

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held November 13, 2018

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on November 13, 2018, in the Maine Virtual Academy offices in Augusta at 2:00 PM. Members attending in person were Donna Madore, Ed Leblanc and Peter Mills (via phone then in person). Amy Carlisle attended by Skype.

Also attending in person were Patti Ashley; Bill Ferdinand; Fadia Afaneh; Jillian Dearborn; Melinda Browne; Jennifer Height; Teacher Caroline Ridout; Architect George Parker and Gary Peachey from Peachey Builders. Erica Seybert from K12 and Ryan Gough from National Coalition for Public School Options attended by phone.

Minutes. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, minutes for the meeting of 10/16/18, were unanimously approved.

PSO. Ryan Gough from The National Coalition for Public School Options advocates at the national, state and local levels for public school options that best serve individual students' learning needs. PSO informs lawmakers, policymakers and the public about the benefits of public-school options through capitol day rallies, legislative meetings, committee hearing testimony, and more. PSO fights back against threats to public school options, advocates for adequate and equitable funding, and dispels myths about innovative public schools. Bill Ferdinand said that with changes in Legislature PSO can help organize and get voices heard on our student's family's behalf. He thought we should introduce PSO to family's that want to have a voice. Bill Ferdinand said that Connections was approved. He thinks we should focus on student engagement and performance, along with NWEA scores. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, it was approved to work with PSO.

Finance. Jennifer said the October financial statements almost broke even. 1st 4 months surplus is down \$123,000. Concerned that two things may be changing... 1 summer salaries throughout the year. 2 Last year subsidy was included, this year using the projection. That way when they change the number forecast should still be on track. Upon motion by Donna, seconded by Ed, the financial pack as presented by Patti Ashley and Jennifer Hight was unanimously approved. Melinda said that two employees will be going out on maternity leave and will need someone for coverage, whether temporary or permanent. Peter and Donna agreed to do permanent.

Architecture Plan Review. Political environment is concerning with how we proceed. Jennifer Height posed the question would our current rent drop due to the amortized amount being paid up? Peter brought back up the space down the hall and possibly taking a second look at it. Need to be making plans for the next 6 years. Architect George Parker and Gary were thinking at least \$150,000 (with MEVA contributing \$250,000.) if not more for the new space, but if we were to leave it would be less desirable to rent out. They thought Kevin was thinking the new lease would be a 6-year lease. Gary said that he thought that the first floor was wide open as an option to look at as well. Possibly the ground floor has an open space as well. Peter and Ed said that we need a firm offer from Kevin to know how we should proceed. Donna said this has been a year long discussion and we need to make a solid decision even if we look at a different building, Peter agreed. Amy said teachers should have collaborative teaching spaces. Peter spoke with Bob Kautz about Connection's work from home policy. Bob said that the commission was unlikely to approve a 100% from home policy. MCA has an option of 1 work from home day per week for returning, highly-qualified teachers. Amy and Peter were going to get a call into Bob to discuss alternatives or to get flexibility to work with office space. Ed said the first step is to get the bid.

Health Insurance. Amy asked about insurance and has seen 20% increase everywhere else so far. Jillian let them know that the new plan options should be available in the next week, according to Chad from Clark insurance. Jillian will send everyone the new rate plans as soon as they come in.

Head of School Report. Melinda said that the absenteeism has improved, thanks to Mehry and Lizzie in addition to the fixed schedule. Reviewed attendance policy. Melinda said that the withdrawal rate is down, and teachers are making calls even though it is difficult. Goal is to have 100% reached by Thanksgiving. Erica said that there has been an increase in instruction time. NCAA approved Lana Mavor's courses. Still working on approval for the entire school. Only have a few more things on the SPED corrective action plan to complete.

Third Party Evaluation: The evaluator has been given information and she has interviewed some teachers/staff. Fadia Afaneh said she had been interviewed and said she liked the questions that were used.

At 3:56 PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Dearborn, Pro Temp