

## **Maine Learning Innovations**

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held September 17, 2019

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened at 2:00 PM, September 17, 2019, in the Maine Virtual Academy offices in Augusta. Board members attending in person were Peter Mills, Donna Madore, and Ed LeBlanc. Amy Carlisle attended by phone.

Also attending in person were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Dee Pouzol, Carrie Campbell (New Special Ed teacher for 7th & 8th grades), Jillian Dearborn, Patti Ashley, Chelsea Osgood, and Lisa Plimpton, education consultant.

**Minutes.** Upon Motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, minutes for August 20, 2019, were approved.

**Education Consultant.** Melinda explained that the Commission requires the two virtual charter schools to undertake a periodic third-party assessment, as we have done on two prior occasions. A new report is due by year end but might be deferred until spring. Lisa Plimpton is available to conduct an evaluation of MEVA this fall and winter after she winds down her current project for the Commission to study outcomes for graduates of all the charter schools.

Lisa lives in South Portland. She could start doing MeVA's evaluation in November and have a report in the spring. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Peter, it was unanimously agreed to retain Lisa at a contract price of \$16,000 to perform an implementation evaluation as outlined in her written proposal.

### **Financial Report.**

Patti outlined recent trends. Our SPED enrollment is increasing. Our middle school SPED enrollment increased from 17% to 20% from this year to this. In just the last two weeks, it increased from 8 to 18 students. The high school rate increased from 12% to 15% from last year to this.

Dee reported that the total number of identified SPED students went from 59 to 70 in the past week. We will have 20 to 25 SPED students per teacher. The number kids under a 504 plan has increased as well. Some have neuro conditions. Our Special Ed teachers are in almost every English and math class in order to provide differential instruction. We have four SPED referrals pending. We are putting iXL to good use.

Pattie said we have 38 students taking IEP courses from K12. 15 are enrolled in computer fundamentals.

Our balance sheet has \$20,000 in the HSA account. The balance began at \$40,000 15 months ago. In that time frame, we have had 21 claims. So far, the program seems helpful to staff and affordable for the school.

Implementation of the new K12 accounting system has been deferred to January of 2020.

Upon motion by Peter, seconded by Donna, the financial report was accepted.

### **Head of School Report**

Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, the renewal application was approved for submission.

Our home room teachers reached 90% of their students for personal communications this fall. Our goal is to call as many as 80% of our students every week. Each home room teacher has about 15 to 20 students.

Lizzy and Mehry have been tracking down unengaged students who, in some fases, should probably not continue to be with us. And this has led to a slight increase in withdrawals. Our retention rates have improved and are among the best in the country among K12 schools. Middle school retention has been particularly good.

Mike Susi is focusing on graduation planning. 20% of our students are credit deficient by more than ten credits.

Our chronic absenteeism is improving. Parents are getting better at telling us when a student has to miss class.

We have a session every morning on iXL, Tuesday through Friday at 8:15. They do problems in iXL every day. 5500 questions were answered today. Our middle school enrollment is larger than it has ever been.

We will soon do the fall NWEA. We will do the winter NWEA in early December to see if we detect any growth. There is no correlation or linking between NWEA and MEA.

Eighth grade math performance has been low.

At 3: 20 pm, upon motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mills, Secretary