

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held February 23, 2016

Pursuant to email and public website notices a meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened by President Amy Carlisle in the MEVA Conference Room in Augusta at 1:00 PM. Attending were Directors Amy Carlisle, Ed LeBlanc, Virginia Smith and Kevin Pomerleau (by phone). Absent was Peter Mills. Also present were Melinda Browne, Jennifer Hight, Sarah Berger, David Jenkins, Kim Whitman, Jessie Thoman, and Katy Wormwood. Kim Quinn Hutchinson participated by phone.

Approval of past minutes was tabled until the March meeting.

Head of School report:

Leadership transition is going well. Faculty and staff have been extremely helpful. Melinda has prioritized regular and quality communication. She has sent an email to all the seniors who are on track and is talking to parents as well. The problem with state SAT testing has been resolved. The date is April 12th and the make up date is April 27th. Amy suggested doing a meet up with pizza for the grade cohort after testing is concluded.

Melinda has met with Bob Kautz and Gina Post from the Commission staff and with Roberta Lukas who is the Special Ed contact person. Bob and Gina reviewed many different compliance tasks, including what we need to plan for as end of year reports.

March 1st commission meeting:

Karl Francis from Connections will join Melinda for a truancy workshop with Shelley Reed after the meeting.

11 students are on track to graduate. Each student has an ILP. Only one does not have a plan for work or post secondary education. One has been accepted at Northern Maine Community College. Pathfinder is the new Naviance type software. Sarah will get some training for Kipp and other staff who need to work with it.

K12 has been a tremendous resource, working with Jessie to streamline systems.

Finance report:

Our budget is now properly uploaded into the new K12 system. Teacher bonuses are being accrued. Student side is coming in under what we projected.

Financial operations are in a good place. Still need some back end adjustments. Kim Whitman is being trained to work with accounting.

Upon motion by Ed seconded by Kevin, the 2nd quarter financials were unanimously approved.

Jessie's Program Manager Report:

MEVA Enrollment is at 292 students. 12 students withdrew in February. 10 of these were going back to second semester at their sending districts, but we could not withdraw them until all 2nd semester grades were in.

Technical issues with NWEA testing were on the student side and not on MEVA's side. Teachers knowing how to do some trouble shooting will help minimize these.

91 students did not test either because of no shows, truancy, tech issues on a student's computer, illness, or travel difficulty. Teachers called the students who were not there. Jessie has all the data in a large spreadsheet.

Language assessments are tomorrow. They can come back in and finish math or reading if they need it. Jessie will proctor some of the makeups.

A survey went to teachers for feedback on NWEAs and Jessie has gotten some great ideas. Amy requested that data from NWEA Fall and Winter reports be shared with the board. The high school passing rate is 70%.

We are working on using data to help students who are failing classes. A call plan will be put in place after we have adopted the attendance and truancy policy. We are working with MS students who are behind in progress.

Discussion on Attendance and FAST process update:

23 students have been referred. Three withdrew. Two we have not been able to contact. Three were closed successfully. 15 are presently participating in active plans.

Upon motion by Ginny, seconded by Ed, it was unanimously voted to approve the proposed Attendance Policy with these changes: Move the engagement section out of attendance into a separate section and add a statement that an absentee record of more than 20%, even if excused, generates the need for a team meeting.

There was discussion on the process for Internet reimbursement process.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted



Peter Mills, Secretary