



# Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

## Minutes

### MeANS' Board Meeting

---

#### Date and Time

Thursday September 12, 2024 at 4:30 PM

---

#### Directors Present

A. Perkins, D. Gram, G. Bazakas, K. Patnode, M. Callan, M. Harris, R. Dodge, S. Beaulieu, W. King

#### Directors Absent

E. Brown

#### Guests Present

A. Boudreau, Danni Best, Emanuel Pariser, Evan Coleman, Isabelle King, M. Newberg, Pat Henyan, Zephan Wolman

---

### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Dodge called a meeting of the board of directors of Maine Academy of Natural Sciences to order on Thursday Sep 12, 2024 at 4:31 PM.

#### C. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda

-Google migration.

-Board member terms.

#### **D. Public Comment**

None.

### **II. Staff/Student Presentation**

#### **A. Cell Phone-Free School Presentations**

Pat Henyan - Assistant Head of School started discussion on our new Cell Phone-Free policy.

-Each teacher has lockable cabinet with universal key, and students give their advisors their cellphones. They can only have them at lunch or when they go home.

-We are also not sending our laptops home this year so that students do not forget them, and they do not need to do schoolwork on their phones.

-Zephan Wolman (Student) - Likes the policy because it is an easy way to keep track of students. She also said students are more attentive in class.

-Isabelle King (Teacher) - It surprised her how well the policy has gone so far, and how many behaviors have gone down because of the policy. Overall a more positive environment.

-Pat (Admin.) - 95% improvement on cellphone-related problems./Teachers and staff have been dedicated in enforcing the policy.

#### **Questions**

-What do the parents think?

\*Most parents are 100% on board.

-Is there an issue with students communicating through laptops?

\*Not an issue yet.

-Are students trying to find ways around it?

\*Zephan has not heard word of students trying to get around the policy.

\*A lot of students are enjoying it.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from 6/13/2024**

#### **B. Committee Reports**

HR Committee met three times over the summer.

#### **C.**

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

K. Patnode made a motion to Approve.

A. Perkins seconded the motion.

None.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **D. Head of School Report**

Matthew Newberg

-Asked students and staff how the school year has gone so far - Stronger start to the school year this year.

-Cellphone-Free Policy has been very positive.

-Curveball - A few resignations before the start of the school year.

\*Waiting list for new Threshold students.

\*Had to choose new model for Threshold leadership - two teacher leader positions with full class loads and admin. duties.

\*They feel like it is going well so far.

\*Campus enrollment is above goal.

\*Staffing challenge is the biggest one right now.

## **IV. Action Items**

### **A. Approval of Emergency Procedures**

M. Harris made a motion to Approve.

K. Patnode seconded the motion.

Document to be cleaned up - format, grammatical errors, etc.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **B. Fifield Endowment for Lead Threshold Teachers**

Board had already approved funds to fund the Dean of Threshold position. Instead, two \$5,000.00 positions for lead threshold teachers.

A. Perkins made a motion to Approve.

W. King seconded the motion.

Emanuel - Good model/in favor.

Kim - Are there guidelines in place for these two positions?

Matt - Yes.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **C. Nomination of New Board Member - Lee Karter**

Robert Dodge - Lee would like to join our board.

\*Proposing nomination for him - We will vote on it next month.

## **V. Information Sharing**

**A. Audit Update**

Robert Dodge - Ashley could not be here.

-Audit has just began/not many updates.

-We will have a better update next month.

**B. BoardOnTrack**

New application for board for our documents - agendas, minutes, meetings, etc.

-Training session before our next board meeting.

**C. Strategic Plan**

Robert Dodge - Three areas of goals we are looking at.

-Next plan - Objectives to achieve those goals.

\*Marketing and Recruitment

\*Financial Stability

\*Curriculum

-Continuing building this plan.

-Posting this on Board OnTrack.

-Final Overview of Strategic Plan - Robert, Mary, Evan, and Emanuel.

**D. Board Member Terms**

Robert Dodge

-Look for minutes from when we made the split to find correct terms. (June of 2023?)

-Robert and Alyssa to solidify this and put it in Board OnTrack.

**E. Google Migration**

Migrating all of our documents to our own maineacademy.org has been messy, but doing the best that we can to get everything back.

**VI. Closing Items**

**A. Other Business**

None.

**B. Prep. for next Meeting**

Training session for Board OnTrack - 10/17/2024 at 3:30PM.

**C. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Callan