

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 23, 2024

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, January 23rd, 2024. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Nicholas “Nick” Gannon, and Susan Walters. Tina Meserve was excused. A quorum was present.

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

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes. Nick motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meetings of December 19th, 2023. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report. Jennifer Hight, CPA, presented the finance report.

FY24 Quarter 2 Financials.

2nd Qtr. 2023-2024 Financial Summary: MEVA shows a surplus of \$473,546 for the six months ended December 31, 2023. We have utilized \$125,388 in ESSER III revenue for this fiscal year to date. These funds were used to pay salaries for summer school and curriculum development. Salaries and benefits remain our largest expense. As of December 31st we had 59.5 employees made up of 10 Administrative positions and 49.5 Teachers/Ed-Techs. Our audit performed by Wipfli is complete and was approved by the Board of Directors at our December meeting. Our Form 990 is also complete and is presented at the January 2024 board meeting for approval.

Donna asked, with the health insurance increase, how much does that impact the finance report? Jennifer said that this report ends in December. It only shows two bills on there right now. Jen stated that things will balance out since we over budgeted in prior months.

Donna asked about the approximate remaining funds within ESSER. After she completed a quick calculation, MEVA has about \$675K remaining. Jen replied that we did budget \$30K for facility improvements from ESSER III and will find ways to meet any facility needs.

Jennifer informed the board, about \$100k was set aside for student technologies. We can use up the remaining \$50k for these needs. A little over \$420k was also set aside for salaries. Dr. Browne said that grant monies will need to be moved around and evaluated in another workshop.

Susan asked, where we are now in the year do we feel too crunched on spending? Jennifer answered, we never intended/planned to spend all the federal relief monies; it is not going to happen. Last year we looked at the budget and there is money being spent that fits the ESSER criteria. Most schools wait until closer to the end of the school year to accurately budget. Nick asked if the ESSER III budget met the criteria for addressing students’ learning loss. Dr. Browne confirmed that MEVA’s budgeted projects and actual expenditures were compliant with this requirement.

Nick motioned to approve the FY24 Quarter 2 Financials. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

FY23 Form 990.

Jennifer noted that the FY23 Form 990 matched the audit and looked good.

Nick motioned to approve the FY23 Form 990. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

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

SY-2023/2024 Progress:

- MEVA is currently on track to meet all our schoolwide performance measures.
- MEVA’s mid-year check-in meeting with the MCSC is on February 12th at 1:00 pm. We are assembling academic, operational, and financial data.
- We administered the Winter NWEA MAP Growth math, reading, and language usage to grades seven through eleven (7-11) on January 9th, 10th, and 11th, followed by four (4) make up days. We closed the testing window on January 19th.

Winter NWEA MAP Growth:

- We assessed 370 students in grades 7-11 during the Winter NWEA testing window.
- 330 students had a fall & winter score which allows growth to be measured.
- Our overall testing percentages were 97.9% for math, 96.6% for reading, and 96.4% for language usage.

Winter NWEA MAP Growth Participation:

Winter 2023-2024							
	Math	Reading	Language		Math	Reading	Language
7th Grade	96.3%	96.3%	96.3%	7th Grade	96.3%	96.3%	96.3%
8th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	98.6%	8th Grade	100.0%	100.0%	98.6%
9th Grade	97.7%	96.6%	96.6%	7th & 8th Grade Cumulative	98.97%	98.97%	97.94%
10th Grade	97.7%	96.6%	95.5%				
11th Grade	97.3%	94.6%	95.5%				
Schoolwide	97.9%	96.6%	96.4%	10th Grade	97.7%	96.6%	95.5%
				Cumulative %	98.2%	98.0%	97.1%

Winter 2024 – January 20, 2024

MEVA’s Custom MAP Growth Performance Measure – Median Growth Percentile (%ile)

Exceeds 66th %ile or higher.

Meets 50th – 65th %ile.

Approaches 35th – 49th %ile.

Does Not Meet 34th %ile or lower.

Grade	Math %ile	Reading %ile	Language %ile
7	49 th	54 th	65 th
8	62 nd	34 th	47 th
9	78 th	66 th	52 nd
10	42 nd	62 nd	49 th
11	45 th	55 th	45 th

Overall	54th %ile (Meets)	54th %ile (Meets)	49th %ile (Approaches)
----------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

MCSC MAP Growth Performance Measure – Percentage Reaching Projected RIT Target Exceeds 55th % or higher.

Meets 45th – 54.9 %.

Approaches 35 – 44.9 %.

Does Not Meet 34.9% or lower.

Grade	Math %	Reading %	Language %
7	57	57	55
8	64	45	48
Overall	61.8% (Exceeds)	48.3% (Meets)	49.4% (Meets)

Middle School (Grades 7 & 8) Subgroups:

Program	Math %	Reading %	Language %
Special Education	45.8% (Meets)	45.8% (Meets)	29.2% (Does Not Meet)
Section 504	60.9% (Meets)	34.8% (Does Not Meet)	52.4% (Meets)
Economically Disadvantaged	61.9% (Meets)	47.6% (Meets)	48.8% (Meets)
Female	64.2% (Meets)	50.9% (Meets)	50.0% (Meets)
Male	58.3% (Meets)	44.4% (Approaches)	48.6% (Meets)

MCSC NWEA MAP Growth Performance Measures:

- We are trending towards meeting our NWEA MAP growth performance measures.
- Results suggest that MEVA’s MTSS Process is making a positive impact.
- MTSS focused on students below the thirtieth (30th) percentile in math and/or English.
- The most widely applied intervention by teachers is practice, practice, practice.
- Our overall winter performance is better than prior years, especially in reading.
- Many thanks to the dedicated efforts of our entire faculty. Everyone’s contribution matters.
- Well done everyone!

NWEA Cohort Comparisons:

Meeting Projected RIT - Math										
	Winter 2020		Winter 2021		Winter 2022		Winter 2023		Winter 2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Averages	24	53%	36	58%	31	52%	33	55%	37	57%
Grade 7	15	54%	26	58%	14	48%	19	63%	13	57%
Grade 8	18	45%	33	55%	21	53%	29	60%	42	64%
Grade 9	33	61%	43	64%	38	61%	28	53%	48	66%
Grade 10	27	47%	35	49%	44	53%	34	44%	34	47%
Grade 11	29	60%	41	66%	39	46%	54	57%	47	49%

Meeting Projected RIT - Reading

	Winter 2020		Winter 2021		Winter 2022		Winter 2023		Winter 2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Averages	18	41%	27	44%	23	41%	32	49%	36	55%
Grade 7	11	39%	17	39%	16	55%	12	33%	13	57%
Grade 8	13	34%	24	39%	15	38%	23	41%	30	45%
Grade 9	24	46%	27	42%	22	35%	29	54%	45	63%
Grade 10	21	36%	39	55%	33	39%	43	61%	40	56%
Grade 11	23	48%	28	46%	31	36%	51	57%	51	55%

Meeting Projected RIT - Language Usage

	Winter 2020		Winter 2021		Winter 2022		Winter 2023		Winter 2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Averages	16	37%	27	46%	34	57%	34	56%	32	51%
Grade 7	9	33%	18	42%	16	55%	19	63%	12	55%
Grade 8	13	35%	32	52%	25	64%	22	46%	31	48%
Grade 9	21	42%	35	55%	33	52%	31	58%	39	54%
Grade 10	18	33%	26	40%	47	56%	45	58%	36	52%
Grade 11	20	43%	25	40%	49	58%	52	55%	43	46%

Donna asked if this NWEA data were reviewed with staff and asked for what the staff uses the information? Dr. Browne stated, yes, all this information is shared with staff. MEVA has an MTSS process, and it enlists all teachers’ involvement. The results inform targeted instruction for all the groups. Donna asked if we drill down into the data, to individual students. Dr. Browne said, yes, we look at both general instruction and drill down to the individual. The MTSS process has improved teaching overall. We are tracking individual interventions with students and are looking to see which has the biggest impact on students’ performance. We thank all the faculty for the concerted effort to get this done. Donna said, very nice work by school staff!

Stacey Blanchard asked, did prior test sessions show a drop in scores? Dr. Browne replied, yes, as result of the covid group/years. With this group of students, it is getting better, and we are seeing the gap close, turning the corner.

Dr. Browne reported that preparations are taking place for the midyear check-in meeting with the Maine Charter School Commission. Donna confirmed that Stacey Blanchard can attend the meeting. Stacey mentioned that there are issues with her email inbox/spam. As a result, Dr. Browne will resend the invitation to Stacey.

Governance.

SY 2024/25 Program of Studies.

Dr. Browne reported that the program of studies document accomplishes one of the board's SY2023/2024 goals. The approved document will be posted on the school's websites and sent to families.

Donna said this program of studies is in-depth with lots of info and is very clear. Thanks to Melinda for the work on this with staff.

Nick motioned to approve the SY 2024/25 Program of Studies. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

SY 2024/25 Parent-Student Handbook.

Stacey asked, if we approve the parent-student handbook now can we amend something later and reapprove it? Dr. Browne replied, yes, and we always bring this manual back in August for any additional adjustments, prior to the first day of school.

Nick motioned to approve the SY 2024/25 Parent-Student Handbook. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Public Discussion.

Donna asked if anyone was interested in joining the FY25 budget development workshops to let us know so invitations can be sent by Dr. Browne. Dr. Browne committed to scheduling the workshops, with the first one in February.

The next governing board meeting is on Tuesday, February 27th, at 3:00 pm, via Zoom.

Adjournment. Stacey motioned, and moved, to adjourn. Nick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore