***March 9, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on***

***April 13, 2021***

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting via Zoom on

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item Number** | **Agenda Item** |
| **1** | **Call to Order and Declare a Quorum** |
|  | The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Nichi Farnham, at 1:02pm and a quorum was declared.Commission members present were: Nichi Farnham, John Bird, Shelley Reed, Dr. Fern Desjardins, Wilson Hess and Jim Rier.Also present were Jeremy Jones, Gina Post, Amy Allen and Jasmine Canwell.  |
| **2** | **Reminders** |
| 2a | The meeting was recorded via Zoom. |
| 2b | Participants, aside from Commission members and staff, were asked to remain muted until public comments were heard.  |
| 2c | Pursuant to Section G-1. 1 MRSE §403-A, voting was conducted via roll call. |
| 2d | Members of the public were asked to participate during public comment by using the “raise your hand” feature on Zoom or by commenting in the chat box at the specified time.  |
| **3** | **Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda** |
|  | Agenda Item #5c – To Consider and Approve Community Regional Charter School’s 2019-20 Annual Monitoring Report *(previously tabled)*Agenda Item #5g – To Consider and Approve Community Regional Charter School’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportMotion to table until the next Business Meeting.**Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea;** **Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to table these agenda items until the next Business Meeting. |
| **4** | **Requires Notification to and Acceptance by the Commission** |
| 4a | To Accept Notification of New Leadership and Governing Board Members* CRCS Governing Board Member – Linda Belanger
* MeANS Governing Board Member – Michael Muir

Copies of the Governing Board Member Information sheets for Linda Belanger and Michael Muir were distributed for review and discussion.       **Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to accept Notification of New Leadership and Governing Board Members. |
| **5** | **Requires Approval by the Commission** |
| 5a | Minutes from the February 9, 2021 Business MeetingNo discussion.**Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Jim Rier and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve as printed the Minutes from the February 9, 2021 Business Meeting.  |
| 5b | FY21 Budget vs. Actual – March ReportA copy of the March report was distributed for review and discussion. **Moved by Jim Rier; seconded by John Bird and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea;** **Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to accept the FY21 Budget vs. Actual – March Report. |
| 5c | To Consider and Approve Community Regional Charter School’s 2019-20 Annual Monitoring ReportTabled until the next Business Meeting.  |
| 5d | To Consider and Approve the Purchase of a Common Unified Student Information System PlatformA student Information System (SIS) is a technology solution used by schools, districts and states, to input student information and data that supports state and federal reporting while maintaining the safety and security of the information. SIS platforms are a typical way to manage important information at school including, attendance, grades, transcripts, and other things that support the operations of the school. Motion by John Bird to approve the Purchase of a Common Unified Student Information System Platform.After much discussion, the following amendment was proposed:*“To approve the Purchase of a Common Unified Student Information System Platform for eight schools.”* **Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jim Rier and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve the motion as amended written above.A subsequent subsidy vote will be deferred to the next BusinessMeeting when proper consideration can be given.**Voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to Approve the Purchase of a Common Unified Student Information System Platform for eight schools. |
| 5e | To Consider and Approve ACADIA Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of ACADIA Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval. **Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve ACADIA Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report. |
| 5f | To Consider and Approve Baxter Academy for Technology and Science’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of Baxter Academy for Technology and Science’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval.**Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Baxter Academy for Technology and Science’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report.  |
| 5g | To Consider and Approve Community Regional Charter School’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportTabled until the next Business Meeting. |
| 5h | To Consider and Approve Ecology Learning Center’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of Ecology Learning Center’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval.**Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Ecology Learning Center’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report. |
| 5i | To Consider and Approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences’ Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences’ Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval. **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Dr. Fern Desjardins and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences’ Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report. |
| 5j | To Consider and Approve Harpswell Coastal Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of Harpswell Coastal Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval. **Moved by Dr. Fern Desjardins; seconded by John Bird and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Harpswell Coastal Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report. |
| 5k | To Consider and Approve Maine Academy of Natural Sciences’ Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of Maine Academy of Natural Sciences’ Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval.**Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Maine Academy of Natural Sciences’ Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report. |
| 5l | To Consider and Approve Maine Connections Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting ReportA copy of Maine Connections Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval.**Moved by Jim Rier; seconded by John Bird and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Maine Connections Academy’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report. |
| 5m | To Consider and Approve Commission Per Diem DocumentA copy of the “Commission Per Diem” document was distributed for consideration and approval. The purpose of this document is to ensure that Commission members have accurate guidance on which activities are eligible for per diem reimbursement and which are not. Motion by Dr. Fern Desjardins to table the Consideration and Approval of the “Commission Per Diem” Document until the next Business Meeting. After much debate, it was suggested to consider and approve the document as a first reading.Dr. Fern Desjardins withdrew the motion to table. **Moved by John Bird; seconded by Nichi Farnham and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – nay; Wilson Hess – abstain; Shelley Reed – nay; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Commission Per Diem Document as a First Reading.  |
| **6** | **Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report**  |
| 6a | Resident District/Resident Town/County BreakdownA copy of enrollment data including resident district, resident town and county breakdown was distributed for review.  |
| **7** | **Executive Director/Commission Staff Report** |
|  | ***Jeremy’s Items:*** |
| 7a | Spring 2020 NWEA Map Data Update* Jeremy shared that Commission staff recently discovered that the two virtual public schools have been reporting and measuring NWEA growth data differently. This is worthy of further discussion and will be carried forward to the next meeting.
 |
|  | ***School-Related Items:*** |
| 7b | Enrollment Lottery UpdatesJeremy shared that it was recruitment season and school lotteries were underway.  |
|  | ***Commission-Related Items:*** |
| 7c | Legislative Update* Public Hearings on LDs 380 and 430 were held on March 3, 2021. Work sessions have not yet been scheduled.
* A copy of LD 604 – “An Act to Promote Accountability in Maine’s Charter Schools” was distributed for review. There is no date yet set for the Public Hearing.
 |
| **8** | **Announcements** |
| 8a | This month’s BirthdaysJeremy wished anyone with a March birthday, “Happy Birthday.”  |
| 8b | Next Regular Business Meeting – April 13, 2021 *(Zoom)* |
| **9** | **Public Comment\*** |
|  | None |
| **11** | **Adjourn** |
|  | The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm.**Moved by John Bird; seconded by Nichi Farnham and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to adjourn. |