



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