

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held September 21, 2021

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, September 21, 2021. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Ed LeBlanc, Nicholas Gannon, and Amy Carlisle. Peter Mills was excused.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Lena Vitagliano, Christina O'Grady, Cheryl Brigham, Chelsea Osgood, Nicole Taylor, Mehry Mohammadi, Stephanie Emery, Jennifer Clark, Dan Pierce, and Holly Chapdelaine

Attending from Stride was Todd McIntire.

Attending from other organizations was Lisa Plimpton.

Minutes. Upon motion by Nicholas, seconded by Ed, minutes for the meeting of August 17, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Presentation. Lisa Plimpton presented the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Third-Party Evaluation Report, August 2021 that included feedback from teachers and recent graduates and offered the following four recommendations:

1. Address faculty suggestions for improving online school
2. Make Individual Learning Plans universal & more robust
3. High school curriculum & advising: Encourage more students to take Algebra 2 and to take a math course (including personal finance) senior year; Chemistry or Physics for more students; Offer foreign language and/or ASL courses; Improve faculty awareness of and student advising on career-oriented course options; Continue to increase college course enrollment;
4. Review alignment with the Maine Learning Standards.

Upon motion by Nicholas, seconded by Ed, the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Third-Party Evaluation Report, August 2021, was unanimously approved.

Donna Pelletier thanked Lisa for her dedicated efforts to provide valuable information to inform school improvement.

Finance. Option/suggestion for quarterly vs monthly financial reports to the Board: the suggestion was made by Jennifer Height (She was not present but provided notes to Melinda to discuss with the Board), noting that the Charter Commission requested financial information quarterly. Nicholas inquired about getting a monthly summary, as well as the quarterly reports. Ed, Amy, Nicholas discussed further and determined they still wanted monthly summary reports in addition to the quarterly submissions to the Charter Commission.

The audit has taken place. Jennifer spoke with Danielle (WiplFli) and she is in the process of reviewing the workpapers and will be in touch shortly with some additional requests. This is the earliest we have been able to have this done for the past several years. Our pre-audit figures show a net surplus of \$63,000 for FY '21.

The final 2 CRF invoices are in final review with the State. They have been in touch with a couple of questions, but Jennifer believes that we should be receiving payment at any time. In total we spent the following:

CRF #1: \$222,810.53 of a total award of \$262,310.57.

CRF #2: \$279,051.44 (we spent the total award).

Administration. Melinda presented the SY2021/2022 Launch Update:

- MEVA has launched its new platforms. All students have access.
- The Brightspace platform is working well. We are continuing to adjust to the new virtual classroom (Bongo) and adjust practices to suit. Pear Deck provides an alternative to Breakout Rooms.
- The Accelerate content is the best fit with Brightspace. The SAVVAS content requires a greater effort to facilitate.
- We are implementing quality control to ensure that NoteBooks For Students (NFS) laptops are ready for students to use.
- In progress are the new website and student information system (Infinite Campus). Projects are moving forward.
- We are implementing Class (for Zoom) and GoGuardian.
- The MEVA faculty are discussing implementation strategies at our weekly Process Improvement Meeting and department meetings.

Melinda presented the Enrollment Update:

- MEVA has attained our enrollment cap.
- Pre-Oct. 1st Retention is nearly the same as last year.
- Patterns of withdrawn students returning/enrolling are becoming evident.
- The Public Law, Ch. 154 (introduced as LD798) is a factor. Awaiting MDOE guidance on withdrawal codes for noncompliant students.
- Mid-year enrollments are planned to begin in January 2022.

Governance. All board members acknowledged the annual renewal of the Fifth Renewal of Contract for School-Based Physician Services, Maine General Hospital. Prior to the meeting, the board reviewed MEVA's Emergency Management Plan.

Upon motion by Nicholas, seconded by Ed, MEVA's Emergency Management Plan, was unanimously approved.

Nominations of Professional Staff – SY2021/2022. Melinda presented the new hires: Daniel Pierce, Guidance Counselor, and Denise Harlow, Special Education Ed Tech III.

Adjournment. Upon motion by Nicholas, seconded by Ed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore