

## Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held March 16, 2021

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a virtual meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on Zoom at 2:00 PM, March 16, 2021. Board members attending were Amy Carlisle, Donna Pelletier, and Peter Mills (tuned in late). Kim Whitman and Ed LeBlanc were excused.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Jennifer Hight, Donald Fournier, Jillian Dearborn, Lena Vitagliano, Chelsea Osgood, Christina O'Grady, Jennifer Clark, Lizzie Malvicini, Mehry Mohammadi, and Stephanie Emery,

Attending from Stride were Jordan Goldman, Mary Markert, and Todd McIntire.

**Minutes.** Upon motion by Peter, seconded by Donna, minutes for the meetings of February 23 and March 1, 2021 were approved.

**Finance.** We have a current surplus of \$57,000 but are still projecting a \$75,000 loss for the year. We spent \$98,000 of COVID money in 2021, much of it on special items tailored to the grant. We will spend quite a bit on summer school. We have \$425,000 left in Cares Relief Funds. We have until June 30 to spend it and have spent \$114,000 so far.

For the ESSE funds, we may be able to use it for two Ed Techs, but should balance the budget without it. We now have more teachers than ever before. We will have a space issue if they all come in to work. We may need money to retrofit some added space.

We hope to be ready by June 30 for the audit.

In our original CRF 1 application, we budgeted nothing for admin and we can't amend the application. For CRF 2, we had requested admin money and got a call to say we can only budget 10% for admin. There are questions about procurement. Right now, any payment of admin and technical fees to Stride would have to come out of the General Fund. Jenn is in discussion with Karen Kusiak at DOE and hopes to gain clarity by tomorrow. Upon motion by Peter, seconded by Amy, the finance package was approved.

Jenn reported that Jordan Goldman from Stride is reviewing with us the budget for 2022. DOE has issued our ED 279. Our revenue may rise by between \$400,000 and \$500,000 because of the new student count.

**Head of School Report.** Our post 10/1 Retention as of Monday, 3/15, was 90% (387/430); we are on track to meet/exceed our target of 86%. Since 10/1, MEVA had 13 students move out of state, and 3 students graduate mid-year. Primary reasons for withdrawal include (1) Student not motivated to complete work in this environment. (2) Lack of socialization. (3) Time requirement for student to be online.

Re-registration for SY2021/2022 is underway with 275 students completing the process at a rate ahead of the prior year. New Enrollments for SY2021/2022 are 13 students to date. However, we have 37 new students in the pipeline working on their applications.

MEVA is making progress on its school initiatives: Longitudinal Database, NWEA Data Analysis. For Instructional Alignment, College/Career Readiness, and Summer School Expansion.

The Maine Charter School Commission's Panorama Survey Window opens on April 26<sup>th</sup> and runs through May 14<sup>th</sup>. MEVA administers the survey annually to students, parents, and teachers to gain feedback to inform continuous school improvement.

Graduating students are completing postsecondary readiness activities, including taking college courses, working internships, volunteering, and exploring careers. MEVA is hosting a Virtual High School Graduation Ceremony on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as a Virtual Step-Up Day Ceremony for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. To date, 74 students are eligible to graduate in SY2020/2021, including 4 mid-year; 53 in June; 7 by the end of the summer; and 10 early graduates. The previous year there were 5 early graduates who will positively impact this year's graduation rates.

MEVA is running many school activities, including National Honor Society inductions, Pi-Day Celebration, Virtual science Fair, and April Open House.

Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Amy, it was voted to adjourn at 3:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mills, Secretary