

## Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held May 16, 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, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Tina Meserve, and Peter Mills. Amy Carlisle and Nicholas “Nick” Gannon were excused. A quorum was present.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Mehry Mohammadi, Jillian Dearborn, and Jennifer Hight.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

### Opening Items.

**Approval of Minutes.** Tina motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meetings of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**Finance Report.** Jennifer presented the Quarter 3 FY 2023 financial summary: The new financial processes put into place in FY 2023 continue to run effectively. At the end of Quarter 3 for FY 2023 we show Revenue in Excess of Expenditures for the nine months ending 3/31/23 of \$640,012. We have utilized \$210,449 in ESSER money during FY 2023 YTD. Salaries and benefits remain our largest expense. Quarter 4 will have a large expense for summer salaries, estimated at approximately \$225,000. At this time, we are fully staffed and do not expect a change in personnel as we finish the 2022-2023 school year.

Tina asked about year-to-date figures for line items in comparison to budget. Jennifer explained the limitations of the Quick Books platform.

Tina motioned to approve the Quarter 3 FY 2023 financials. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Jennifer presented the budgets that were developed utilizing four workshops, with the following highlights:

- Budgeted income for 2023-2024 is \$5,265,147 an increase of \$89,884 over 2022-2023.
- We do not know how much the IDEA allocation is for 2023-2024 so we used the same amount as last year.
- Budgeted payroll and benefit related expenses increased by \$197,959 over 2023-2024. We have included a 2% increase in salaries.
- Budgeted Technology Related Software decreased by \$130,000.

Donna asked for confirmation that the budget included two new teaching positions. Dr. Browne said that the two additional teachers were there.

Tina motioned to approve the FY 2024 salary increase of two percent (2%) for all faculty. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve the FY 2024 budget. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve the FY 2024 and FY 2025 two-year budget. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

As a requirement of the new performance framework, MEVA needs to develop a three-year financial plan, approved by the governing board by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Jennifer asked Dr. Browne to check into the possibility of a deadline extension, given that training was not offered from the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) until late June.

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

Dr. Browne reported that MEVA was prioritizing teacher-developed courses. She outlined supplementary curriculum and virtual learning supports requested by the MEVA teachers that were included in the FY24 budget.

FY24 Supplementary Academic Curriculum:

- Newsela (literacy).
- IXL (math, literacy, science, and social studies).
- Soro (online books).
- Gizmos (online science labs).
- Flocabulary (literacy).
- Prodigy (math).
- NoRedInk (literacy).

FY24 Virtual Learning Supports:

- D2L Brightspace and Bongo Virtual Classroom.
- PearDeck.
- Screencastify.
- EdPuzzle.
- iReady Algebra Readiness Assessment.
- Aperture Education (DESSA) to measure twenty-first century skills and postsecondary readiness for upper-level high school students.
- Chalk (curriculum maps).
- Finalsite (website).

Dr. Browne informed the board that MEVA was making excellent progress towards meeting/exceeding all its SY-2022/2023 MCSC performance measures:

- Spring '23 Panorama Survey Participation, Meeting/Exceeding.
- Retention – 5/15, Exceeding.
- Re-Registration – 3/31, Exceeding.
- Spring '23 Assessment Plan – on track.
- Spring '23 NWEA Results, Meeting/Exceeding.
- Accuplacer Results – 5/10, Meeting/Exceeding.
- MEVA is Meeting/Exceeding our FY23 MCSC performance measures.

Spring 2023 – Panorama Survey – Final:

Participation Targets/Results:

- Family – 35%/62% (223/357).
- Student – 75%/78% (313/402).
- Teacher/Staff – 75%/100% (58/58).

- MEVA has exceeded the participation targets for all stakeholder groups within the three-week window, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 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.

Post 10/1 Retention – 5/15:

Grade	Withdrawals	10/1 Count	Retention
7	1	31	97%
8	7	56	88%
9	3	55	95%
10	5	85	94%
11	4	113	96%
12	0	98	100%
Total	20	438	95% (Exceeds)

In addition to Retention, the Re-Registration measure as of March 31<sup>st</sup> was also 95%, which exceeds the recurrent enrollment performance measure.

FY24 ESEA Grant Application:

- MEVA has a Schoolwide ESEA Program.
- MEVA completed an annual Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
- Previous ESEA application projects focused on providing remedial instruction via teachers and paraprofessionals, as well as professional development.
- The public comment period has closed.

MEVA’s Comprehensive Needs Assessment:

Growth:

- 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Math.

Achievement:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, Reading, and Language Usage.

Continuously Communicating Academic Progress:

- MEVA maintains strong communications with our students and families through continuous outreach.
- Students' academic progress is front and center.
- Our students are aware of the progress that they are making.
- Parents/Learning Coaches are kept in the loop and are enlisted as partners in the process. They frequently express gratitude for the MEVA team's efforts.

MCSC Recommendation from the (prior year) SY-2021/2022 Annual Monitoring Report:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH.

- Given the impact of the pandemic on academic growth, Maine Virtual Academy should develop clear and specific strategies for closing learning gaps to ensure students are prepared for rigorous academic work.
- *MEVA received no recommendations from the 2023 Mid-Year Check-In Meeting, which was a notable school achievement.*

MCSC Growth Target for SY-2022/2023 – Middle School:

- At least 45% of students in grades 7 & 8 (combined) will achieve their NWEA projected growth from fall to spring in math, reading, and language usage.
- Exceeding is 55% or higher.
- Approaching is reaching 35 – 44.9%.
- Not meeting is below 35%.

New MEVA Custom Target for SY-2022/2023 – NWEA:

- Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile on the MAP Student Growth Summary Report.
- Separate goals for each grade level (7, 8, 9, 10, & 11), a total of fifteen indicators/goals: The student median conditional growth percentile is the fiftieth (50th) or higher, as of the spring NWEA math, reading, and language usage, for each eligible grade level.

NWEA Data Analysis Strategies that MEVA will utilize to size up the Spring '23 performance:

- Median student Conditional Growth Percentile.
- Percentage of students who met their projected RIT growth.
- Subgroup performance: Special Education, Section 504, Economically Disadvantaged, Gender, and Ethnicity.
- Longitudinal data of cohorts.
- Individual course data.
- Data analysis typically considers subjects (i.e., math, reading, and language usage), grade levels, and longevity at MEVA.
- Efforts inform schoolwide collaboration and planning.

MEVA Spring '23 NWEA Results:

- MEVA is meeting/exceeding its performance measures for fall '22 to spring '23 growth on the NWEA math, reading, and language usage.
- MEVA subgroups are also meeting/exceeding the performance measures.
- MEVA's custom performance measures of student median conditional growth percentiles illuminate academic strengths and opportunities for our school.

## MCSC Performance Measure:

Spring NWEA (Fall to Spring) GROWTH Results as of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Middle School (MS) Percentage of Students Meeting Growth Projection.

Grade	Math %	Reading %	Language %
7	60.0%	50.0%	63.3%
8	68.9%	44.4%	53.3%
<b>MS Performance</b>	65.3% (Exceeds)	46.6% (Meets)	57.3% (Exceeds)

Exceeds = 55% or higher.

Meets = 45% to 54.9%.

Approaches = 35% to 44.9%.

Does Not Meet = Lower than 35%.

## SUBGROUPS

Spring NWEA (Fall to Spring) GROWTH Results as of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023Middle School (MS) Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students Meeting Growth Projection.

Grade	Math %	Reading %	Language %
7	67.0% (12/18)	61.0% (11/18)	56.0% (10/18)
8	61.0% (14/23)	35.0% (8/23)	61.0% (14/23)
<b>MS Performance</b>	63.4% (26/41) Exceeds	46.3% (19/41) Meets	58.5% (24/41) Exceeds

Middle School (MS) Percentage of Students with a 504 Plan Meeting Growth Projection.

Grade	Math %	Reading %	Language %
7	45.0% (5/11)	36.0% (4/11)	64.0% (7/11)
8	82.0% (9/11)	55.0% (6/11)	36.0% (4/11)
<b>MS Performance</b>	63.6% (14/22) Exceeds	45.5% (10/22) Meets	50.0% (11/22) Meets

Middle School (MS) Percentage of Students with an IEP Meeting Growth Projection.

Grade	Math %	Reading %	Language %
7	33.0% (1/3)	67.0% (2/3)	67.0% (2/3)
8	69.0% (11/16)	44.0% (7/16)	44.0% (7/16)
<b>MS Performance</b>	63.2% (12/19) Exceeds	47.4% (9/19) Meets	47.4% (9/19) Meets

Middle School (MS) Percentage of Students by Gender Meeting Growth Projection.

Grade	Math %	Reading %	Language %
7 – Male	60.0% (6/10)	20.0% (2/10)	70.0% (7/10)
8 – Male	64.0% (17/23)	43.0% (10/23)	61.0% (14/23)
<b>MS Performance</b>	69.7% (23/33) Exceeds	52.2% (12/33) Meets	63.6% (21/33) Exceeds
7 – Female	60.0% (12/20)	65.0% (13/20)	60.0% (12/20)
8 - Female	74.0% (14/22)	45.0% (10/22)	45.0% (10/22)
<b>MS Performance</b>	61.9% (26/42) Exceeds	54.8% (23/42) Meets	52.4% (22/42) Meets

Exceeds = 55% or higher.

Meets = 45% to 54.9%.

Approaches = 35% to 44.9%.

Does Not Meet = Lower than 35%.

MCSC Performance Measure – MEVA Custom Indicators:  
 Spring NWEA (Fall to Spring) GROWTH Results as of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
 Student Median Conditional GROWTH Percentile (MCGP).

Grade Performance	Math MCGP	Reading MCGP	Language MCGP
7	71 <sup>st</sup>	48 <sup>th</sup>	64 <sup>th</sup>
8	72 <sup>nd</sup>	42 <sup>nd</sup>	57 <sup>th</sup>
9	52 <sup>nd</sup>	37 <sup>th</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup>
10	42 <sup>nd</sup>	55 <sup>th</sup>	72 <sup>nd</sup>
11	70 <sup>th</sup>	53 <sup>rd</sup>	55 <sup>th</sup>

Exceeds = 66<sup>th</sup> %ile or higher.  
 Meets = 50<sup>th</sup> % to 65<sup>th</sup> %ile.  
 Approaches = 35<sup>th</sup> to 49<sup>th</sup> %ile.  
 Does Not Meet = Lower than 35<sup>th</sup> %ile.

Informational Data for Planning Purposes Only, not a Performance Measure:  
 Spring NWEA ACHIEVEMENT Results as of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
 Student Median ACHIEVEMENT Percentile by Grade Level.

Grade	Math Med. Ach. %ile	Reading Med. Ach. %ile	Language Med. Ach. %ile
7	43 <sup>rd</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup>	58 <sup>th</sup>
8	39 <sup>th</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>	48 <sup>th</sup>
9	51 <sup>st</sup>	54 <sup>th</sup>	51 <sup>st</sup>
10	58 <sup>th</sup>	64 <sup>th</sup>	59 <sup>th</sup>
11	56 <sup>th</sup>	62 <sup>nd</sup>	57 <sup>th</sup>

Exceeds - 61<sup>st</sup> or above.  
 Meets – 50<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup>.  
 Approaches – 35<sup>th</sup> to 49<sup>th</sup>.  
 Does Not Meet – Below 35<sup>th</sup>.

Final Spring '23 NWEA Participation Numbers – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Spring 2022-2023							
	Math	Reading	Language		Math	Reading	Language
7th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	7th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
8th Grade	92.6%	92.6%	92.6%	8th Grade	92.6%	92.6%	92.6%
9th Grade	95.2%	93.5%	95.2%	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>96.3%</b>
10th Grade	94.6%	93.5%	92.5%				
11th Grade	95.3%	94.4%	94.4%				
<b>Schoolwide</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>				

May 10, 2023, Accuplacer Data with Cut Scores of Reading-239, and Math-226.

Subgroup	College-Ready Reading	College-Ready Math

With 504 Plan	49/54 = 90.7%	50/54 = 92.6%
Without 504 Plan	94/110 = 85.5%	99/110 = 90.0%
Delta	+5.2% (Meets)	+2.6% (Meets)
Special Education (SE)	14/19 = 73.7%	14/19 = 73.7%
Non-SE	129/145 = 89.0%	135/145 = 93.1%
Delta	-15.3% (Does Not Meet)	-19.4% (Does Not Meet)
Male	64/72 = 88.9%	68/72 = 94.4%
Female	79/92 = 85.9%	81/92 = 88.0%
Delta	-3.0% (Meets)	-6.4% (Meets)
Economically Disadvantaged	51/60 = 85.0%	56/60 = 93.3%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	92/104 = 88.5%	93/104 = 89.4%
Delta	+3.5% (Meets)	-3.9% (Meets)
Total	143/164 = 87.2% (Exceeds)	149/164 = 90.9% (Exceeds)

#### Accuplacer Results Analysis:

- Overall, MEVA is meeting this new Accuplacer performance measure in both reading and math, which is non-binding for SY-2022/2023.
- MEVA is meeting the Accuplacer subgroup comparison measures, except for the disparity between special education (SE) and non-SE students.
- The Accuplacer subgroup disparity target will (likely) be dropped from the framework, replaced by the requirement that each subgroup attains the 75% college-ready threshold.
- However, the MEVA SE team is focused on closing the gap by offering individual and small group remediation during Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) sessions.

Donna commented that the MEVA faculty should be very happy about the school's performance results.

Dr. Browne outlined MEVA's plans for moving forward into SY-2023/2024:

- Curriculum Maps/Standards Alignment.
- Continuous Assessment Plan.

9/11 - 9/15: NWEA MAP Growth (Fall).

10/10 - 10/13: Fall MEA Reading & Math (In Person).

1/9 - 1/12: NWEA MAP Growth (Winter).

4/29 - 5/3: NWEA MAP Growth (Spring).

5/13 - 5/17: Spring MEA Reading & Math (In Person).

5/20 - 5/24: MEA Science (In Person).

Graduating students will complete the Accuplacer reading and math throughout the school year. Teachers will employ diagnostic and pre/post assessments.

- Professional Development (PD).

PD Priorities are data-analysis, data-driven instruction, leveled learning targets, and course design.

New Initiatives for the Coming School Year (SY-2023/2024):

- Continue to focus on academics by expanding Response to Intervention (RTI) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to bolster students’ growth and achievement.
- Strengthen our grade-level advisory groups. MEVA has prioritized the eighth-grade advisory this school year, and our efforts appear to make a difference in students’ retention, continuity of enrollment (re-registration), and participation in state and local assessments, as well as academic growth and achievement.
- Professional Learning Community (PLC) to develop pre/post lesson/unit assessments.

Dr. Browne reported that MEVA’s Spring ’23 Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) effort is off to a strong start, thanks to our dedicated faculty.

Spring 2023 MEA Launch:

- 5/15 - 5/19: Spring MEA Reading & Math (In Person), Grades 7, 8 &10.

First Day (5/15) Testing Participation.

Math:

- Schoolwide: 48.3%.

Reading:

- Schoolwide: 47.8%.
- 5/22 - 5/26: MEA Science (In Person), Grades 8 & 11.

MEA Day Two Observations:

- Day two has strong participation.
- Today, the Maine Department of Education visited the morning Augusta session and commented that the MEVA testing project was an exemplar for other schools.
- Overall, so far, we have had very few no-shows across the eight testing locations.
- We are offering individual and small group (in-person) make up sessions as needed.

SY-2023/2024 New Enrollment Update 5/16:

- Seat Offers Made: 43 open seat offers, 13 new applications in the last two weeks.
- Families Actively working their application: 30.
- School Approvals: 60 have been approved. Acceptances are 20% ahead of this time last year.
- We are on track to have a full school by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

SY-2023/2024 Accepted Students by Grade Level – 5/15:

Grade	Accepted
7	10
8	14
9	10
10	13
11	5
12	8



Total	60
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## Governance.

Dr. Browne presented the Strategic Plan priorities:

- Access – Removing impediments to education for diverse students who need alternatives.
- Instruction – Developing the data-driven instructional practices of fully staffed co-teaching teams and lowering student-teacher ratios.
- Remediation – Addressing students’ individual gaps/needs through individualized interventions, Title IA, special education, and summer programming.
- Postsecondary Transition – Connecting students to career readiness activities and early college studies.
- Service – Focusing our technology and communications on meeting the needs and expectations of our students and parents/Learning Coaches.

Stacey motioned to approve the MEVA Strategic Plan. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Dr. Browne presented the ESSER compliance items, required by the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) and federal government.

ESSER Compliance:

- ESSER Continuity of Education Plan.
- ESSER Use of Funds Plan.
- Documented Review every six months (e.g., May and November).
- Both Plans and Last Review Date Posted on the MEVA websites.

ARP (ESSER III) Use of Funds Plan for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA):

Utilizing meaningful consultation with stakeholders, MEVA developed the following three priorities for the use of ARP ESSER funds. These priorities provide/facilitate:

- Data-driven, targeted instruction/interventions by co-teaching teams to address students’ achievement gaps.
- Students’ college/career readiness.
- Functional/social/emotional supports for students and strong communications with families.
- MEVA’s reservation to address the impact of lost instructional time will be utilized for the following evidence-based interventions:
- Summer Programming.
- Class-Size Reduction.

The remaining ARP ESSER Funds will support projects focusing on expanding/improving:

- School Counseling and Related Services.
- Facilities (Safety).
- Educational Technology.
- Family Communications.

ARP (ESSER III) Continuity of Education Plan for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA):

- MEVA is continuing its remote learning model in accordance with our mission and vision. MEVA is providing our teachers with two weeks of professional development/preparation prior to the first day of school.

- MEVA is communicating with families via emails, newsletters, and onboarding sessions. There are no changes to students' and families' experiences within their academic schedules, because of the pandemic (COVID-19).
- MEVA is expanding its remote instructional model to the summer for tutoring and credit recovery courses. The summer session addresses students' learning losses through targeted skills development informed by course grades and assessments. The school calendar includes the Summer Session dates.
- As usual, MEVA is administering the fall NWEAs, math, reading and language usage sections, during September, to establish an academic baseline for our students in grades 7 – 11. MEVA also plans to administer the NWEAs during the Winter in January, and Spring in May, as scheduled.
- For grade 12 students, seniors, MEVA will assess their progress towards graduation and postsecondary plans on an individual basis during the early fall and provide interventions as needed.
- MEVA administers school climate surveys to students, parents, teachers, and staff throughout the school year. The data informs our continuous school improvement efforts.

In accordance with the agenda, the board considered the Job Descriptions. Tina motioned to group job descriptions a – d. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve job descriptions a – d. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved.

**Public Discussion.** None.

**Adjournment.** Stacey motioned to adjourn. Peter seconded. All in favor, so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jillian Dearborn and Melinda Browne  
Secretary pro tempore