

Maine Charter School Commission

November 7, 2017 Business Meeting Minutes Accepted as Written by Commission Vote on December 5, 2017

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting at the **Burton M. Cross Office Building**, Room #103A&B, on **Tuesday, November 7, 2017**.

1. Call to Order and Declare a Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Laurie Pendleton at 9:39am and a quorum was declared.

Commission Members present were: Laurie Pendleton, Chair; Dr. Mike Wilhelm, Vice Chair; Shelley Reed; and John Bird.

Commission Members absent were: Jim Rier and Jana Lapoint.

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

Members of the public present included Tonya Arnold (MeANS); Peter Montano (Baxter); Kelli Pryor (Baxter); Micah Depper (Harpowell); Dan Amory (Baxter); Vicki Wallack (MSMA); Deborah Emery (Snow Pond); Andy Cashman (Preti-Flaherty); Dorothy Foote (Consultant); Michele LaForge (Baxter); Dick Barnes (Consultant); Sarah Mackenzie (Harpowell); John D'Anieri (Harpowell); Carrie Branson (Harpowell); Chad Strout (MCA); Roger Brainerd (MACS); and Judith Jones (MACS).

Students from Harpswell Coastal Academy who attended were Jacob Keef, Garrit Reynolds, Albert Biette, Laurel Wishman and Yvette Grady.

2. Members of the Public Are Asked to Sign In

Laurie Pendleton reminded those present to sign-in if they had not already done so.

3. To Consider Action Relative to Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

Item #71 – A draft copy of the Annual Report to the Commissioner was distributed for commission review. The approval of the draft will be on the December Business Meeting agenda.

4. To Take Action Relative to Accepting as Printed the Minutes of the October 3, 2017 Business Meeting

No changes to the written minutes.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted as follows: Nichi Farnham abstained, the other members voted to accept the October 3, 2017 Business Meeting minutes as written.

5. To Accept FY18 Budget vs. Actual – November 1 Report

No discussion.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Dr. Mike Wilhelm and voted unanimously by those present to accept the FY18 Budget vs. Actual – November 1 Report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7a. To Consider and Approve the Renewal Application from Baxter Academy of Technology and Science

Motion to renew for a period of 10 years with conditions to be met by January 10th of the 3rd year of the new charter term (1/20/21). If the school does not meet the conditions below the contract will automatically end at year five:

- Close the open Department of Education Special Education Corrective Plan
- 2019-20 Maine Department of Education special education audit to show 10 or fewer “findings”

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Renewal Application from Baxter Academy of Technology and Science

7b. To Consider and Approve the Renewal Application from Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences

Motion to renew for a period of 10 years with conditions to be met by January 10th of the 4th year of the charter term (1/10/22). If the school does not meet the condition below (to be negotiated) the contract will automatically end at year 5:

- FSAS will increase student academic proficiency in grades 3, 4, and 5 as indicated by an increasing percentage (of continuing students) in each cohort scoring “at state expectations” or “above state expectations” in math, ELA, and science on the MEA 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Renewal Application from Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences

7c. To Consider and Approve the Renewal Application from Harpswell Coastal Academy

Motion to renew for a period of 5 years ending in 2023.

Moved by Laurie Pendleton; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Renewal Application from Harpswell Coastal Academy

7d. To Consider and Approve Cornville Regional Charter School's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

A draft copy of the Cornville Regional Charter School 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report was distributed for review and approval.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to approve Cornville Regional Charter School's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

7e. To Consider and Approve Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

A draft copy of the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report was distributed for review and approval.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to approve Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

7f. To Consider and Approve Maine Connections Academy's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

A draft copy of the Maine Connections Academy 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report was distributed for review and approval.

Moved by Dr. Mike Wilhelm; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to approve Maine Connections Academy's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

7g. To Consider and Approve Maine Virtual Academy's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

A draft copy of the Maine Virtual Academy 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report was distributed for review and approval.

Moved by Dr. Mike Wilhelm; seconded by John Bird and voted unanimously by those present to approve Maine Virtual Academy's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

7h. To Consider and Approve Snow Pond Arts Academy's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

A draft copy of the Snow Pond Arts Academy 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report was distributed for review and approval.

Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by Dr. Mike Wilhelm and voted unanimously by those present to approve Snow Pond Arts Academy's 2016-17 Annual Monitoring Report

7i. To Consider and Approve the 2016-17 Annual Report to the Commissioner

A draft version of the report was distributed to Commission members for their review and input. Bob Kautz shared that he has requested a formal extension for filing the report from the DOE Commissioner. Laurie Pendleton indicated that if it was readily available it would be nice to include resident district and town information. This agenda item tabled until December.

8. REPORTS

8a. Chair – Laurie Pendleton

Laurie requested that a conference call be set up with the Site Visit Protocol Committee to begin the discussion around site visits. Amy Allen will get the conference call on the calendar.

8b. Vice Chair – Dr. Mike Wilhelm

No report given.

8c. Executive Director – Bob Kautz

Bob shared that Dick Barnes was present to give an update and status on the ongoing research project. Dick stated that he and David Silvernail had interviewed all 9 schools and that they will have preliminary findings available at the December Business Meeting.

Bob spoke about the MSMA Conference. He shared that Shelley Reed and Dr. Mike Wilhelm spoke about Maine's public charter schools and the work of the Commission. This was followed by DOE staff and MACS who spoke about district authorized charter schools. There were approximately 16-17 people in attendance.

8d. Director of Program Management – Gina Post

Gina shared with the Commission that materials/handouts from the NACSA Leadership Conference can be found online and that the office will not be printing the materials and distributing in binders as was done the previous year. She did indicate; however, that if there were materials that anyone wanted printed they could request that from the office.

Commission broke for lunch at 11:29pm.

9. NACSA AUTHORIZER EVALUATION PRESENTATION

Katie Piehl presented the findings from the NACSA Authorization Evaluation and discussed next steps and possible strategies to implement some of the findings.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

10b. Next Business Meeting Date – December 5, 2017

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to move this agenda item to after the "Reports" section.

Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted unanimously by those present to move this agenda item.

Roger Brainerd from MACS shared positive comments on the new format of the weekly newsletter – the "Commission Connection".

12. ADJOURN - Meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm

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