

Snow Pond Arts Academy  
Pre-Opening Visit – Year 2  
August 9, 2017

Snow Pond Arts Academy: Janna Townsend, Sherry Gilbert, Deborah Emery, Heather King  
Maine Charter School Commission: John Bird, Shelley Reed, Jana Lapoint, Bob Kautz, Gina Post, Roberta Lucas (Department of Education – Special Services)

On August 9, 2017 the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) Review Team for Snow Pond Arts Academy (SPAA) and MCSC staff met at SPAA to review the school's plan to open for year 2.

SPAA created a School Improvement Plan and met with the MCSC regularly to provide progress updates. The pre-opening visit was the most recent in the series of update visits.

SPAA provided documentation including the School Improvement Plan and progress toward its goals. Below is a summary of updates.

Education:

- SPAA has provided compensatory services to all students who were offered and accepted services due to the lack of a special education teacher on staff early in year 1.
- SPAA has opted to discontinue its use of K12 for its curriculum. Work has been done to map out standards based on the Maine Learning Results.
- Teachers have had one day of professional development this summer and will have 2 more before school starts.
- Friday afternoons will be weekly PD for teachers.

Organization:

- SPAA has hired qualified leadership in a full time Head of School and a full time Principal.
- SPAA has hired a part time special education director, a full time special education teacher, a full time ed tech, and has provisions for a PT special education teacher if needed.
- The school is interviewing for an English teacher and may need an additional teacher depending on student enrollment.

Governance:

- The governing board adopted a comprehensive Policy book on 8/2/17. Policies will be edited and updated as needed.
- The governing board developed a self-evaluation tool that will be administered in order to give direction to further work.
- There have been some governing board changes. Janna Townsend is now the board president. Additionally, the Board is recruiting candidates to fill vacancies.

Business and Financial:

- SPAA's current budget is based on 155 students (the number of students currently enrolled) and is in the black.
- The budget includes a plan for repayment of debt
- The head of school has explored several cost-saving measures – transportation shared with other schools will save money.

It is the opinion of the Review Team that SPAA has executed its School Improvement Plan and is prepared to open for year 2. MCSC staff will continue to monitor SPAA's progress on the SIP.