

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 18, 2022

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 18, 2022. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Nicholas “Nick” Gannon, Ed LeBlanc, Peter Mills, and Stacey Blanchard. Amy Carlisle was excused.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Christina O'Grady, Stephanie Emery, Mehry Mohammadi, and Jennifer Hight.

Attending from Stride were Todd McIntire, and Wei Wang.

Minutes. Nick motioned to approve minutes for the December 21st, 2021, governing board meeting. Peter seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Finance. Jennifer Hight reported that the FY22 Quarter 2 Finance Report was almost completed; a few more things needed to be done. As a result, the motion to approve the report was put on hold until next meeting. Jennifer noted that the report was due to the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) by February 4th. Jennifer planned to send out the report for board review within the coming week, in advance of the deadline.

Nick motioned to approve the FY21 Form 990. Peter seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Administration. Melinda presented the Head of School Report.

Winter ‘22 NWEA (January 11th – 14th)).

- We have administered the Winter ‘22 NWEAs (Math, Reading, and Language Usage) to approx. 92% of students in grades 7-11. Make-ups are in progress, aiming for at least 95% participation.
- MAP Growth uses the RIT (Rasch Unit) scale to measure and compare academic growth. RIT Range: RIT +/- SEM.
- It is reasonable to expect that 50% of students should meet their projected growth, according to NWEA research/literature.
- Growth: we calculated percentages of students whose (1) RIT scores increased from fall to winter, (2) projected growth was less than or equal to their observed growth, (3) projected growth fell within the standard error of their observed growth.
- Proficiency: we calculated percentages of students who achieved (1) the fiftieth (50th) percentile, (2) the average bands or higher.

Winter ‘22 NWEA – Math.

- RIT scores increased from fall to winter: 58% (169/294)*.
- Met/exceeded target: 52% (154/294)*.
- Met/exceeded target within SEM: 74% (217/294).
- Attained 50th percentile: 56% (180/324).
- Attained average bands or higher: 85% (274/324).

**Growth results are trending 6% lower than prior school year. There were five (5) fewer weeks of instruction between NWEA Fall '21 and Winter '22, compared to the prior school year. Proficiency is comparable to the prior year.*

Winter '22 NWEA – Reading*.

- RIT scores increased from fall to winter: 39% (113/290).
- Met/exceeded target: 38% (111/290).
- Met/exceeded target within SEM: 60% (173/290).
- Attained 50th percentile: 60% (192/318).
- Attained average bands or higher: 81% (259/318).

**Reading testing was disrupted by NWEA nationwide technical difficulties.*

Melinda informed the board that the NWEA was experiencing issues on January 12th, the day of the reading testing that kicked students out of sessions and interrupted their efforts. Melinda said that MEVA considered re-testing impacted students but rejected that option in favor of retaining their results and waiting until the spring administration to assess them. Melinda made the point that MEVA did not employ the practice of re-testing students, since the NWEA became the Maine Educational Assessment (i.e., state test).

Winter '22 NWEA – Language Usage.

- RIT scores increased from fall to winter: 58% (168/291)*.
- Met/exceeded target: 57% (165/291)*.
- Met/exceeded target within SEM: 78% (227/291).
- Attained 50th percentile: 62% (198/321).
- Attained average bands or higher: 85% (273/321).

**Growth results are trending 10% higher than previous school year. Proficiency is comparable to the prior year.*

Donna pointed out that students' language usage growth results exceeded the prior year, even though there were fewer weeks of instruction. Donna suggested that MEVA explain the math growth results utilizing reasons other than fewer weeks of instruction.

Winter '22 NWEA Action Steps.

- Complete make-up testing, aiming for 95% participation or higher by January 21st.
- Analyze data by January 28th.
- Adjust instructional maps and course content to address students' gaps.
- Target daily instruction within small groups.
- Assess students' weekly progress.

- Share interim results.
- Check course alignment to standards.
- Teacher observations and feedback.

SY2021/2022 Progress.

- English and math co-teaching teams have at least two (2) general education faculty members assigned to each grade level. Team English has ten (10) and math has eight (8) total faculty members.
- Additionally, there are six (6) special education teachers and six (6) educational technicians for grades 7-12.
- Co-teaching teams are meeting daily, and departments are meeting weekly.
- Brightspace platform facilitates alternatives with respect to courses and instruction.
- Formative assessment tools – IXL and teacher designed.
- Daily Help Desk.
- Monthly meetings with students and Learning Coaches to follow up on progress and make programming adjustments if needed.

Enrollment Updates.

- MEVA has added thirty (30) new students for Semester-2, in time to complete their Winter NWEAs.
- Grade 7 (6), 8 (3), 9 (7), 10 (10), and 11 (4).
- SY2022- 2023 Re-registration is February 28th – March 4th.
- There is an Open Enrollment window for any student in the state in grades 7–12 interested in enrolling for the **SY2022–2023** school year.
- Enrollment is open from **January 31st**, through 5:00 pm on **March 4th**.
- If during the Open Enrollment window more Declaration of Student Intent to Enroll forms are received than space available, a lottery will be held on **March 25th** at Noon via Zoom to determine initial seat offers.

The board discussed the number of mid-year enrollments, compared to previous years. Stephanie noted that MEVA did not have any mid-year enrollments during SY2020/2021. However, prior to last year, MEVA had typically enrolled more than thirty new students during January.

Governance. Melinda presented the proposed SY2022/2023 School Calendar, which mirrored previous years. Melinda noted that teachers began ten (10) days prior to the first day of fall classes, August 29th, the Monday before Labor Day. There were 190 teacher days and 180 student days. MEVA needed the five (5) additional student days to compensate for possible technology disruptions. (The MDOE required 175 student days.)

Stacey motioned to approve the SY2022/2023 School Calendar. Nick seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Melinda presented the second draft of the recording policy for the SY2021/2022 Parent Student Handbook. MEVA had incorporated board feedback from the December meeting.

Nick motioned to approve the updated SY2021/2022 Parent Student Handbook. Ed seconded, all in favor, so moved.

MEVA committed to updating the document to suit and distributing copies to the school.

Donna presented the project of reviewing/discussing/approving five (5) required MDOE policies each meeting.

SY2021/2022 MEVA MDOE Required Policies Review (ongoing effort).

- a. AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.
- b. ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students.
- c. ACAA-R Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint/Grievance Procedure.
- d. ACAB Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Employees.
- e. ACAB-R Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure.

Nick suggested that the board approve all five (5) MDOE Required Policies in one vote. Nick motioned to approve Board Policies a through e. Ed seconded, all in favor, so moved.

MEVA committed to adding the revision dates to the Manual of January 18th, 2022.

Public Discussion. None.

Executive Session. Nick motioned to enter Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405, sub-§6, ¶A & ¶E to discuss employee compensation and other confidential school matters. Stacey seconded, all in favor, so moved. Board meeting to adjourn with no additional action items after this session.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore