

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 19, 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, January 19, 2021. Board members attending were Amy Carlisle, Donna Pelletier, Kim Whitman, and Peter Mills. Ed LeBlanc was absent.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Jillian Dearborn, Lena Vitagliano, Jennifer Hight, Chelsea Osgood, Christina O'Grady, Cheryl Brigham, Nicole Taylor, Kelli Boucher, and Mehry Mohammadi.

Attendees from K12 were Stephanie Emery, Lizzie Malvicini, Mary Markert, Jordan Goldman, and Todd McIntire.

Attendees from the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) were Jeremy Jones and Gina Post.

Auditors Pat Nicolas and Danielle Tibbets attended for WIPFLI.

Minutes. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Kim, minutes for the meeting of December 15, 2020, were approved.

FY20 Audit. Pat Nicholas and Danielle Tibbets of WIPFLI presented the final audit report for FY20. Danielle Tibbets thanked MEVA and K12, Inc. for their participation in the audit process. Danielle noted that MEVA was in strong financial shape as evidenced by the recommended measures for nonprofit corporations. Danielle made the point that MEVA's payments to K12, Inc. represented 43% of its total expenses of \$4,291,643, broken down as follows: Educational Products and Related Services \$1,135,202; Professional Services \$445,972; and Technology Services \$282,574.

Pat Nicolas committed to preparing the FY20 Form 990 in advance of MEVA's next governing board meeting on February 23rd, 2021.

Financial report. Jennifer reported on MEVA's progress securing a financial accounting system. Jennifer discussed the pros/cons of utilizing Quick Books, Intacct, and/or Tyler Technologies. Jennifer informed the board that she had participated in a Tyler Technologies demonstration, with Melinda and Jillian, but was discouraged by the proposed high set up fees to build the school's platform.

Upon motion by Kim, seconded by Donna, the December 2020 financial package and presentation were approved.

Head of School Report. Melinda Browne provided details from the MCSC's SY2019/2020 Annual Monitoring Report: MEVA exceeded, met or partially met all its performance measures. The MCSC recommended that MEVA continue to address/improve Average Daily Attendance rates; utilize Plimpton Graduate Study Report, focusing on college/career readiness, career-development curriculum, post-graduate career guidance, and mastery of high standards for graduation; and implement recommendations from the 2020 External (Third Party) Evaluation Report. The MEVA faculty was taking the MCSC's feedback to heart and prioritizing improvements in the suggested areas.

MEVA's SY2020/2021 Semester-1 Performance Data was as follows: Q1 Chronic Absenteeism: 8.90%; Q2 Chronic Absenteeism: 7.06%; First Semester Passing Rate: 84%; and Post 10/1 Retention: 96%. These outcomes were within MEVA's targeted range.

MEVA currently had 408 Students Currently Enrolled (as compared to 430 students on October 1st, 2020): Middle School, 119 students (29.2%); High School: 289 students (70.8%); Section 504: 64 (15.7%); Special Education: 62 (15.2%); and Mid-Year Graduates: 3 students (1 four-year, 1 five year,

and 1 -six year, cohorts). MEVA's retention was trending slightly better than previous years, except for a greater number of students who withdrew because their families moved out of state.

Donna made the point that MEVA's percentage of Section 504 students was higher than the National Average of 2.3%. Discussion focused on the reasons why this was the case, including the unique features of the virtual learning environment that appealed to students with impairments such as anxiety, depression, and medical conditions.

MEVA administered the Winter NWEA Math, Reading, and Language Usage to 95% of the students in grades 7-11 on January 12th – 15th. MEVA was aiming for at least 96% participation, with make-up sessions underway. Preliminary percentages of students who met their projected growth within the standard error were: Math 74%; Reading 68%; and Language Usage 72%. Compared to the previous year's Winter administration, the current (fall to winter) growth results were +1% higher in Math; +7% higher in Reading, and +15% higher in Language Usage. An area of notable strength was ninth (9th) grade Math, with 86% of students making their projected growth within the standard error. Overall, MEVA students attained greater Fall to Winter growth results in Math than in Reading and Language Usage, repeating the pattern from the previous year. Utilizing the teachers' instructional maps, MEVA planned to review the English Language Arts standards alignment to the NWEA expectations. It was also noted that late arriving students may have fewer weeks of instruction by the winter testing dates.

MEVA's SY 2021/22 Open Enrollment begins on February 1, 2021, with a Lottery on March 26, 2021 at Noon, via Zoom, if needed.

Open Business Manager Position. MEVA was advertising for a Business Manager on Serving Schools and School Spring. The position was unfilled. The board members recommended broadening the search to include other Maine jobs venues and employment agencies. Jennifer Hight suggested revisions to the job posting to make the position more attractive to candidates.

At 2:45 PM upon motion by Amy, seconded by Donna, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Browne, Secretary Pro Tem