

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held April 25, 2023

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a virtual meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on Zoom at 3:00 PM, April 25th, 2023. Board members attending were Nicholas “Nick” Gannon, Stacey Blanchard, Tina Meserve, and Peter Mills. Amy Carlisle and Donna Pelletier were excused. A quorum was present.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Christina O’Grady, Chelsea Osgood, Stephanie Emery, Jillian Dearborn, and Lena Vitagliano.

Attending from Stride were Todd McIntire and Tom Travia.

Opening Items. Nick filled in for Donna with respect to running the meeting.

Approval of Minutes. Nick motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meetings of February 28th and March 21st, 2023. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report. Dr. Browne reported that Jennifer Hight, CPA, was working on the Quarter 3 financials and was aiming to present them at the May 16th board meeting. The next financial planning workshop was scheduled for Thursday, May 4th, 2:00 pm. The purpose of the workshop was to develop the FY24 budget and multi-year plan.

Administration. Dr. Melinda Browne gave the Head of School Report.

As a high-performing public charter school, MEVA was making steady progress towards meeting/exceeding our performance measures, as evidenced by our results in the following areas:

- Spring ‘23 Panorama Survey Participation:
- Q3 Average Daily Attendance.
- Q3 Chronic Absenteeism.
- Retention – 4/20.
- Re-Registration – 3/31.
- Spring ‘23 Assessment Plan.
- Spring ‘23 NWEA Results will be available by the May meeting.
- MEVA is on track to meet/exceed our FY23 MCSC performance measures.

Spring 2023 – Panorama Survey as of 4/21. Participation Targets/**Results**:

- Family – 35%/**62% (223/357)**.
- Student – 75%/**77% (311/402)**.
- Teacher/Staff – 75%/**100% (58/58)**.
- MEVA has exceeded the participation targets for all stakeholder groups.
- The survey results will be analyzed when available to determine performance outcomes and to inform school improvement efforts/action plans.

Panorama Education School Climate Survey: Annually, the school will review its Panorama Education School Climate survey results and develop an action plan to address areas for continued improvement. Plan and outcome will be submitted to the Commission.

Stakeholder Focus Areas:

- Family – School Climate, Safety, and School Fit.
- Student – School Climate, Safety, Rigorous Expectations, and Teacher-Student Relationship.
- Teacher/Staff – Leadership, Professional Learning, and Feedback/Coaching.

Q3 Average Daily Attendance – 3/31:

Q3	ADA	Totals
Overall	Present 54907/Enrolled 56243	97.62%
MS	11457/11852	96.66%
HS	43450/44391	97.88%
7th	4215/4310	97.79%
8th	7242/7542	96.02%
9th	7631/7920	96.35%
10th	11676/11876	98.31%
11th	14754/15021	98.22%
12th	9389/9574	98.06%

Q3 Chronic Absenteeism – 3/31:

Q3	Chronic Absenteeism	Totals
Overall	19/500	3.80%
MS	6/100	6.00%
HS	13/400	3.25%
7th	1/36	2.77%
8th	5/64	7.81%
9th	6/67	8.95%
10th	2/100	2.00%
11th	2/128	1.56%
12th	3/105	2.85%

Post 10/1 Retention – 4/20:

Grade	Withdrawals	10/1 Count	Retention
7	1	31	97%
8	6	56	89%
9	3	55	95%
10	4	85	95%
11	4	113	96%
12	0	98	100%
Total	18	438	96%

SY2023/2024 Re-Registration – 3/31:

Total Enrollment:	403
Seniors/Grads Remaining in TVS:	53
Student count based on who is eligible to re-enroll:	350
Registering:	332
Not Returning:	14
Status Unknown	4
Total <i>Response Rate</i> of who is eligible to re-enroll: 344	99%
Percentage of MEVA <i>Students Returning</i> :	95%

MEVA is carrying out its Spring 2023 Assessment Calendar:

- 5/2 - 5/4: NWEA MAP Growth (Virtual), Grades 7-11.
- 5/15 - 5/19: Spring MEA Reading & Math (In Person), Grades 7, 8 & 10.
- 5/22 - 5/26: MEA Science (In Person), Grades 8 & 11.
- We expect to share preliminary fall to spring growth results at the upcoming May meeting.

