

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held November 15, 2022

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, November 15th, 2022. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, Amy Carlisle, Nicholas “Nick” Gannon, Tina Meserve, and Peter Mills. A quorum was present.

Attending from MEVA were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Christina O'Grady, Chelsea Osgood, Stephanie Emery, Lena Vitagliano, Mehry Mohammadi, and Jillian Dearborn.

Attending from Stride were Todd McIntire and Tom Travia.

Attending from Clark Insurance Agency was Chad Cote.

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes. Nick motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of October 18th, 2022. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

FY22 Audit. Dr. Browne reported that the FY22 Audit was about 99% complete. The auditors planned to present their report during the December 20th board meeting.

FY23 Quarter One (Q1) Report. Jennifer Hight was not available to attend the meeting, but she was aiming to present the first quarter financials at next meeting.

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

Dr. Browne shared the results of the Thriving Pulse Check (TPC) Survey with the board. The TPC Survey was new this year from Stride, Inc., focusing on surrounding general work climate questions. All MEVA's faculty, including teachers, staff, and administrators, were sent the TPC Survey to complete back in September.

Amy and Donna both vocalized that the results were great, along with the participation from staff. Amy mentioned that having these surveys was excellent. She expressed that most employers in the current work climate were having an exceptionally challenging time in getting good results or good participation. Amy was very happy with the results as they were positive and showed an overall good work climate and employee satisfaction at MEVA. Donna also agreed.

TPC Purpose & Definition.

- Thriving is an individual effort and influenced by group dynamics. Utilizing top-two-box scoring on a seven-point scale, the *Thriving Pulse Check (TPC) survey* identified five key elements of thriving and informed the development of relevant professional development and resources for-employees.
- 65.5% of faculty at MEVA completed the survey, during the window September 26th -30th. Participation equated to thirty-eight (38) people total.

- Five Key Elements of Thriving at Work (*Percentage of MEVA faculty who selected the top-two boxes on a seven-point scale*).
- 1. Collaborative Balance- healthy, two-way communication from key stakeholders and transparency that deepens the level of trust and sense of personal value (72%).
- 2. Meaningful Empowerment- capacity building opportunities to develop new knowledge, create healthy workflows, and innovative solutions (90%).
- 3. Feeling Energized- being supported to grow professionally and personally (78%).
- 4. Prioritizing Deep Work- value being communicated between colleagues while promoting development of new skills and intentionally measured outcomes (91%).
- 5. Deep Satisfaction- over contentment with your job that supports a sense of purpose, overall life satisfaction, and mutual feelings of respect (75%).
 - The TPC Survey will be administered again February 13th – 17th, 2023, and May 2023.
 - MEVA faculty will also complete the MCSC Panorama School Climate Survey in May 2023.

MCSC Annual Monitoring.

- The MCSC approved MEVA's preliminary SY-2021/2022 Annual Monitoring Report at their November 8th Business Meeting.
- MEVA met or partially met all its performance measures except for two items under NWEA MAP growth.
- As a result, MEVA received only one recommendation for SY-2022/2023.
- MEVA's highest priority is to achieve our student growth and achievement targets by the end of the current school year.
- MEVA is on track to meet its other performance measures.
- Our weekly Process Improvement Meetings highlight our progress to faculty.

MCSC Recommendation from the SY-2021/2022 Annual Monitoring Report.

- **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH:** Given the impact of the pandemic on academic growth, Maine Virtual Academy should develop clear and specific strategies for closing learning gaps to ensure students are prepared for rigorous academic work.

Strategy: MEVA Access/Engagement Initiatives.

1. Encourage students to frequently check their school g-mails.
2. Perform technology checks in multiple venues.
3. Call team meetings with parents and teachers for struggling students at the earliest possible juncture.
4. Maintain parent involvement by regularly following up.
 - We are developing the BEST virtual teachers in the state at MEVA. Our task is to get students to access our instruction and engage in learning.
 - Along with professional development and curriculum mapping, this is our basic strategy to encourage/ensure students' academic growth and college readiness, as measured by the NWEA and Accuplacer.

New MCSC Performance Measures: NWEA.

- Fall to Spring Growth, Grades 7 & 8: School will meet the goal of 60%-70% of eligible students meeting their projected growth on NWEA MAP reading, language, and math.
- Grades 7 & 8: Achievement gaps in proficiency between major subgroups and comparison groups on the Maine State Assessments in ELA reading, ELA language, and math. The school will provide achievement data of major subgroups (English learner, special education, sex,

economically-disadvantaged, 504, ethnic and racial minorities). Subgroups are performing within 8% of comparison group(s).

- At least 95% participation is expected.

New MEVA Custom Target – NWEA.

- Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile on the MAP Student Growth Summary Report.
- Separate goals for each grade level (7, 8, 9, 10, & 11), a total of fifteen indicators/goals: The student median conditional growth percentile is the fiftieth (50th) or higher, as of the spring NWEA math, reading, and language usage, for each eligible grade level.

New MCSC Performance Measures: Accuplacer.

Beginning in SY 2023-2024, school will meet goal of 75%-85% students meeting one of the following by the end of 12th grade:

- Accuplacer The College Readiness indicator with scores of 239 or above in reading and a 226 or above in math or;
- SAT scores of ERBW 530 or higher and 520 or higher in math or;
- ASVAB score of 31 or higher.

At least 95% participation is expected.

Sizing Up Prior Progress – MAP Growth.

Prior School Year: SY-2021/2022, fall ‘21 to spring ‘22, NWEA MAP Growth results under the new targets for grades 7 & 8.

- 63.5% (40/63) students met their projected growth in math. Met the new target.
- 47.6% (30/63) students met their projected growth in reading. Did not meet the new target.
- 51.6% (32/62) students met their projected growth in language usage. Approached the new target.
- We will report fall ‘22 to winter ‘23 growth results in January, giving us a chance to apply interventions and to make programming adjustments if needed. Student testing participation is strong (95%+).

Sizing Up Prior Progress – Custom Target:

Spring ‘22 Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile.

Grade	Math	Reading	Language Usage
7	71 st %ile, Exceeds	58 th %ile, Met	57 th %ile, Met
8	62 nd %ile, Met	44 th %ile, Approaching	46 th %ile, Approaching
9	53 rd %ile, Met	56 th %ile, Met	58 th %ile, Met
10	48 th %ile, Approaching	41 st %ile, Approaching	55 th %ile, Met
11	59 th %ile, Met	37 th %ile Approaching	47 th %ile, Approaching

Exceeds >= 66th %ile; Meets 50th – 65th %ile; Approaching 35th – 49th %ile; Does Not Meet <35th %ile

ACCUPLACER Results – Fall ‘22.

- 115 students have tested, 84% are college-ready in Reading (Meets) and 90% are college-ready in Math (Exceeds).
- Students who are not college-ready are provided with a remediation plan for them to work on areas of growth. Students had the opportunity to retake the ACCUPLACER once they have completed the plan.
- As a result, Accuplacer results are in progress throughout the school year. Our student participation is meeting expectations.

ACCUPLACER Results by Years at MEVA.

- As a group, students who were enrolled at MEVA for five and six years outperformed their peers in reading and math, with higher percentages above the college-ready marks.

ACCUPLACER Subgroup Reading Results.

- 82.7% of students without a 504 plan are college-ready in Reading compared to 88.6% of students with a 504 plan (Delta +5.9%, Meets).
- 87.3% of general education students are college-ready in Reading compared to 64.3% of students in special education (Delta -29.0%, Does Not Meet).
- 88.46% of non-economically-disadvantaged students are college-ready in Reading compared to 76.32% of economically disadvantaged students (Delta -12.14%, Approaching).
- 85.7% of male students are college-ready in Reading compared to 83.6% of female students (Delta -2.1%, Meets).
- MEVA is meeting expectations for two out of the four major subgroups, with one out of four subgroups approaching expectations.
- Remediation plans and retesting efforts are focused on closing the gaps.

ACCUPLACER Subgroup Math Results:

- 90.1% of students without a 504 plan are college-ready in Math compared 91.4% of students with a 504 plan (Delta +1.3%, Meets).
- 94.1% of general education students are college-ready in Math compared to 64.3% of students in special education (Delta -29.8%, Does Not Meet).
- 88.46% of non-economically-disadvantaged students are college-ready in Math compared to 94.74% of economically-disadvantaged students (Delta +6.28%, Meets).
- 98.0% of male students are college-ready in Math compared to 85.1% of female students (Delta -12.9%, Approaching).
- MEVA is meeting expectations for two out of the four major subgroups, with one out of four subgroups approaching expectations.
- Remediation plans and retesting efforts are focused on closing the gaps.

Donna said that the initial MEVA Accuplacer results were impressive. Tina noted that the SAT's were used by colleges in the past, but many colleges were not using them much anymore. Tina asked if the Accuplacer helped with college placement and did colleges request this information? Dr. Browne responded that students could demonstrate college readiness on the Accuplacer for Maine Community Colleges and Universities. The Accuplacer was also used nationally.

Stacey reinforced that she was aware of other colleges in other states, utilizing the Accuplacer results and/or administering this exam. Colleges/Universities used the Accuplacer as a course placement tool. Dr. Browne reported that it was a confidence booster for students knowing they were college ready. Donna said that she expected that our Guidance Counselors were fully versed in understanding current college requirements and provided support to MEVA students. Dr. Browne confirmed that the two MEVA Guidance Counselors utilized various resources to support our students through the postsecondary planning and college application process.

Stacey asked how often students can take the Accuplacer. Dr. Browne stated that students could take the exam again if they fell short of college readiness. Students were provided with a remediation plan that addressed their gaps/needs. Teachers supported them by offering direct tutoring. The greatest

challenge based on the results were MEVA's subgroups. The Accuplacer performance measure was aimed at closing the proficiency gap between subgroups.

Donna asked if there was any research out there that could answer the question of the Accuplacer being an indicator of success in placing students into college? Dr. Browne was uncertain, as no comparison results or statistical information had been provided yet. Tina commented on the differences between the subgroup results. Tina asked if there were comparison test scores statewide? Dr. Browne stated that she had not seen these types of results yet. However, MEVA's focus was working on remediation efforts as much as possible.

Spring '22 MEA Testing Summary.

- MEVA students outperformed their statewide peers for the second year in a row in all three areas: math, reading, and language usage.
- Relative to the whole state, MEVA students performed the best in math.
- MEVA students' reading proficiency in the lower achievement bands presents the largest opportunity for continued improvement.
- MEVA's participation was 97%-98% in all three areas: math, reading, and language usage. This was a 4-5% participation improvement over the prior year.

Christina O'Grady, Curriculum Coordinator, provided an update on the curriculum mapping project.

Curriculum Mapping Project: 2022-2023 Goals.

- Maps for every course, with priority focused on the core academic subject areas.
- Each map will be aligned to Maine Learning Results and when applicable Common Core State Standards or Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- Each map will be aligned to Life and Career Ready Standards.
- Each assessment within a course will be documented on the map and aligned to standards.
- Special Education will take the curriculum maps for the General Education classes and adapt them for their courses.
- The Self-Contained Special Education (RISE) program is working on a learning continuum for their courses.

Curriculum Mapping Project: 2022-2023 Professional Development.

- We started the year, during our two-week Professional Development period, with a presentation on using the Chalk program.
- We had another Professional Development around the mapping project last week.
- During the Professional Development the next steps were presented for each teacher.
- We have a goal that all the core content area maps are completed by 12/31/2022.

Christina presented example maps and comparison maps.

Curriculum Mapping Project: Next Steps.

- Teachers will continue updating their maps to reflect any curriculum changes that they are making throughout the year.
- We will analyze the maps, compare the standards alignment and coverage to the NWEA data and the state assessment data, to identify trends, redundancies, and areas of growth.
- Once the analysis is complete, we will make recommendations for curriculum changes based on the results.

Donna expressed appreciation for the hours of work involved with the curriculum mapping project. Donna asked if new teachers who did not have a map fully developed yet had a starting point? Christina confirmed that teachers who were new, or had taken over another class, had access to the previous maps, or had basic outline maps, which helped them in developing their own maps. American Sign Language (ASL) was the only course that started from scratch, as it was a brand-new course, which needed full development.

Regarding SY-2022/2023, Enrollment, Dr. Browne reported that mid-year enrollment was underway. Student retention was strong so far, this school year.

Enrollment Update.

- Current school year retention is strong and exceeding targets.
- Mid-Year Enrollment is now open for January 9th, 2023, start date.
- New mid-year students in grades 7-11 will complete the Winter '23 NWEA.
- New mid-year students in grade 12 will complete the Accuplacer.
- Open Enrollment for SY-2023/2024 begins on January 30th, 2023, with a possible lottery on March 24th, 2023, at noon, via Zoom, to determine initial seat offers (if more Declaration of Student Intent to Enroll forms are received than space available).
- Full details are available online. Interested families may access the Declaration of Student Intent to Enroll form via the website mainevirtual.org or by calling 855.665.2248.

Governance.

Facilities Plan.

Donna noted that Peter had reached out to the Ballard Center owners but had not received a response yet. Dr. Browne asked permission to contact building management, supporting the process of obtaining information surrounding the lease renewal. Donna and the board members agreed that Dr. Browne could move forward with assisting in reaching the owners in hopes of getting a response. Donna placed the Facilities Plan on hold, until further notice and collection of information was complete.

MEVA MDOE Required Policies Review.

Amy motioned to group MEVA MDOE Required Policies a-f.

- a. Motion to approve JKF Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities.
- b. Motion to approve JKF-R Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities Administrative Procedure.
- c. Motion to approve JLCB Immunization of Students.
- d. Motion to approve JLCC Communicable/Infectious Diseases.
- e. Motion to approve JLCD Administration of Medication to Students.
- f. Motion to approve JLDBG Reintegration of Juveniles from Correctional Facilities.

Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Amy motioned to approve MEVA MDOE Required Policies a-f. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Employee Health Insurance.

Dr. Browne suggested that Chad Cote from Clark Insurance move forward with his health benefits presentation.

Donna motioned to move the presentation up on the agenda, all board members were in favor.

Chad Cote from Clark Insurance reviewed the 2023 health benefit adjustments and compared the different benefit options under several providers. Plans shared included HMO, PPO, PPO HSA from Anthem, Harvard Pilgrim, and Community Health Options. Rates had decreased for small group members under each breakdown for now. This was due to an order from Governor Mills back in May of 2021 that Maine small businesses be provided with health insurance premium support to help alleviate some rates. However, this aid was scheduled to run out April 30th, 2023. The funds from this program were applied as a credit. The Insurance renewal plan showed changes in the T2-T4 areas. It was recommended that school staff be informed about the T3 and T4 changes in the RX plan especially. Overall, Anthem had the best pricing and options.

Jillian Dearborn, HR/Business Manager, recommended that MEVA retain the current plan with Anthem, which was also recommended by Clark Insurance. MEVA leadership was planning to set up a schoolwide faculty meeting to review the changes and to ensure their understanding of the changes.

Nick motioned to approve the recommended Employee Health Insurance. Stacey seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Public Discussion. None.

Adjournment. Tina motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore