***March 10, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on May 12, 2020***

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting in Room #103A of the Cross Office Building - Augusta, on **Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

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| **Item Number** | **Agenda Item** |
| **1** | **Call to Order and Declare a Quorum** |
|  | The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Nichi Farnham, at 1:01pm and a quorum was declared.  Commission members present were: Nichi Farnham, John Bird, Shelley Reed, Dr. Fern Desjardins and Jana Lapoint.  Commission members absent were: Jim Rier.  Also present were Bob Kautz, Gina Post, Amy Allen and Jasmine Canwell. |
| **2** | **Reminders** |
|  | This meeting is being recorded. |
|  | Please turn your cellphones to silent or vibrate. |
|  | Private conversations should be held in the hallway. |
|  | Members of the public are asked to sign in. |
| **3** | **Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda** |
|  | None |
| **4** | **Requires Approval by the Commission** |
| 4a | Minutes from the February 11, 2020 Business Meeting  No discussion.  **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present** to approve as printed the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Business Meeting. |
| 4b | FY20 Budget vs. Actual – March Report  A copy of the March report was distributed for review and discussion.  **Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present** toaccept the FY20 Budget vs. Actual – March Report. |
| 4c | Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Amend Names of School Buildings  A copy of Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Amend Names of School Buildings was distributed for review and consideration.  The buildings will be renamed as follows:   * Early Childhood Campus will become Creative Children’s Academy * Cornville Campus will become Dimensions Academy * Skowhegan Campus will become Overman Academy   The process for renaming included soliciting input from learners, staff, and parents.  **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present** to approve Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Amend Names of School Buildings. |
| 4d | Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Amend “Anytime/Anywhere Learning Days”  A copy of Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Amend School Schedule was distributed for review and discussion.  Anytime/Anywhere Learning Days to effect on days when school is closed either for weather or when the school facilities are closed for various reasons such as lack of power or construction issues. These days will be used in place of snow days but will not be the first option for use during regular snow days. Pre-K learners at the Early Childhood Center will be exempt from additional snow days as the school provides nearly three times the required number of hours per week and these students are not mandated to go to school for 175 days.  **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present** to approve Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Amend “Anytime/Anywhere Learning Days.” |
| 4e | Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Move the Physical Location of the K Program  A copy of Community Regional Charter School’s Request to move the physical location of the Kindergarten Program was distributed for review and consideration. CRCS will move the Kindergarten program from the Early Childhood Center to the Cornville Campus. This request does not change funding, enrollment numbers or programming.  **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present** to approve Community Regional Charter School’s Request to Move the Physical Location of the K Program. |
| **5** | **Requires Notification to and Acceptance by the Commission** |
| 5a | Resignation of Laurie Pendleton from the Maine Charter School Commission  A copy of Laurie’s resignation letter was distributed for review and discussion.  **Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present** to accept with deep regret notification of the resignation of Laurie Pendleton from the Maine Charter School Commission. |
| **6** | **Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report** |
| 6a | Governing Board Update  *Next Governing Board Meeting Dates:*  *ACADIA – March 25th at 5:30pm*  *Baxter – March 20th (start time varies)*  *CRCS – April 13th at 5:00pm*  *Fiddlehead – March 19th at 6:00pm*  *HCA – March 18th at 4:30pm*  *MCA – April 17th at 10:00am*  *MeAA – April 1st at 5:00pm*  *MeANS – March 20th at 2:30pm*  *MeVA – March 17th at 2:00pm*  Gina shared that she is reviewing approved Governing Board meeting minutes from each school as they are received. She and Bob try to get to as many meetings as possible and will continue to do so throughout the remainder of this school year. |
| 6b | Current Enrollment Information  Data pertaining to school’s current enrollment (and unenrollment) as of 2-28-20 was distributed for review and discussion. |
| **7** | **Executive Director/Commission Staff Report** |
|  | ***School-Related Items:*** |
|  | None |
|  | ***Commission-Related Items:*** |
| 7a | Consider a Process for Identifying Nominees to Fill Charter School Commission Vacancies  Due to recent legislative changes, non-State Board Member seats will now be filled by the Governor. Instructions on steps a potential candidate would need to take to be considered for appointment to the Commission was distributed. |
| 7b | Update on Meeting with MACS Executive Director, John Mullaney  Bob shared that he had recently met with John Mullaney, MACS’ Executive Director, to discuss how the Maine Association for Charter Schools and the Maine Charter School Commission can collaboratively work together. Bob shared the meeting went well. Also, in attendance were John Bird and Jana Lapoint. |
| 7c | Legislative Update  A Public Hearing for LD 2113 – “An Act to Prevent Charter Schools from Using State Funds for Anti-Union Campaigns” was held on March 4th. The Work Session is scheduled for March 12th. This bill, if passed, would prohibit a public charter school from using funds received from the State or Federal Government to engage in, or to retain legal counsel for the purpose of engaging in activities that interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees of the public charter school in their exercise of rights granted under the National Labor Relations Act, Section 7. The Commission did not submit testimony on this bill.  A Public Hearing for LD 2046 – “An Act Regarding Immunizations” was held on March 9th. This bill, if passed, would exempt children who are enrolled in or attend a virtual public charter school from the requirement that a child may not be enrolled in or attend school without evidence of immunization. Bob Kautz, Executive Director of the Maine Charter School Commission submitted testimony neither for nor against the bill. A Work Session on the bill has not be scheduled at this time. |
| 7d | A-GAME Update  Gina shared that the recent “A-GAME” Workshop she attended February 11th and 12th in Columbus, OH was successful. There were approximately 10 attendees and the next convening is currently being scheduled. |
| **8** | **Comments from Commission Members** |
|  | Chair – Nichi Farnham  None |
|  | Vice Chair – John Bird  John highlighted the recent article “The Misguided Progressive Attack on Charters,” featured in the Wall street Journal and encouraged all to read if they hadn’t already done so. |
|  | In Memory of James A. Banks  Jana Lapoint shared a touching tribute for Jim Banks who passed away recently. Jim was a former member – and Chair – of the Maine Charter School Commission. Information on how to donate in Jim’s name was distributed for those wishing to do so. |
|  | School Liaisons  Shelley Reed shared that she appreciates the updates and newsletters from Harpswell Coastal Academy. |
| **9** | **Announcements** |
| 9a | Turn in Travel and Expense Vouchers |
| 9b | Next Business Meeting – April 14, 2020 *(Room #103A, Cross Office Building – Augusta)* |
| 9c | Enrollment Lottery Dates (if needed):   * ACADIA (March 18, 2020 at 5:30pm) * Baxter ***(held February 5, 2020)*** * Cornville (March 18, 2020 at 6:00pm/55 Commercial Street – Skowhegan) * Ecology Learning Center (March 30, 2020) * Fiddlehead (March 11, 2020 at 12:00pm) * Harpswell (March 27, 2020 at 2:00pm/8 Leavitt Drive, Brunswick) * MCA (March 12, 2020 at 10:00am) * MeAA (March 27, 2020 at 2:00pm) * MeANS (March 18, 2020 at 5:00pm) * MeVA (March 27, 2020 at 12:00pm) |
| 9d | Important Dates:   * March 23rd – Finance Workshop (Room 103A/B) * April 9th – Mission Specific Goals Workshop (Room 103A) * April 13th – Security Training (Augusta Civic Center) * May 5th – NWEA Training (Ice Vault/Hallowell) |
| **10** | **Public Comment\*** |
|  | Kim Whitman, governing board member for Maine Virtual Academy, shared that James and Cora Banks were her neighbors. She asked if she could share a copy of Jana’s tribute with Jim and Cora’s children.  Roger Brainerd from MACS reminded the group that the Annual Charter School Dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 5:00pm at Overman Academy in Skowhegan. |
| **11** | **Adjourn** |
|  | The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm.  **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Dr. Fern Desjardins and voted unanimously by those present** to adjourn. |