MEVA conducted the ESEA Comprehensive Needs Assessment and determined that funds were needed to address students’ academic growth and achievement.

Growth:

- 7th Grade Reading.
- 8th Grade Reading and Language Usage.
- 10th Grade Math.

Achievement:

- 7th Grade Math.
- 8th Grade Math, Reading, and Language Usage.

ESEA Allocation YOY Comparison indicated that MEVA’s grants increased (overall) by \$18K.

ESEA	FY24	FY23	YOY
Title I	185,490.00	170,490.00	15,291.17
Title II	20,113.01	19,984.21	128.80
Title IV	18,254.23	15,521.36	2,732.87
Total	\$223,857.24	\$205,704.40	\$18,152.84

FY24 ESEA Grant Application:

- Seeking Input. MEVA is actively gathering stakeholder feedback to inform the FY24 ESEA grant application.
- MEVA has a Schoolwide ESEA Program. The schoolwide categorization allows flexibility with respect to serving all students’ gaps/needs. However, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment guides decisions and aligns with the goals and outcomes.
- Previous ESEA application projects focused on providing remedial instruction via teachers and paraprofessionals, as well as professional development.

SY-2023/2024 New Enrollment Update:

- Seat Offers Made: 63 open seat offers, 17 new applications in the last week.
- Families Actively working their application: 30.
- School Approvals: 45 have been approved, 7 additional students are pending acceptance (I'm waiting for the legal guardian to call me). Acceptances are 33% ahead of this time last year.
- We are on track to have a full school by October 1st, 2023.

SY-2023/2024 Accepted Students by Grade Level (to date):

Grade	Accepted
7	9
8	9
9	7
10	9
11	4
12	7
Total	45

Dr. Browne observed the enrollment trend that new students were spread out evenly across the grade levels.

Governance.

Maine Alliance of Public Charter Schools (MAPCS) Membership.

Regarding the proposed MAPCS membership, the governing board members wanted to understand more about the reasonings/positions of this organization and what MEVA's benefit was to join. The board members expressed mixed feelings about joining overall.

Stacey was uncertain as to the benefits of MEVA joining and would like to seek more clarity. The presentation last month still left a lot of ambiguity. Stacey also mentioned that it felt unethical to accept a gift with the expectation of doing something other than joining.

Tina said that we should have more formal conversations about joining this organization. Are they supporting policy decisions that we want? Tina moved forward with asking if this should be tabled for now or indefinitely.

Nick cited the example of the Harpswell closure and the performance issues of other schools. Nick asked if this organization was challenging the actual work and structure that the charter commission was designed to do in holding schools accountable? From this perspective, it appeared that the commission was doing their job.

Dr. Browne asked, if we did not join, should we keep the donation? There were no strings attached and it was unrestricted for schools to retain/utilize. However, MEVA was happy to return the donation if needed. Dr. Browne said that we should formally recognize the donation with a letter.

Peter stated that it would be appropriate to send an acknowledgment of appreciation.

Nick suggested that MEVA should send two communications, one to the Jones family, who personally donated (\$5,000), and one to the MAPCS organization. Nick asked if it would be appropriate for Donna and Melinda to send the MAPCS letter? Board members agreed.

Tina and other board members agreed to suspend any decision on the MAPCS membership at this time.

Tina motioned to indefinitely table the decision of membership with MAPCS and to revisit it in the future. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

MEVA board policies and job descriptions for review/approval, in accordance with the meeting agenda.

Tina motioned to group policies a-c for approval. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve policies a-c. Nick seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to group job descriptions a-e for approval. Nick seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve job descriptions a-e. Nick seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Public Discussion. Dr. Browne said that the next meeting comes up quickly on May 16th at 3:00 pm.

Adjournment. Stacey motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore