

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held April 23, 2019

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened at 2:00 PM April 23, 2019, in the Maine Virtual Academy offices in Augusta. Members attending in person were Peter Mills, Ed LeBlanc and Donna Madore. Amy Carlisle attended by phone

Also attending in person were Melinda Browne, Jillian Dearborn, Chelsea Osgood (Junior High Social Studies), Patti Ashley from K12 accounting, Jennifer Hight, and Attorney Bill Ferdinand. Attending by phone were Rick McCarthy and Ken Meyer from K12 (for the beginning of the meeting).

Legislative Report

Bill Ferdinand said that 60 schools in Maine use the NWEA to measure growth. Growth is what the Commission wants to see. Parents and students must be encouraged to participate fully in the NWEA assessments. The National Association of Charter School Authorizers is warning against virtual schools. Amy suggested that we consider how to hire people who can improve student growth.

Bill said the Ed Committee is questioning why we need two virtual schools. Connections has 40% disadvantaged students. MEVA has 60%. MeVA is regarded as highly compliant with the Commission. Connections is less so. Donna suggested that we survey all four of our graduating classes.

Minutes for the meeting of March 19, 2019, were approved.

Finance: At Jennifer's suggestion, we asked Jillian to prepare a meal reimbursement policy for occasions when teachers take meals while traveling. Peter agreed to get a rent number from the building owner so that we may consider whether to rent the unoccupied space in the west wing. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, the financial package distributed today was unanimously approved.

Head of School Report

The Charter Commission will visit us on May 30 and may bring some outside evaluators. The Commission is developing a universal performance framework for all charter schools. After a long discussion about proposed new standards, we agreed to defer commenting.

Upon motion by Peter, seconded by Ed, the school calendar for next year was approved. Graduation for 55 of our seniors is at 2 PM on June 8 at the Civic Center. Today, Fadia is monitoring makeup SATs in Bangor.

For the coming year, 55% of our enrollees are economically disadvantaged. 90% of the families have filled out forms. 86% are coming back. 2% remain undecided. 5% are unknown. We have 96 open slots. We are trying fill many of them with 7th and 8th graders.

For staffing next year, Melinda recommends hiring another Special Ed teacher to make a total of five. Upon motion by Peter, seconded by Ed, we unanimously approved.

Melinda has appointed four teacher Data Leaders, one for each department. They will do the work during the year for no extra compensation, but in the summer, their stipends will be an allowed expense for math and reading under ESSA.

At 3:33 PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mills, Secretary