused. A quorum was present. Emersyn Williams, Student Representative to the Board, was present.

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

Attending from Dr. Madden, and Associates, was Dr. Mary Madden.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

Annual Meeting.

Opening Items.

Reading of MEVA's Mission and Vision Statement.

Stacey Blanchard did the reading.

Approval of Minutes.

Tina motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of August 18th, 2026. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Slate of Maine Learning Innovations Directors.

- Stacey Blanchard, Secretary.
- Cherieann Harrison, Member.
- Tina Meserve, Member.
- Donna Pelletier, President.
- Scott Richardson, Member.
- Erin Shanahan, Member.
- Susan Walters, Treasurer.

Cheriann motioned to approve the Slate of Maine Learning Innovation Directors. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Donna thanked Erin Shannahan for completing her application and coming on board and informed her she can vote post the approval.

MEVA Independent Evaluation Report.

Tina motioned to approve the Independent Evaluation Report. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Dr. Madden – Presentation.

Dr. Madden presented the progress on her case studies. The methodology used to collect the information was in a survey format, which better suited parents and students by making participation flexible. The feedback presented covered approximately seventeen (17) families and students, with some parents having multiple students at MEVA. Mary states that Artificial Intelligence (AI) was used to conduct initial qualitative coding of the data. Her team reviewed the codes and classified feedback on positive, negative, mixed, or neutral.

A major focus of the study was understanding why families sought MEVA. Common reasons involved bullying, Individual Education Program (IEP) needs that were not met at prior schools, school fit, student mental health. Overall, feedback about school service was strongly positive, particularly relating to support from staff/teachers, intake experience, attention to student needs, and a supportive learning environment.

Areas needing improvement pertained to the following: peer connections through communications and in-person elements, school workload and engagement, and normalizing/encouraging students to seek help, when it is needed.

Discussions:

Dr. Browne informed the board that the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) now required MEVA to submit an independent evaluation report in year three and five of the charter contract period. Dr. Browne stated that MEVA was currently in year two, so Dr. Madden will continue her research, and the report will be finalized next fall (2027).

Stacey asked, will this report be continued until the students leave MEVA after graduation?

Susan added that it would be nice to see students that talk about anxiety and appreciate the virtual experience be evaluated on what they do after school. Susan proposed a survey to be conducted post-graduation to see if they grow and become productive adults.

Stacey shared personal experience with a child who had some struggles that graduated from MEVA, stating that he is on track completing a double major in college and is on the dean's list.

Donna asked Stacey if her student was taking in-person classes or online.

Stacey stated he does both and recently moved on campus. He opted to take in person this semester and uses the Brightspace platform like at MEVA.

Stacey and Donna stated that Dr. Madden's report was an interesting read.

Finance Report.

Finance Update by Jennifer Hight, CPA, presented by Dr. Browne:

The FY26 Financial Audit is in Partner Review. This is good news! As of today, I have not heard of any issues to be expected.

Health Insurance: The September bill was \$102,745. There are still a couple of adjustments for employee additions/deletions, but it will not change materially. If I extrapolate the premiums paid for July-Sept annually it estimates to \$1,235,000 for FY'27. We budgeted \$1,278,000. We currently have 39 employees at the highest premium of \$2,161.81/mo., 4 employees at the premium of \$1,842.80/mo., and 6 employees at the premium of \$1,843.89/mo. We currently have no employees that have chosen to cover their spouse or children.

If I look back to July of 2024, we had 52 employees on our plan and our cost was \$46,246. Our July premium (after adjustments) was just over \$100,000 this year.

Donna appreciated the health insurance was able to be budgeted and that Jennifer projected a fairly accurate number.

Administration.

Dr. Browne presented the Head of School report.

Faculty Professional Development Report:

- MEVA has resumed our weekly Professional Learning (PL) meetings.
- We are covering topics relevant to the faculty's practices.
- Congratulations to Erica Beaulieu and Lila Theriault for earning their conditional certifications that support their assigned roles. MEVA provides reimbursement for any required coursework, in accordance with our policy.
- In addition to certifications, MEVA encourages our faculty to participate in outside professional development, as approved by our process.

SY-2025/2026 Annual Monitoring:

- All our SY-2025/2026 data and reports are submitted to the Maine Charter School Commission.
- We are expecting the draft SY-2025/2026 Annual Monitoring Report.

Faculty Evaluation Systems – Ed Techs:

The EdTech/Support Teacher reflection and evaluation process is designed to help staff:

- Reflect on their impact on student learning, engagement, and belonging.
- Identify strengths and areas for professional growth.
- Connect day-to-day support responsibilities to MEVA's schoolwide priorities.
- Document evidence of student support, collaboration, interventions, and professional responsibilities.

- Establish meaningful goals for the upcoming school year.
- Provide administrators with evidence for a fair, consistent evaluation.

The process combines self-reflection, goal setting, ongoing evidence collection, quarterly reflection, and year-end evaluation.

MEVA Strategic Plans and Goals:

- GOAL 1: ACHIEVE OUR MISSION AND VISION.
- GOAL 2: MEET/EXCEED OUR CHARTER CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MEASURES.
- GOAL 3: GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE COLLEGE AND/OR CAREER READY.
- GOAL 4: DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE AND SUPPORT TO OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.

Dr. Browne reported there was an overlap on what we wanted to do and what the MCSC wanted us to do. Overall, MEVA was doing well in various areas.

Discussion:

Tina asked about goal 4 on the slide, and how was it measurable? She asked further if there was a more specific goal based on Dr. Madden's report or if the commission had measurable ways to achieve this goal? Tina asked, can we modify the goal to be more measurable? Can we improve our school response time to a week, as an example?

Donna stated that we needed to find measurable things and address an array of issues and supports.

Susan agreed with Tina that goal 4 was not measurable. She mentioned while meeting with staff, it should be asked how we can better develop our services. Perhaps having the discussion would set a tone with staff, being able to respond in a timely manner to students and families. As far as measurable, a survey to students at the beginning of the year and end of the year would give quantitative information, then direct us in managing it next school year.

Tina observed that we may already have the answers in the Panorama School Climate Survey and in Dr. Madden's surveys. We may already have the info; we just need to figure out the right wording or make a small adjustment in wording to make the goals measurable.

Cherieann agreed that we do need more measurable goals. Digging into the goals and determining how we are looking to meet the goals will take time.

Dr. Browne committed to looking at this further and to continuing the discussion with the board.

SY-2026/2027 New Enrollment:

- We are on track to have a full school on October 1st, 2026.

Student Representative: Introduction and Activities:

Dr. Browe reported that MEVA had followed the policy to select a student representative to the board. She asked Don to introduce Emersyn Williams.

Donna welcomed Emersyn and was excited for the student to bring input from others to the board.

Cherieann echoed Donna's statement.

Emersyn's report:

Hi! My name is Emersyn Williams; I am a senior and have been at MEVA for 6 years now! In school, I am an academic tutor, writing center tutor, and mentor. I am hoping to be involved in the Chess, Creative Writing, and Virtual Travel Club this year! Last year I participated in Chess Club, and it was a great experience! Outside of school I have been volunteering for my church for the past 5 years. I also occasionally baby-sit and dog-walk! I also attend a youth group at my church. I love mythology and have a dozen books on that! I was asked to be a student representative, and I figured that this is my final year here! Why not share my insights and experiences! I hope to bring insight on what I have noticed students needing and wanting from different classes and assignments. I now represent the entire student body of MEVA and have learned about so many different experiences from other students that I feel like I can immediately know what needs to be different! My goals are letting the staff know what the past student experiences have been with certain classes and MEVA in general. I plan to represent the voices of my fellow students by using my own 6 years of experience.

Governance.

MEVA Board Vector Platform Trainings:

- Stephanie presented the MEVA Board Vector Platform Trainings.

Donna asked if Stephanie could send the members reminders on how to get into the platform. Stephanie confirmed that she would, after the meeting.

Tina motioned to group policies B-F. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motion to move policies B-F from a First Reading to a Second Reading. Cherieann seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Public Discussion.

None.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore