

## Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held July 20, 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, July 20, 2021. Board members attending were Amy Carlisle, Donna Pelletier, Kim Whitman, and Ed LeBlanc. Peter Mills was excused.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Jennifer Hight, Donald Fournier, Jillian Dearborn, Lena Vitagliano, Christina O'Grady, Mehry Mohammadi, Stephanie Emery, Jennifer Clark, and Joel Randazza.

Attending from Stride were Todd McIntire and Beth Perry.

Attending from other organizations were Bill Ferdinand and Nicholas Gannon.

**Minutes.** Upon motion by Kim, seconded by Ed, minutes for the meeting of June 15, 2021, were unanimously approved.

**Presentation.** Bill Ferdinand of Eaton Peabody presented a legislative update. Bill highlighted several studies that were planned by the legislature. The Maine Education Policy Research Institute was the likely venue to conduct the research on virtual education, and charter school funding and reporting.

**Finance.** Jennifer Hight reported that MEVA would likely conclude FY21 with a \$51-56K deficit, which was within the budgeted \$80K (deficit) range. At their August 2020 meeting, the MEVA governing board had approved utilizing \$80K from the fund balance to cover the FY21 budget shortfall. Jennifer noted that during SY2020/2021, Stride, Inc. had collected 15% fees on the COVID monies. Todd McIntire (Stride, Inc.) made the point that Stride was amendable to amending the Educational Products and Services Agreement (EPSA 2021) to remove MEVA's federal relief funds from the definition of revenues. The current EPSA 2021 that went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, allowed Stride to collect 11% (4% administrative plus 7% technology) fees of all MEVA's revenues.

Upon motion by Kim, seconded by Ed, the FY21 Quarter-4 Financials was unanimously approved.

Jennifer informed the board that the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) was raising its fees from 2.25% to 2.35% for FY22. MEVA's new accounting system (QuickBooks) was up and running. The FY21 Audit was scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. The auditor's estimated fees were higher this year due to the extra reports associated with MEVA's usage of federal grants.

The board asked Melinda to schedule a workshop to discuss MEVA's FY22 budget.

**Administration.** To address students' learning losses due to the pandemic (COVID-19), Melinda presented updates to the Strategic Plan that included:

- Developing teachers' practices in data-driven instruction and co-teaching practices.
- Accelerating learning through instructional approaches (co-teaching, instructional maps, fall/winter/spring NWEAs, and formative assessments), tutoring, and expanding learning time (vacations/summer).
- Supporting equitable access and effective use of technology (MEVA computers, D2L/Brightspace learning management system, flexible course offerings, and low-bandwidth virtual instruction).
- Lowering student/teacher ratios schoolwide.
- Expanding students' access to school counseling and college/career planning (readiness courses/advisories and work study).

- Seeking meaningful consultation with outside groups/agencies to identify students' and families' needs.

These projects may be funded by ESSER III for which MEVA has received \$571,453.94, substantially approved (by the MDOE). The full grant is \$857,180.96. The ESSER III Application is open and due by 9/30/2021. At least 20% shall be dedicated to addressing students' learning losses.

Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Ed, the updated MEVA Strategic Plan was unanimously approved.

Melinda provided an enrollment update. MEVA was reaching out to families impacted by LD 798, Maine Immunization Requirements, which go into effect on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**Seeking Stakeholder Comments on the ESSER III Grant.** As a compliance matter, Melinda formally requested stakeholder feedback to inform the development of the ESSER III Application.

**Governance.** Donna thanked Amy for all her efforts over the past years to bring MEVA live and thanked Peter for his work producing the board meeting minutes. Per the board members' request, Donna committed to resending the Board Self Evaluation, with instructions for board members to email their completed documents to Jillian.

**Resignations and Retirements.** The board acknowledged that Danielle Pouzol, Special Education Teacher, had resigned from MEVA due to her employment at another Maine public school district.

**Prospective Board Member.** Donna introduced Nicholas "Nick" Gannon who was considering joining the MEVA governing board. Donna gave Nick an opportunity to ask questions. Nick committed to attending the next meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, when the board planned to vote on his appointment.

**Executive Session** At 2:50 PM, upon motion by Amy, seconded by Ed, it was unanimously voted to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) to discuss an employee evaluation.

At 3:20 PM the Executive Session was terminated. Upon motion by Ed, seconded by Kim, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jillian Dearborn and Melinda Browne  
Secretary pro tempore