

Maine Charter School Commission

September 4, 2018 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on October 2, 2018

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting at the **Burton M. Cross Office Building**, Room #103A/B, on **Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

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; John Bird, Vice Chair; Jim Rier; Jana Lapoint and Laurie Pendleton.

Commission members absent were: Dr. Fern Desjardins (*joined by Zoom*); and Shelley Reed.

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: Roger Brainerd, Judith Jones and Cheryl Clukey (*MACS*); Tonya Arnold and Mike Muir (*MeANS*); Joe Drago; Chad Strout (*Maine Connections Academy*); Vicki Wallack (*Maine School Management Association*); Deborah Emery (*Snow Pond Arts Academy*); Kelli Pryor – 9:35am (*Baxter Academy for Technology and Science*); David Silvernail – 10:03am; Lisa Packard – 10:24am; and Andy Cashman – 10:44am (*PretiFlaherty*);

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 noted.

5. To Act Relative to Accepting as Printed the Minutes of the August 7, 2018 Business Meeting.

No discussion.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present to accept as printed the minutes of the August 7, 2018 Business Meeting.

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

Tabled until October 2, 2018 Business Meeting.

7. REPORTS

7a. Chair – Dr. Mike Wilhelm

Dr. Mike Wilhelm discussed the assignment of Commission Liaisons to each approved public charter school. Assignments are as follows:

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
Harpowell 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

The Liaison will assist in report writing, participate in site visits (if available) and attend meetings and other special events.

7b. Vice Chair – John Bird

No report given.

7c. Executive Director – Bob Kautz

ACADIA Staff Vacancies

Bob shared that Julie Colello has left ACADIA Academy to take another position. Bob has met with Chris Brann, Governing Board Chair, and the board is taking the appropriate steps to fill the position. They will be looking for an Interim Director as well as a Special Education Coordinator. They are pleased with the applicant pool and hope to have these positions filled within the next few weeks.

MSMA Conference Clinic Proposal

Bob indicated that an application has been submitted to the Maine School Management Association to present at the upcoming conference in October.

MeANS/GWH Boards Chairs Meeting

Bob has met with Mike Muir, MeANS Governing Board Chair to discuss the arrangement between the MeANS Board and the Good Will-Hinckley Board. Another meeting which will include the Good Will-Hinckley Board Chair has been set up for next week.

Public Charter School Opening Report

Bob shared that all nine of Maine's public charter schools are open for the 2018/19 school year with the exception of MeANS who will open on September 5th.

Kelli Pryor indicated that Baxter Academy welcomed 100+ new 9th graders last week.

The second floor of the Cornville high school is not complete at this time. They will be using the church, community center and a few other places in the interim.

Bob indicated that Fiddlehead's Special Education Director has left for a full-time position elsewhere.

Bob shared that he, Gina Post and Paul Hambleton from the Maine DOE met with Harpswell Coastal Academy to discuss their connections with local career and technical programs.

Chad Strout shared that Maine Connections Academy is maxed out at 429 students with 180 currently on the wait list.

Deborah Emery indicated that Snow Pond Arts Academy has 80 new students and will begin with an enrollment of 195 students in total.

7d. Director of Program Management – Gina Post

Update on August 24th Heads of School/Executive Directors Workshop

Gina shared that all schools were in attendance for the recent workshop. Topics included Panorama, Epicenter and a presentation/discussion regarding Performance Indicators with David Silvernail.

Update on End of Year Reports

Reports are currently in progress and will be sent to the Liaisons in the next week or so for review and comment. State Assessment results will be available and will be included in the reports once we receive the information.

Update on MeANS Threshold Expansion Concept

Gina shared that she, Bob, Roberta Lucas and Dan Hemdal met with Tonya Arnold and Emanuel Pariser to discuss MeANS' withdrawn expansion request. Tonya was in attendance and shared that the meeting went well and that the school now has a better understanding of the information the Commission will require when considering the request in the future.

Meeting with Fiddlehead Board Chair

Gina indicated that Fiddlehead's new Board Chair, Adam Gilman, requested a meeting to discuss the expectations of his new role and to discuss any upcoming changes or initiatives on the part of the Commission.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8a. To Consider and Approve Snow Pond Arts Academy's Request to Change the Name of the School to Maine Arts Academy

A copy of the amendment request was distributed for review and discussion.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously by those present to approve Snow Pond Arts Academy's request to change the name of the school to Maine Arts Academy.

8b. To Consider and Approve Snow Pond Arts Academy's Request to Change School Calendar

A copy of the amendment request was distributed for review and discussion.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jana Lapoint and voted unanimously by those present to approve Snow Pond Arts Academy's request to change school calendar.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9a. To Consider and Approve Silver Analytics' Proposal Study of a Change of the Academic Performance Indicator to Growth Proficiency in Concept, for Further Exploration and a Report of Findings and Recommendations to the Commission

David Silvernail presented a PowerPoint with the proposed changes. A copy of the PowerPoint was distributed for review and consideration.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously by those present to approve Silver Analytics' proposal study of a change of the academic performance indicator to growth proficiency in concept, for further exploration and a report of findings and recommendations to the Commission.

9b. To Consider and Approve Silver Analytics' Proposal of Changes to the Performance Indicators in all Areas, Except Academic Indicators, in Concept and for Further Development for Commission Action

David Silvernail presented a PowerPoint with the proposed changes. A copy of the PowerPoint was distributed for review and consideration.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Jim Rier and voted unanimously by those present to approve Silver Analytics' proposal of changes to the performance indicators in all areas, except academic indicators, in concept and for further development for Commission action.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

10b. Next Business Meeting Date – October 2, 2018

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicki Wallack from Maine School Management Association shared that as the Commission is considering changes to the Performance Framework – particularly as it relates to attendance – that returning student data is important to MSMA.

Roger Brainerd from MACS shared that he has met with a representative from the Charter School Division of the New Hampshire Education Department to discuss partnering on a regional charter school conference. As those discussions continue, Roger has requested assistance from the Commission.

Roger also shared that the Coalition for Independent Charter Schools will be holding a virtual conference on September 20th from 8am-4pm. Registration and additional information can be found online.

Roger indicated that the Maine Ocean School opened with 12 students.

Judith Jones from MACS shared that she has many concerns about the proposed changes being discussed to the existing Performance Framework. She would like more focus on data relative to how the school is good for families and children and shared that there is currently national debate on how this data should be presented to the public. She has requested to participate in ongoing discussions.

12. ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.

Moved by Jana Lapoint; seconded by Laurie Pendleton and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn.