

## Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held February 15, 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, February 15, 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, Jennifer Hight, Jillian Dearborn, Chelsea Osgood, and Cheryl Brigham.

Attending from Stride were Todd McIntire, and Wei Wang.

**Minutes.** Nick motioned to approve minutes for the January 18, 2022, governing board meeting. Stacey seconded, all in favor, so moved.

**Finance.** Jennifer Hight reported that MEVA had a \$46,000 surplus for Quarter 2. Jennifer said that the MDOE Grants4ME website (ESEA & Local Entitlement) had technical issues that prevented reimbursement payments for the previous Quarter 1; money was very slow to come in.

Nick motioned to approve the FY22 Quarter 2 Finance Report. Ed seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Jennifer said that she had the information she needed to draft the FY23 Budget, including six months of current year financials and preliminary ED 279.

Donna requested that MEVA schedule development workshops so that the FY23 Budget was ready for approval at the May 2022 governing board meeting. Donna said that this approach had worked well last year. Jennifer made the point that she was not available after March 15<sup>th</sup>, due to tax season demands.

**Administration.** Melinda informed the board that the Head of School Report was focusing on MEVA's Mid-Year Performance Data. Melinda planned to submit required reports to the Maine Charter School Commission on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Fall '21 to Winter '22 NWEA Growth (Christina O'Grady).

- We tested 330 students in grades 7-11 during the Winter '22 NWEA testing window.
- 299 students had a fall & winter score which allowed growth to be measured.
- Our overall testing percentage was 96%, adjusting for students who were in the process of withdrawing during the Winter NWEA testing window
- Met Projected Growth Math: Grade 7 (14, 48%); Grade 8 (21, 53%); Grade 9 (38, 61%); Grade 10 (44, 53%); and Grade 11 (39, 46%).
- Met Projected Growth Reading: Grade 7 (16, 55%); Grade 8 (15, 38%); Grade 9 (22, 35%); Grade 10 (33, 39%); and Grade 11 (31, 36%).
- Met Projected Growth Language Usage: Grade 7 (16, 55%); Grade 8 (25, 64%); Grade 9 (33, 52%); Grade 10 (47, 56%); and Grade 11 (49, 58%).

Donna noted that we would need to explain the lower reading results to the MCSC. Donna suggested that it would be good to know how many students were with us year over year.

NWEA Subgroup Comparisons (Christina O'Grady).

- Met RIT Growth Comparing General Education and Special Education. The growth gap (Gen. Ed. minus Sped. Ed.) for Math 12%; Reading -6%; and Language Usage -23%. Special Education

students outperformed their general education peers with respect to growth in two areas, Math and Language Usage.

- Met RIT Growth Comparing Students Without and With a Section 504 Plan. The growth gap (Without Section 504 Plan minus With Section 504 Plan) for Math 3%; Reading 4%; and Language Usage 5%. The growth gaps were relatively narrow between subgroups in all three areas.
- Met RIT Growth Comparing Students Without and With an Economic Disadvantage (ED). The growth gap (Without ED minus With ED) for Math 7%; Reading 7%; and Language Usage 5%. The growth gaps were relatively narrow between subgroups in all three areas.

Goals (Christina O'Grady).

- Create an individualized learning plan (ILP) for every student, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and designing a plan for filling skills gaps.
- Incorporating NWEA data in every classroom, using this data to inform instruction.
- Every teacher will be proficient in analyzing NWEA data and incorporating it into their classroom.

SY21/22 Mid-Year Performance Measures.

- Post 10/1 Retention: 93% (MCSC Target 85% or more).
- Re-Enrollment: In progress (MCSC Target 85% or more).
- Chronic Absenteeism, 12/31: 6.27% (MCSC Target 10% or fewer students).
- Schoolwide Passing Rate, S1: 82.4% (ESEA Target 80% or more).
- English Passing Rate, S1: 82.9% (ESEA Target 80% or more).
- Math Passing Rate, S1: 86% (ESEA Target 80% or more).
- S1 Graduates: 26 students. This school year we have served 105 seniors as of 2/13.

Progress towards graduation as of S1 – Percentages of students on track by grade level.

- Grade 9 - 96.9% (63/65\*).
- Grade 10 - 79.8% (71/89\*).
- Grade 11 - 86.5% (77/89\*).
- Grade 12 – 87.5% (84/96).
- Percentage of Seniors expected to graduate on time (4-year cohort) in 2022 - 91.8% (79/86).
- Credit Deficient Students will take Credit Recovery and Summer Courses.

\* Totals exclude students with no transfer transcripts.

The Effectiveness of the New Curricula on Student Growth – According to MEVA teachers, the following improvements were observed during Semester 1:

- Learner Engagement.
- Reconnecting with Learning.
- Flexibility to Differentiate.
- Creativity and Rigor.
- More relatable curriculum, less traditional (e.g., article about Mars in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English).

Support for Teachers on Using the New Curricula.

- Accelerate and SAVVAS Trainings.
- Great new tools, such as PearDeck to engage learners.
- Brightspace Trainings to fully utilize tools.
- Adjusting courses to suit NWEA and diagnostic data.

- Teachers training teachers.
- Carrying over courses from year to year.
- Ongoing (Weekly) Department Meeting Collaborations.
- Weekly Schoolwide Process Improvement Meetings for sharing results and proposing action steps.

#### Enrollment Updates.

- SY2022- 2023 Re-registration is February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 31<sup>st</sup>**, through 5:00 pm on **March 4<sup>th</sup>**.
- 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 25<sup>th</sup>** at Noon via Zoom to determine initial seat offers.
- As of February 14<sup>th</sup>, there were 22 new students in the Enrollment Tracker who are intending to enroll for SY2022-2023.

**Governance.** Donna requested that a second board member attend the upcoming MCSC Mid-Year Check In Meeting, scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1:00 pm. Peter offered to participate. Melinda committed to providing the Zoom Link after it was shared by the MCSC administration.

The board discussed the ESSER MOEquity Exemption Documentation recommendation from the MDOE.

- As a condition of receiving ESSER funding a district shall not, in FY2022 or FY2023: FISCAL - reduce per-pupil funding in any highpoverty school by an amount that exceeds the per-pupil funding reduction in all schools. STAFFING - reduce per-pupil full-time equivalent staff in any high-poverty school by an amount that exceeds the per pupil reduction in FTE staff in all schools.
- **LEAs that meet any of the exemption criteria are automatically excepted from ESSER MOEquity requirements.** – Such LEAs are not required to calculate fiscal or staffing equity, nor must they submit documentation to the state or the USDE to claim the exception. Exemption criteria are as follows:
  1. **Has a total enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students;**
  2. **Operates a single school;**
  3. Serves all students within each grade span with a single school; or
  4. Demonstrates an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance
- **However, USDE advises that automatically excepted LEAs maintain documentation supporting their exception in case it is requested during an audit or monitoring review.**

MEVA is exempt from ESSER MOEquity requirements, because our enrollment of 430 students is fewer than 1,000 students, and MEVA operates only one school for grades 7-12.

Donna inquired about the definition of ‘highpoverty,’ which refers to district schools in the lowest quartile.

Donna asked the board to review/discuss the following SY2021/2022 MEVA MDOE Required Policies:

- a. ACAD Hazing.
- b. AD Educational Philosophy/Mission.
- c. ADA School System Goals and Objectives.
- d. ADAA School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior.

- e. ADC Tobacco Use and Possession.
- f. ADC-R Tobacco Use and Possession Administrative Procedure.

Nick motioned to amend the agenda to group motion's a. through f. together. Peter seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Nick motioned to approve policies a. through f. together. Peter seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Donna said that the Chair of Maine Arts Academy was looking into health insurance for charter schools, as a united group. Donna said that she would share the cost analysis once she received it.

**Nominations of Professional Staff – SY2021/2022.** Melinda reported that Heather Tyler, Guidance Counselor, started on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and was serving students with last names beginning A-K.

**Public Discussion.** None.

**Executive Session.** Nick motioned to enter Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405, sub-§6, ¶A & ¶E to discuss employee compensation. 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 3:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mehry Mohammadi and Melinda Browne  
Secretary pro tempore