

Maine Charter School Commission

March 5, 2019 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on April 2, 2019

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting at the **Burton M. Cross Office Building**, Room #103A/B, on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

1. Call to Order and Declare a Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Dr. Mike Wilhelm, at 9:36am and a quorum was declared.

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

Commission member absent was: Laurie Pendleton.

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

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*); Travis Works (*Cornville Regional Charter School*); Judith Jones (*MACS*); Roger Brainerd (*MACS*); Joe Drago; Carrie Branson (*Harpwell Coastal Academy*); Dr. Melinda Browne (*Maine Virtual Academy*); Fadia Afaneh (*Maine Virtual Academy*); Leon Garnett (*Ecology Learning Center*); Kelli Pryor (*Baxter Academy for Technology and Science*); Bill Ferdinand (*Eaton-Peabody*); Lisa Packard and Beth Alma – 11:21am (*Ecology Learning Center*).

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

None

5. To Act Relative to Accepting as Printed the Minutes of the February 5, 2019 Business Meeting.

No discussion.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to accept as printed the minutes of the February 5, 2019 Business Meeting.

6. To Accept FY19 Budget vs. Actual – March Report

A copy of the March report was distributed for review.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously as follows to accept the FY19 Budget vs. Actual – March Report.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7a. To Consider New Performance Framework

A copy of the edited framework based on feedback from schools was distributed for review and discussion. Joe Drago gave a brief explanation on the financial indicators. The next step is to send the draft to Governing Boards for their review and approval.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously by those present to send the new Performance Framework to governing boards for review and approval.

7b. To Consider and Approve Revised Anytime/Anywhere Learning Template

A copy of the revised Anytime/Anywhere Learning template was distributed for review and consideration.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously by those present to approve the revised Anytime/Anywhere Learning template.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8a. To Consider and Approve Maine Virtual Academy's Request to Amend School Performance Indicators

A copy of the Amendment Request was distributed for review and consideration. Gina Post reminded Commission members that if approved these indicators would be for the 2018/19 school year.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to approve Maine Virtual Academy's Request to Amend School Performance Indicators.

At 10:30am, Pender Makin visited with the Commission. It was an opportunity to introduce herself as the new Commissioner for the Maine Department of Education. Commissioner Makin presented a copy of the Department's proposed Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals to those present and encouraged feedback. Commissioner Makin will be presenting briefly at the Charter School Dinner scheduled on Thursday, March 7th.

9. REPORTS

9a. Chair – Dr. Mike Wilhelm

Dr. Mike Wilhelm shared that he attended Maine Connections Academy's mid-year check-in meeting on February 19th and found the discussion to be very informative. He also shared that he will be presenting budget testimony before the Appropriations and Education & Cultural Affairs Committees on Monday, March 11th.

9b. Vice Chair – John Bird

No report given.

9c. Executive Director – Bob Kautz

Legislative Update

Bob shared that none of the bills that are being followed have been scheduled yet but has heard that some may be scheduled closer to the end of the month. He will keep everyone up to date as more news becomes available. He indicated that if the Commission provides testimony for any of the proposed bills that the position will be “neither for nor against”. NACSA will be drafting a document attesting to the Commission’s level of oversight that can be used when testifying.

Mid-Year Check-In Meetings

Bob shared that meetings have been held with 8 of the 9 public charter schools. These meetings are informal in nature and provide an opportunity to discuss topics such as chronic absenteeism, enrollment for next year, facilities, renovations and any other school-specific items that may be of interest.

Enrollment Lottery Updates

Bob indicated that Baxter Academy of Technology and Science held its lottery on February 6th. Slots for 9th, 10th and 11th grades were filled with 136 students remaining on the waitlist.

Bob and Gina will be attending lotteries, as needed, and will report results at the next Business Meeting.

9d. Director of Program Management – Gina Post

Intent to Apply Update and Ongoing RFP Meetings with Applicants

Gina shared that four (4) Intents to Apply were received through Epicenter – Ecology Learning Center, Inspire ME Academy, Sheffwood Academy and Umbrella Preschool. An RFP Informational Meeting was held on February 5th with the next meeting scheduled after the conclusion of the Business Meeting. These meetings are an opportunity for applicants to ask questions clarifying questions about the RFP itself.

February 28th Charter School Workshop Update

Gina shared that the workshop was focused mostly on finance. Tyler Backus from the Maine Department of Education presented on the importance of coding finances properly and Jim Rier presented and answered questions about changes to the ED279s and what those changes mean. Gina and Joe Drago gave a brief presentation on the proposed new performance framework.

NACSA Site Visit Project Update

Gina indicated that two representatives from NACSA will be on site on March 19th to discuss site visit protocol. Information from that meeting will be shared at the next Business Meeting.

March 7th NWEA Training

Gina shared that the next NWEA “Train the Trainer” will be held on March 7th. It’s an all-day training which will be held at the Augusta Civic Center. Two to three people from each school will attend with another scheduled for May 23rd.

End of Year Visit Updates

Gina reminded Commission members that end of year visits will be done in accordance with the approved Site Visit table. School Liaisons will be invited to attend but will not be required to attend. Once scheduled, a complete list of meeting dates will be shared and Commission members can put on their calendars if they choose to do so.

Website Update

There have been many misconceptions about the state of the Commission’s current website. Gina shared that even though our pages are held within the Maine DOE’s new website, that the web address for the Charter School Commission remains the same as it’s being re-routed automatically by the servers. Gina also gave a brief presentation on the website itself and showed that much (if not more) of the information that was on the old site is now on the new site. There are some instances where our files are too large and work-arounds are being considered. As a reminder, the Commission approved the proposal by InforME to move our website – which is currently being worked on. More details will follow as they become available.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10a. Turn in Expense Vouchers at the End of the Meeting

10b. Next Business Meeting Date – January 8, 2019

Bob Kautz reminded the group that the Annual Charter School Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 7th at 5:00pm at The Daniel in Brunswick. Carrie Branson indicated that spouses are welcome to attend as there are still some seats available. The cost is \$35 per person.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Brainerd from MACS thanked the Commission for the sound system that was purchased specifically for these meetings and shared that the microphones made it easier to hear the entire meeting.

Roger also shared that the public hearing on a bill that MACS submitted regarding high cost special needs (LD791) will be heard at 9am on Wednesday, March 6th. He encourages all those who can attend to do so.

12. ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Dr. Fern Desjardins and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn.