

## **Maine Learning Innovations**

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held May 16, 2017

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a regular meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened in the MEVA Conference room in Augusta at 2:00 PM. Members attending were Peter Mills, Donna Madore, Ed LeBlanc and Amy Carlisle (by phone). Absent was Kevin Pomerleau.

Also present were: Melinda Browne, Fadia Afaneh, Jennifer Hight, and Kim Whitman from local staff; and Pattie Ashleigh from K12 accounting.

### **Finance Report**

Jennifer reported that we have current cash on hand of \$545,000 but we expect large invoices at the close of the year from high reclamation fees. We owe K12 approximately \$350,000 in year-end fees.

Jennifer has a good system for grant reimbursement. We will use Title 1 money to pay for the summer program and may be able to use excess funds to hire supplemental staff next year.

Jennifer mentioned the need to resolve a bill from K12 for about \$6000 for educational materials that we were not able to use. Amy said she will take it up with Sarah Berger.

Jennifer is pleased with the current condition of the budget. The MEVA audit is scheduled for August. The auditors plan to do the field work in two days starting on Monday August 7.

### **Head of School Report**

The Commission will visit for its annual monitoring session at 11:00 AM on May 26 to speak with teachers, students and coaches. They will do recordings of math and English classes. We have just received results of the panorama surveys. We received 235 completed forms from 185 families and all faculty.

A graduating senior, Sarah Penney received the Maine Principals' award. A tenth grader, Lana Mavor, is one of the top tennis players in U.S. and is being interviewed by three TV stations. An eighth grader, Myrah O'Roake received the eighth grade citizenship award.

Next year, we plan to do much more quantitative measuring on such things as live connect hours, passing rates, and percentage of no log ins from students. This year, 80% of our students are passing. Last year it was 50%. This year, black board connect hours are averaging 15 to 20 hours per teacher versus 10 last year. Getting each teacher to do 10 calls per week has been one of our last hurdles. Last year, there were only 137 calls all year.

Graduation is Friday, June 9 at 2:00 PM at the Civic Center North End. We are prepared for 440 attendees.

The semester ends June 16. Any overdue work is due by mid-night. Grades are due by the following Wednesday.

Amy said that Kahn Academy offers a free SAT prep program that is said to raise scores by 75 points. Donna pointed out that SATs are not aligned with Common Core standards.

Amy suggested that with all our teachers coming back, we can use the August time to improve practice.

Melinda announced that we have hired a new teacher, Kelly Boucher, to fill the special ed position left open by the departure of Rob Beecher. Kylie Tudela has agreed to work full time, rather than half time. This will increase our total staffing by one-half FTE. Matt Corbett and Kylie are now doing special ed as well. With full staffing, we hope to have more electives taught in house.

## **Report on Enrollment and Testing**

Fadia Afaneh said we have 327 students enrolled this month, down from 337 last month. 212 have re-registered for the coming year. 15 did not. Most of 15 said they simply wanted something more of a social setting. Some parents were not on the same page and wanted them to stay in MeVA. Three families are still undecided. 42 students have unknown intentions.

Augusta is our biggest testing site. Orono-Bangor is second biggest. Seventh grade next year will be bigger than last year's.

NWEA assessments are being administered nearly all this week, using a four hour window on each designated day. We obtained DOE approval to do the MEA science and essay tests on the same day to save families their travel time. MEA participation is in the high 90 percentages.

We want to consider a system where we might mail out restricted Chrome laptops to administer the MEA. Donna said it is still hard to proctor an on-line MEA.

## **Employee Benefits & Personnel**

We have not yet received health insurance rates for the coming year. Chad Cote from Clark Insurance is helping us find better coverage. Teachers who have to pay the full cost of family coverage find it very expensive. We added an HSA last year, but only one employee took advantage of it. Renewal date is July 1.

Jenn said that some districts offer 10% for benefits and let the employee decide how to spend it. Kim said that Delta Dental and Dental Vision have very few in network practitioners.

Melinda said that mathematically the best deal is a high deductible with a health savings account to minimize what you are paying to the insurer. \$5000 is a good deductible to save on premium, but it's a hard sell.

Kim Whitman reported on her plans to leave full time employment at MeVA but to continue working next year on a half time basis as needed with focus on helping to administer special education. For quite some time, we have been considering the need for a full time financial person. After discussion, it was agreed to advertise for a full time salaried person with a degree in accounting to work 45 hours a week.

At 3:30 pm, the meeting was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mills, Secretary