

# Maine Charter School Commission

## **October 2, 2018 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on November 6, 2018**

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting at the **Burton M. Cross Office Building**, Room #103A/B, on **Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

### **1. Call to Order and Declare a Quorum**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Dr. Mike Wilhelm, at 9:35am and a quorum was declared.

Commission members present were: Dr. Mike Wilhelm, Chair; John Bird, Vice Chair; Dr. Fern Desjardins; Shelley Reed; Jim Rier; Jana Lapoint and Laurie Pendleton.

Also present were Bob Kautz, Gina Post, and Amy Allen.

### **2. Members of the Public Are Asked to Sign In**

Dr. Mike Wilhelm reminded those present to sign-in if they had not already done so.

Members of the public present were: Tonya Arnold (*Maine Academy of Natural Sciences*); Chad Strout (*Maine Connections Academy*); Roger Brainerd and Judith Jones (*Maine Association for Charter Schools*); Tom Tracy; Joe Drago; Crystal Hamlin (*The New School*); Vicki Wallack (*Maine School Management Association*); Jacinda Cotton-Castro (*Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences*); Travis Works – 9:40am (*Cornville Regional Charter School*); and Kelli Pryor – 9:45am (*Baxter Academy for Technology and Science*).

### **3. Reminders:**

- ✓ **This meeting is being recorded.**
- ✓ **Please turn your cellphones to silent or vibrate.**
- ✓ **Private conversations should be held in the hallway and not during the meeting.**

### **4. To Consider Action Relative to Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda**

Motion to add Item #8B – To Approve Commission Liaisons as Presented at September 6, 2018 Business Meeting

**Moved by Jana Lapoint; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to approve Commission liaisons as presented at September 6, 2018.**

### **5. To Act Relative to Accepting as Printed the Minutes of the September 4, 2018 Business Meeting.**

No discussion.

**Moved by Jana Lapoint; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously as follows to accept as printed the minutes of the August 7, 2018 Business Meeting – 6 Members (Yes); 1 Abstention (Shelley Reed)**

### **6. To Accept FY19 Budget vs. Actual – September Report**

A copy of the September report was distributed for review.

**Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously as follows to accept the FY19 Budget vs. Actual – September Report.**

**7. To Accept FY19 Budget vs. Actual – October Report**

A copy of the October report was distributed for review.

**Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to accept the FY19 Budget vs. Actual – October Report.**

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**8a. To Accept First Reading of Proposed Request for Proposal (RFP) for New Public Charter School**

A copy of the draft Request for Proposal was distributed for review and consideration. Sections that needing further review are color-coded as follows: blue is being reviewed by legal; yellow is still in progress; and green needs to be checked for accuracy.

**Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to accept first reading of proposed request for proposal (RFP) for new public charter school.**

**8b. To Approve Commission Liaisons Suggested at September Meeting**

Assignments are as follows and will take effect for the 2018-19 school year:

ACADIA Academy – Jim Rier  
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science – Jana Lapoint  
Cornville Regional Charter School – Shelley Reed  
Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences – Dr. Fern Desjardins  
Harpwell Coastal Academy – Shelley Reed  
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences – John Bird  
Maine Connections Academy – Dr. Mike Wilhelm  
Maine Virtual Academy – Laurie Pendleton  
Snow Pond Arts Academy – John Bird

**Moved by Jim Rier; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to approve Commission liaisons suggested at September Meeting.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9a. To Accept Notification of ACADIA Academy’s Interim Director/Principal and Consultant**

Bob Kautz shared that Joe Mattos has been hired as a Consultant and that Brittney-Rae Perron has been hired as the Interim Director/Principal. Ms. Perron is also a teacher at ACADIA. The interim position is meant to be temporary and the Governing Board is taking steps to hire permanently for the position. An update on the school’s progress will be given at the next Business Meeting.

**Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Laurie Pendleton and voted unanimously by those present to accept notification of ACADIA Academy’s Interim Director/Principal and Consultant.**

**9b. To Consider and Approve Maine Arts Academy’s Request for Professional Development Funds**

A copy of the Professional Development Funds Proposal was distributed for review and consideration.

**Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to approve Maine Arts Academy’s Request for Professional Development Funds in the Amount of \$2,500.**

**9c. To Consider and Approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Request to Increase Grade Span**

A copy of the Request to Amend Grade Span to add Grade 6 was distributed for review and consideration.

**Moved by Jim Rier; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Request to Increase Grade Span.**

**9d. To Consider and Approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Request for Professional Development Funds**

A copy of the Professional Development Funds Proposal was distributed for review and consideration.

**Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present to approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' request for professional development funds in the amount of \$2,500.**

Second motion to amend the language to read "to approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' request of professional development funds up to \$2,500".

**Moved by Dr. Mike Wilhelm; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present to approve the amended language to read "to approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Science's request of professional development funds up to \$2,500."**

**10. REPORTS**

**10a. Chair – Dr. Mike Wilhelm**

No report given.

**10b. Vice Chair – John Bird**

No report given.

**10c. Executive Director – Bob Kautz**

Education & Cultural Affairs Committee Response to Jim Rier Re-Nomination to MCSC

A copy of the Committee's appraisal was distributed for review.

Education & Cultural Affairs Committee Response to Laurie Pendleton Re-Nomination to MCSC

A copy of the Committee's appraisal was distributed for review.

Legislative Update

Bob shared that the DOE is looking ahead to the next legislative session and will be proposing some changes the current Public Charter School Law. Proposed changes are as follows:

- ❖ 20-A Chapter 112 Section 2404.4 Reporting and Evaluation currently reads "An authorizer shall submit to the commissioner and the Legislature an annual report within 90 days of the end of each school fiscal year summarizing ...". Proposed change will be "An authorizer shall submit to the commissioner and the Legislature an annual report within 150 days of each school fiscal year summarizing ..."
- ❖ 20-A Chapter 112 Section 2415.2 Participation in extracurricular activities currently reads "Access to extracurricular and interscholastic activities. A public charter school is eligible for statewide interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships and recognition programs for students, educators, administrators and schools to the same extent as are noncharter public schools. If a public charter school applies for and receives written approval from the superintendent of a school administrative unit or the superintendent's designee, who may withhold such approval, the public charter school is eligible for school administrative unit-sponsored interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships and recognition programs for students, educators,

administrators and schools to the same extent as are noncharter public schools. Proposed changes regarding participation in extracurricular activities will mirror the current homeschool law and remove the words “capacity” and “negotiated fees”.

**10d. Director of Program Management – Gina Post**

Update on Annual Monitoring Reports

Gina shared that these are a work in progress. Several drafts have been completed and sent to school liaisons for review. Gina is awaiting state assessment data to insert into the reports and depending on when this data is available, final drafts for approval will be shared at either the November or December Business Meeting.

Update on Meeting with Lisa Plimpton Regarding Graduate Study

Gina indicated that they are looking to find out what students are doing after high school and how well prepared they are for life after high school. Ms. Plimpton was recommended as someone with research experience, particularly in the area of graduation. Gina and Bob met with her to discuss what the project might look like and she will submit a proposal describing the scope of work.

Update on MSMA Fall Conference

Gina shared that the Charter School Commission has been invited to participate in the conference again this year. Presentation will be from 12:55-2:00 on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Gina will be there to present a PowerPoint based on the Information Booklet and to discuss the work the Commission has been doing.

Update on MCA's Renewal

Gina indicated that Maine Connections Academy's Renewal Application was received prior to the indicated deadline and that she is in the process of reviewing for completeness. The Application and Renewal Rubric will be distributed via email to the Review Team members. Hard copies will be made available if requested. She also shared that the Public Hearing is scheduled on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in Room #103 of the Cross Office Building. All Commission members are encouraged to attend.

Business Meeting Materials

Gina reviewed the current distribution of Business Meeting materials. Some members receive hard copies via regular mail prior to the meeting, while others receive hard copies at the meeting. She asked that members think about whether they want to continue to receive hard copies at all. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

**10e. Senior Support Coordinator – Amy Allen**

Amy distributed binders with all travel information included to those attending the upcoming NACSA Leadership Conference. She encouraged travelers to review the material and reach out with any questions or concerns that they have prior to departing for Orlando.

**ESSA Report Card Presentation by the Maine Department of Education.**

Janette Kirk from the Maine DOE shared a PowerPoint regarding the ESSA Report Card. Hard copies of the presentation were distributed for review.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**11a. Turn in Expense Vouchers at the End of the Meeting**

**11b. Next Business Meeting Date – November 6, 2018**

**11c. Maine Connections Academy's Public Hearing for Renewal  
October 16, 2018, 2:00pm – 6:00pm  
Room #103 – Cross Office Building/Augusta**

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roger Brainerd from MACS asked if copies of the draft RFP would be shared with interested parties. Bob Kautz indicated that a copy of the draft RFP would be sent to him and he could distribute as appropriate. Roger also shared that he attended the recent virtual charter school conference. The webinar is now available for all to review.

Chad Strout from Maine Connections Academy had questions about the ESSA Report Card. He has concerns about how the report cards will represent charter schools and hopes that additional data, such as NWEA, can be included in the report. Gina Post indicated that schools should reach out to the DOE directly regarding inclusion of additional data as that is a DOE decision, not a Charter Commission decision.

**13. ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.**

**Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn.**