

Maine Charter School Commission

April 2, 2019 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on May 7, 2019

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting at **ACADIA Academy**, 12 Westminster Street, Lewiston, on **Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

1. Call to Order and Declare a Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Dr. Mike Wilhelm, at 9:31am and a quorum was declared.

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

Commission member absent was: John Bird, Vice Chair.

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: Chris Brann (*ACADIA Academy*); Judith Jones (*MACS*); Roger Brainerd (*MACS*); Brittiny-Rae Perron (*ACADIA Academy*); and Travis Works – 10:40am (*Cornville Regional Charter School*).

Present from the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences were: Tonya Arnold; Mara Tieken; Jo Werther; Emanuel Pariser; Mike Muir; Kaya Lescault; and Juliana Rothschild.

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 March 5, 2019 Business Meeting.

No discussion.

Moved by Jana Lapoint; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted on as follows: (5) Yes; (1) Abstain/Laurie Pendleton to accept as printed the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Business Meeting.

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

A copy of the April report was distributed for review.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously as follows to accept the FY19 Budget vs. Actual – April Report.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

8a. To Consider and Accept Notification of Maine Academy of Natural Science’s Governing Board Member Resignation – Karen Kusiak

A copy of the resignation was distributed for review and discussion.

Moved by Jana Lapoint; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to accept notification of Maine Academy of Natural Science’s Governing Board Member Resignation – Karen Kusiak.

8b. To Consider and Accept Notification of Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences’ Governing Board Member Resignation – Zoe Lewin

A copy of the resignation was distributed for review and discussion.

Moved by Laurie Pendleton; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to accept notification of Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences’ Governing Board Member Resignation – Zoe Lewin.

8c. To Consider and Approve Maine Academy of Natural Science’s Threshold Amendment Request

A copy of the request to increase enrollment in the Threshold program was distributed for review and discussion and recommended to approve as proposed:

	Threshold	On-Campus Daily	Total
19-20	60*	155-160	215-226
20-21	80*	155-160	235-248
21-22	120*	155-160	275-292

*with enrollment up to 10% over authorized.

The school will be required to continue to provide updates with evidence of progress toward achieving the school’s performance indicators for both the school-based and Threshold programs broken down by program.

Moved by Dr. Fern Desjardins; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present to approve Maine Academy of Natural Science’s Threshold Amendment Request.

8d. To Consider Commission’s Position on Proficiency-Based Diplomas

Bob Kautz shared the history of proficiency-based diplomas in the state and described the legislature’s decision to allow schools to choose. He reminded members that it has been the Commission’s expectation that Maine’s public charter schools will issue proficiency-based diplomas and although the law has changed, the Commission’s expectation has not. Bob also shared that with the change in the law, the DOE will have little to no support to offer schools and that if the Commission is going to continue with the original expectation funds will need to be made available in order to support the public charter schools as needed.

Motion was put on the table to continue with proficiency-based diplomas.

Moved by Jana Lapoint; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to continue with proficiency-based diplomas.

8e. First Reading of Draft Closure Plan

A copy of the draft Closure Plan was distributed for review and discussion.

Edits will be made and brought to the next Business Meeting for continued review.

9. REPORTS

9a. Chair – Dr. Mike Wilhelm

Dr. Mike Wilhelm shared that he has testified in front of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee for both the budget and the advertising bill.

9b. Vice Chair – John Bird

No report given/Absent.

9c. Executive Director – Bob Kautz

Legislative Update

Bob shared that the work session on the advertising bill is scheduled for Thursday, April 4th. Turnout for the public hearing was great and there were many thoughtful presentations given to the committee.

The public hearings for LD307, 438 and 513 are scheduled for Monday, April 8th. One intends to remove the cap on public charter schools entirely while the others intend to place permanent caps on the number of public charter schools allowed in Maine and on enrollment for virtual school students and grade levels. Bob shared that he is currently working on testimony for each of these bills.

Mid-Year Check-In Meetings Updates

Meetings for 8 of the 9 public charter schools were held and reported on at previous meetings. The meeting for Maine Arts Academy had been postponed several times due to the weather. The meeting was held on March 14th and all indications point to positive things happening at the school. MeAA reports that they have 200 students enrolled for the 2019/20 school year.

Enrollment Lottery Updates

Five of the schools did not hold lotteries. They all have openings and waitlists at some grade levels. Of the four that were held, Bob attended two and Gina attended two.

Annual Charter School Dinner Update

Bob indicated that the dinner was well attended and that Carrie Branson and her staff at Harpswell Coastal Academy did a wonderful job in planning. Pender Makin was the keynote speaker. Next year's dinner will be planned by staff at Cornville Regional Charter School.

9d. Commission Member – Jim Rier

Jim shared information regarding the bill which proposes increasing minimum teacher salaries to \$40,000. He reminded Commission member that, if passed, this bill will impact public charter schools.

9e. Director of Program Management – Gina Post

NWEA Training Update

Gina reported that the second NWEA Training was held on March 7th at the Augusta Civic Center. Approximately 25 people attended the training.

NACSA Site Visit Project Update

Representatives from NACSA visited the office on March 19th and met with Gina, Bob and Joe Mattos. Gina is working on a comprehensive site visit manual which will be shared at the next Business Meeting.

Lisa Plimpton Graduation Study Update

Gina shared that Lisa is currently in the process of working with schools to discuss graduation. She is working on signing the Commission up as a consortium with the National Student Clearinghouse. While it is not required for schools to participate, feedback from the schools has been positive so far. Further details on the status of the project will be shared at the next meeting.

Performance Framework Update

The approved Performance Framework has been sent out to all schools and Governing Boards. Joe Drago has visited some schools to discuss and answer questions (specifically about the financial indicators).

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

10b. Next Business Meeting Date – May 7, 2019

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.

Moved by Dr. Fern Desjardins; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn.