

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held October 20, 2020

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, October 20, 2020. Board members attending were Amy Carlisle, Donna Pelletier, Peter Mills, and Kim Whitman.

Also attending were Melinda Browne, Donald Fournier, Jennifer Clark, Jillian Dearborn, Lena Vitagliano, Stephanie Emery, Jennifer Hight, Chelsea Osgood, Christina O'Grady, Cheryl Brigham, Mehry Mohammadi, and Lizzie Malvicini. Other attendees included Mary Markert, Jordan Goldman and Todd McIntire from K12 and Nichi Farnham from the Commission.

Minutes. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Peter, minutes for the meeting of September 15 were approved after correcting the spelling of Todd McIntire's name.

Finance. Our package includes finances for the first quarter of the fiscal year. We have cut spending in several categories, for example on materials from K12 and on field trips.

For COVID grants, we have applied for \$262,000 in the first round but may only be able to use \$150,000. For the second round, we have applied for \$125,000 from the \$279,000 that is available.

Jordan Goldman has replaced Patti Ashley as MEVA's financial assistant assigned by K12. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Kim the financial package and report were approved.

Head of School. Melinda described the process improvement meetings that are now being regularly held. The teachers and staff have been discussing social and emotional learning and greater collaboration between general and special ed teachers. We will soon host a virtual open house with teacher presentations.

Fall NWEA participation was 95%. Participation was closed on September 25, but we kept the opportunity open longer. The winter NWEA will be conducted in mid-January.

Enrollment has grown from 297 in 2015 to 430 in 2020. We will not see revenue for the students added in 2020 until next year. 56% of our students (241 out of 430) are qualified for free and reduced lunch. This is in line with past years. This helps to preserve money for Title I and for CARES Act allocations. In response to Donna's question about why we have such a high poverty rate, Melinda replied that we draw from northern and rural counties.

We have 68 Special Ed students which equates to a designation rate of 15.8%, a little below the state average. Our Special Ed staff increased this year to 6 teachers plus an Ed Tech.

The school is offering 8 clubs including the National Honor Society.

Following the November 17 meeting, there will be a public workshop to discuss the contract with K12. It will have a public agenda but any board decisions will be deferred until the December meeting.

Lisa Plimpton has started her third party review. The Commission has asked her to evaluate the school's relationship with K12. She may attend our November workshop.

The meeting was opened for public discussion but none came forward. Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Donna, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mills, Secretary