



# Maine Charter School Commission

## Monthly Commission Meeting

Published on August 13, 2024 at 11:07 AM EDT

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### Date and Time

Tuesday August 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM EDT

### Location

Room # 103, Cross Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta or via Zoom

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The **Vision** of the Maine Charter School Commission is that ***"Innovative public charter schools will provide Maine students with an equitable opportunity for an excellent education where students are valued, supported and challenged."***

The **Mission** of the Maine Charter School Commission is ***"To authorize, monitor and support innovative public charter schools that provide a dynamic, high-quality education for every student."***

### Reminders:

- This meeting is being recorded via Zoom.
  - We ask members of the public to hold comments until public comments are heard.
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Any person seeking special accommodation for the public meeting should contact Sue Whipkey at (207)816-2187 or susan.whipkey@maine.gov.

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**Agenda**

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>I. Opening Items</b>		
A. Record Attendance		Susan Whipkey
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Norm Higgins
C. To Consider the Approval of the 6/11/24 Commission Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Norm Higgins
<b>II. Comments from Commission Chair</b>		
A. Comments	Discuss	Norm Higgins
<b>III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda</b>		
A. Additions/Adjustments	Discuss	Norm Higgins
<b>IV. Committee Reports</b>		
A. School Performance Committee	FYI	Tori Kornfield
B. Finance Committee	FYI	Leigh Albert
• <i>FY24 Year End Reconciled Financials</i>		
C. Executive Committee	FYI	Norm Higgins
<b>V. Public Comment*</b>		
A. Public Comment	Discuss	Norm Higgins
<b>VI. Presentations</b>		
<i>None</i>		

Purpose Presenter

**VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report**

- A. School Updates Discuss Lana Ewing
- B. Organizational Updates Discuss Lana Ewing
- C. Media Updates FYI Lana Ewing

- 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year Semifinalists Announced

- D. New Charter School FYI Lana Ewing
- *Letters of Intent*

**VIII. Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report**

- A. Spring 2023 Panorama Survey Results Discuss Lana Ewing

**IX. Unfinished Business**

*None*

**X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance**

- A. To Consider the Appointment of Norm Higgins as Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission Vote Brian Langley
- B. To Consider the Appointment of Leigh Weisenburger Albert as Vice Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission Vote Brian Langley
- C. To Consider the Approval of the Proposed Changes to Internal MCSC Policies and Procedures Vote Norm Higgins

**XI. New Business Requiring Notification to the Commission (No formal action to be taken by Commission)**

- A. New Governing Board Members FYI Norm Higgins
- *Baxter Academy for Technology and Science (Daniel Strader)*
- B. Board Member Resignations FYI Norm Higgins

Purpose Presenter

- *Community Regional Charter School (Tonya Arnold)*
- *Ecology Learning Center (Michael Shell)*

**C. Board Member Term Outs**

FYI

Norm Higgins

- *Baxter Academy for Technology and Science (Thorn Dickinson)*
- *Ecology Learning Center (Laura Graham)*
- *Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences (Kimberly Allen)*
- *Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences (Ben Kramer)*
- *Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (Dana Doran)*
- *Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (Mike Muir)*

**XII. Executive Session**

*Title 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS, Chapter 13: PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS, Subchapter 1: FREEDOM OF ACCESS; 405. Executive Sessions*

*(A) Discussion or consideration of the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation or dismissal of an individual or group of officials, appointees or employees of the body or agency or the investigation or hearing of charges or complaints against a person or persons subject to the following conditions:*

*1) An executive session may be held only if the public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the individual's reputation or the individual's right to privacy would be violated.*

**XIII. Next Month's Topics**

**A. Next Month's Topics**

FYI

Norm Higgins

September

- SY2022-23 Annual Monitoring Reports Addendum
- SY2023-24 End of Year Unenrollment Data
- To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Request to Expand Grade Levels to Include Grade 7 and Grade 8

October

- To Consider the Approval of Ecology Learning Center's Renewal Application

Purpose Presenter

- To Consider the Approval of Maine Virtual Academy's Renewal Application

November

- To Receive and Place on File SY2023-24 Annual Monitoring Reports
- To Consider the Approval of the SY2023-24 Annual Report to the Commissioner

**XIV. Announcements**

**A. Important Dates** FYI Norm Higgins

- 9/17/24 Public Hearing for Renewal - Ecology Learning Center (2:30-4:00pm/42 Depot Street, Unity)
- 9/26/24 Public Hearing for Renewal - Maine Virtual Academy (1:00-2:30pm/ZOOM)
- 12/9/24 Governing Board Strategic Planning PD Session (10:00-12:00pm)
- 12/10/24 Commission Strategic Planning PD Session (10:00-12:00pm)

**B. Upcoming Business Meetings** FYI Norm Higgins

- **September 10, 2024** (Maine Arts Academy, 310 Cony Road, Augusta) or Zoom
- **October 8, 2024** (Cross Office Building, Room #103, Augusta) or Zoom
- **November 12, 2024** (Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences, 25 Shaker Road, Gray) or Zoom

**XV. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting** Vote Norm Higgins

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\* The Charter School Commission does not allow airing of complaints in public meetings regarding Commission and charter school employees or school employment matters, in order to protect employee privacy, to comply with Maine law and pursuant to our contractual relation with the schools. To the extent that the Commission receives complaints and concerns relating to school employees in writing, those concerns will be reviewed and addressed by the Commission and its staff outside of a public meeting. This meeting is not the appropriate forum for such comments. You are free to direct your concerns in writing to the Commission's Executive Director, if you have not done so already.

# Coversheet

## To Consider the Approval of the 6/11/24 Commission Meeting Minutes

**Section:** I. Opening Items  
**Item:** C. To Consider the Approval of the 6/11/24 Commission Meeting Minutes  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Minutes for Monthly Commission Meeting on June 11, 2024

APPROVED



# Maine Charter School Commission

## Minutes

### Monthly Commission Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday June 11, 2024 at 1:00 PM

#### Location

Ecology Learning Center, Clifford Arts and Student Center, 42 Depot Street, Unity

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The **Vision** of the Maine Charter School Commission is that "***All of Maine's children will have access to a vibrant ecosystem of diverse schools so that all of them can become happy, healthy and thriving citizens.***"

The **Mission** of the Maine Charter School Commission is "***To authorize, monitor and develop unique public charter schools that provide a dynamic, superlative education for every student.***"

#### Reminders:

- This meeting is being recorded via Zoom.
- We ask members of the public to hold comments until public comments are heard.

*Any person seeking special accommodation for the public meeting should contact Sue Whipkey at (207)816-2187 or [susan.whipkey@maine.gov](mailto:susan.whipkey@maine.gov).*

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#### Directors Present

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Brian Langley (remote), James Ford (remote), Jim Handy (remote), Norm Higgins (remote), Tom Keller (remote), Tori Kornfield (remote)

### **Directors Absent**

Leigh Albert

### **Guests Present**

Amy Allen, Lana Ewing, Susan Whipkey

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

James Ford arrived at 1:45

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Norm Higgins called a meeting of the board of directors of Maine Charter School Commission to order on Tuesday Jun 11, 2024 at 1:22 PM.

### **C. To Consider the Approval of the 5/14/24 Commission Meeting Minutes**

Tori Kornfield made a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/14/24 Commission Meeting Monthly Commission Meeting on 05-14-24.

Jim Handy seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

Tori Kornfield Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

James Ford Absent

Jim Handy Aye

Brian Langley Aye

Tom Keller Aye

Leigh Albert Absent

## **II. Comments from Commission Chair**

### **A. Comments**

Norm attended the Maine Connections Academy Graduation to watch his grandson successfully graduate and noted that one of the MCA students was highlighted in a Portland Press Herald article as a student to watch.

## **III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda**

### **A.**

## Additions/Adjustments

Tori Kornfield made a motion to postpone the Executive Session until the August meeting.

Tom Keller seconded the motion.

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

### Roll Call

Tori Kornfield Aye

Jim Handy Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Leigh Albert Absent

Tom Keller Aye

James Ford Absent

Brian Langley Aye

## IV. Committee Reports

### A. School Performance Committee

Tori reported the following items were reviewed by the committee:

- School enrollment trends and concerns.
- NWEA testing requirement vs. waiver decision. If state cannot provide growth data from its through-year assessments, the commission may need to require NWEA testing. If the state data does provide reliable growth data, a NWEA waiver may be granted. The state results will be available soon to assess if the growth data is reliable.
- Mission/Vision/Values suggestions.

### B. Finance Committee

Brian reported the following items were reviewed by the committee:

- Financial management accounting matters for all schools.
- School budget planning and construction updates.
- Cancellation of the July Committee meeting.
- Commission Spending Dashboard review.

Joe commented he was pleased to see an increase in the low-risk scores for schools which reduces the number of high-risk scores indicating schools are getting better financial traction.

### C. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meeting was cancelled in June due to attendance and no pressing issues to discuss this month.

### D. Ad-Hoc Nomination Committee

Tori and Brian proposed that Norm and Leigh continue as Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission.

The formal vote will be taken during the next business meeting.

Norm outlined his vision of the Commission's role next year as follows:

- To continue work aligning the Commission's vision, mission and values.
- To ensure commission support and resources for the team.
- To foster development of new Charter School opportunities.
- To develop a marketing campaign that educates the public and political environment about charter schools value.
- To ensure the effective transfer of leadership.

## V. Public Comment\*

### A. Public Comment

Walter Wallace from the Maine Connections Academy shared that a recent graduate was featured in a recent Portland Press Herald Article about 10 students to watch from the 2024 graduating classes in the Southern Maine area.

Sherry Gilbert spoke positively about the Maine Arts Academy graduation that included performances from all programs.

## VI. Presentations

### A. Joe Mattos - President of Maine Alliance of Public Charter Schools

Joe Mattos provided an overview of the Maine Alliance of Public Charter Schools ("MAPCS") leadership and recent activity and discussed their new website ([www.mapcs.net](http://www.mapcs.net)) with information about charter schools that parents can use as a resource.

He announced the September 1, 2024, **hiring of a part time Executive Director is in the works for communication, marketing, aggregation of programming, etc.**

## VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

### A. School Updates

Maine Virtual Academy will be running a six-week summer session with expanded offerings.

Fiddlehead - Angus King visited an eighth-grade classroom to talk about government and decision making.

MeANS received a grant from GEAR UP Maine RISE.

Maine Arts Academy graduating students received \$617,000 in scholarships this year and performed 28 times in the community this past year.

Lana congratulated all of the graduates this year.

### B. Organizational Updates

Lana reported the following:

- Thanks to ELC for hosting the Commission.
- A School Board Professional Development session was held on May 15th in Augusta. The topic was setting strong long and short-term goals and was facilitated by Naomi DeVeaux from the National Charter Schools Institute. Eight of nine Boards were represented and gave positive feedback.
- Reviewed the Heat-Map of Maine Charter School Students hometowns.
- End of Year School Visits are scheduled for each school where visits are required.
- Panorama Survey is closing this week and results will be shared at the next meeting.
- School Renewal visits for MVA and ELC have taken place. The Year 4 performance report will be available this summer. Focus Group and Public Hearings will be held prior to the Commission vote for renewal in October.
- New School applications - On July 1, the Letter of Intent to open a new charter school will be released publicly on our website. The Letter of Intent to apply filing deadline is July 15 and is required in order to submit an application in February.
- Thank you to Commission for drafting the new mission/vision/and values statements.

### C.

## Media Updates

### D. New Charter School

## VIII. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance

### A. To Consider Cancelling the July 9th Commission Meeting

Tori Kornfield made a motion to cancel the July 9th Commission Meeting.

James Ford seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

Brian Langley Aye

James Ford Aye

Leigh Albert Absent

Tom Keller Aye

Jim Handy Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

### B. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's Revised Mission, Vision, and Values

Tori Kornfield made a motion to approve the Commission's revised Mission, Vision and Values.

Jim Handy seconded the motion.

"for" rather than "to" clarification

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

#### Roll Call

Tom Keller Aye

Leigh Albert Absent

Brian Langley Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

James Ford Aye

Jim Handy Aye

## IX. Next Month's Topics

### A. Next Month's Topics

- Election of Officers.
- Executive Director Evaluation.

## **X. Announcements**

### **A. Important Dates**

### **B. Next Regular Business Meeting**

*August 13, 2024* at 1pm via Zoom or in person at 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, ME. Room 103.

## **XI. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Norm Higgins

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# Coversheet

## Finance Committee

**Section:** IV. Committee Reports  
**Item:** B. Finance Committee  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** FY24 MCSC Budget vs Actual Report as of 8.1.24.pdf



# MCSC FY24 Budget vs. Actual - As of August 1, 2024

<u>Revenue</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Allotment	\$694,809	\$766,635	\$71,826	\$694,809
Carryover Funds	\$144,565	\$111,491	(\$33,074)	
Grants	\$0	\$2,163	\$2,163	\$2,658
<b>TOTAL Annual Revenue</b>	<b>\$839,374</b>	<b>\$880,289</b>	<b>\$40,915</b>	<b>\$697,467</b>

<u>Costs (1)</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
<b>Total Cost Summary</b>	<b>\$839,374</b>	<b>\$734,129</b>	<b>\$105,245</b>	<b>\$669,447</b>

## (1) Detail of Costs

<u>Personnel</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Staff Salaries	\$285,000	\$288,874	↓ (\$3,874)	\$251,017
Manpower Service Fee	\$104,880	\$105,977	↓ (\$1,097)	\$75,609
Benefits	\$60,000	\$60,000	→ \$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Personnel</b>	<b>\$449,880</b>	<b>\$454,852</b>	<b>(\$4,972)</b>	<b>\$326,627</b>

<u>Contracted Services</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Financial Consultant	\$49,275	\$40,543	↑ \$8,732	\$44,063
Public Relations/ Engagement	\$35,000	\$20,843	↑ \$14,157	\$21,266
Project-Based Support	\$65,000	\$57,263	↑ \$7,738	\$90,125
Operational/Financial Support	\$0	\$0	→ \$0	\$4,996
<b>TOTAL Contracted Services</b>	<b>\$149,275</b>	<b>\$118,649</b>	<b>\$30,626</b>	<b>\$160,450</b>

<u>Personal Services - Per Diem / Commission Members</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Per Diem	\$15,400	\$12,729	↑ \$2,671	\$14,080
NACSA	\$0	\$0	→ \$0	\$712
<b>TOTAL Personal Services</b>	<b>\$15,400</b>	<b>\$12,729</b>	<b>\$2,671</b>	<b>\$14,792</b>

<u>Travel</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Commission Members	\$12,782	\$3,958	↑ \$8,824	\$4,502
Staff	\$7,641	\$7,772	↓ (\$131)	\$4,892
<b>TOTAL Travel</b>	<b>\$20,423</b>	<b>\$11,730</b>	<b>\$8,693</b>	<b>\$9,394</b>

<u>General Operations</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Insurance/Risk Management	\$1,776	\$822	↑ \$954	\$794
Printing/Photocopying Services	\$500	\$516	→ (\$16)	\$0
Dues and Subscriptions	\$6,860	\$6,926	↓ (\$66)	\$4,591
Meeting Room Rental	\$1,000		↑ \$1,000	\$180
Postage	\$500	\$272	↑ \$228	\$255
Advertising	\$500	\$200	↑ \$300	\$5,142
Food	\$500	\$234	↑ \$266	\$2,013
Center	\$7,529	\$9,395	↓ (\$1,866)	\$3,765
Legal and Professional Services	\$12,546	\$10,858	↑ \$1,688	\$11,791
Office and Other Supplies	\$1,000	\$413	↑ \$587	\$36
<b>TOTAL General Operations</b>	<b>\$32,711</b>	<b>\$29,636</b>	<b>\$3,075</b>	<b>\$28,568</b>

<u>Technology for Schools</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
NWEA MAP Test	\$13,039	\$13,351	↓ (\$312)	\$13,250
Panorama Education	\$10,625	\$0	↑ \$10,625	\$10,625
Infinite Campus	\$20,751	\$19,615	↑ \$1,136	\$24,202
Lottrelease	\$3,750	\$6,669	↓ (\$2,919)	\$0
Epicenter	\$37,900	\$38,710	↓ (\$810)	\$33,900
College-Readiness Diagnostics	\$4,000	\$4,500	↓ (\$500)	\$1,421
Annual Website Refresh			→ \$0	\$3,620
<b>TOTAL Technology for Schools</b>	<b>\$90,065</b>	<b>\$82,845</b>	<b>\$7,220</b>	<b>\$87,018</b>

<u>Technology for MCSC</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Technology	\$8,845	\$8,636	↑ \$209	\$9,163
Cell Phone Services	\$2,000	\$2,664	↓ (\$664)	\$2,625
Website	\$5,000		↑ \$5,000	\$250
Remote CART Captioning Service	\$5,000	\$2,350	↑ \$2,650	\$6,590
BoardOnTrack	\$6,000	\$5,495	↑ \$505	\$0
<b>TOTAL Technology for MCSC</b>	<b>\$26,845</b>	<b>\$19,145</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>\$18,628</b>

<u>Charter School Innovation/Collaboration</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Development	\$20,000		↑ \$20,000	\$17,475
Board Chair Collaboration	\$5,000	\$1,511	↑ \$3,489	\$1,024
<b>TOTAL Charter School Innovatic</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$1,511</b>	<b>\$23,489</b>	<b>\$18,499</b>

<u>Sta-Cap</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Sta-Cap	\$9,775	\$3,033	↑ \$6,742	\$5,470
<b>TOTAL Contingency</b>	<b>\$9,775</b>	<b>\$3,033</b>	<b>\$6,742</b>	<b>\$5,470</b>

<u>Contingency</u>	Projection FY24	Actual FY24	Difference	Actual FY23
Contingency	\$20,000		↑ \$20,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL Contingency</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Coversheet

## Media Updates

**Section:** VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

**Item:** C. Media Updates

**Purpose:** FYI

**Submitted by:**

**Related Material:**

MEDIA RELEASE\_ 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year Semifinalists Announced.pdf

MeAA Completes First Year in New Building.pdf

MVA Student Dawson White achieves Eagle Scout rank.pdf

ELC Student Victoria Hahn KPAC announces scholarship winners.pdf

MCA Student Ben Schmidt - WGME Sports Story .pdf

ELC - Maine Community Foundation Grants for Waldo County.pdf

MeAA New Campus - MaineBiz Article.pdf

News Release from the Maine Department of Education



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 2, 2024

**Contact:** [Marcus Mrowka](#), Maine DOE

## 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year Semifinalists Announced

*Eight Teachers Will Continue Through the Teacher of the Year Process*



Augusta, ME—Eight Maine teachers were announced today as the state semifinalists for the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year. These inspiring educators, members of the 2024 County Teacher of the Year cohort, embody the dedication, innovation, and leadership synonymous with Maine's exceptional classroom teachers. As ambassadors for their students, colleagues, and school communities, their selection acknowledges their excellence in teaching and celebrates the collective achievements and commitment of the entire teaching profession in Maine.

**The semifinalists for the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year are:**



Kristel Anuszewski, Windsor  
Elementary School, 2024  
Kennebec County Teacher of  
the Year



Shilo Burnham, East Belfast  
School, 2024 Waldo County  
Teacher of the Year



Ally Gilbert, Mt. Ararat High  
School, 2024 Sagadahoc  
County Teacher of the Year



Becky Hallowell, Wiscasset  
Elementary School, 2024  
Lincoln County Teacher of the  
Year



Ryan Lowell, Ellsworth High  
School, 2024 Hancock County  
Teacher of the Year



Danielle Pelletier, CK Burns  
School, 2024 York County  
Teacher of the Year



“Congratulations to all the semifinalists on this well-deserved recognition,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. “I’m so inspired by the extraordinary work you do each and every day on behalf of your students, schools, and communities. Thank you for stepping up to represent Maine teachers as County Teachers of the Year and now as Teacher of the Year Semifinalists.”

“We are thrilled to recognize these outstanding educators who exemplify the passion and dedication that define Maine's teaching community,” said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd. “Their commitment to student success and innovation in the classroom is truly commendable. We look forward to the next phases of the selection process and the announcement of the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year.”

The selection process for the Maine Teacher of the Year Program is rigorous and reflective, designed by educators to offer candidates an opportunity to reflect on their instructional practice. Each educator was nominated in January by a member of their community for their commitment to their students and exemplary service in education. They first participated in the County Selection Process, where a distinguished panel of teachers, principals, and business community members selected them as a County Teacher of the Year from among hundreds of nominees. In May, they embarked on the state Teacher of the Year process, showcasing their instructional practices through a classroom video and written reflection.

In the next phase of the selection process, the semifinalists will deliver keynote speeches, submit professional portfolios, and participate in an expert panel discussion on educational equity, teacher leadership, and education policy. The state finalists will be announced in September, and the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year will be revealed in October. The 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year will serve as an ambassador for the teaching profession and represent Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program.

The Maine Teacher of the Year program is administered by Educate Maine through a unique partnership with the Maine Department of Education with support from the [Maine County and State Teacher of the Year Association](#) (MCSTOYA) and the [Maine State Board of Education](#). Funding for the program is generously provided by Bangor Savings Bank, Dead River, Geiger, Hannaford, Maine Lottery, the Silvernail Family, and Unum.

For more information about the Maine County Teacher of the Year Program and to see a list of County Teachers of the Year, and Maine Teachers of the Year, visit <http://www.mainetoy.org>.

###

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## Maine Arts Academy completes first year in new building

cm centralmaine.com/2024/06/12/maine-arts-academy-completes-first-year-in-new-building

June 12, 2024



Maine Arts Academy students take part in Day of Caring by cleaning a courtyard at academy's new location. Crouching from left are Isaish Clements, Lorenzo Cobb and Peyton Davis Standing, from left, are Nick Archibald (teacher), Echo Kast and Bunny Larrabee. *Submitted photo*

**AUGUSTA** — Maine Arts Academy recently completed the 2023-24 school year in its new building.

This is the school's 8th year of operation, serving 240 students grades 9-12. Students performed 26 times in various communities, at venues like downtown Augusta, the Maine Veterans Home, The Buker Center in collaboration with Augusta Adult and Community Education, Colby College Break, Build, Burn and "Of This Place," The University of Maine at Augusta, The University of Maine at Orono, Kennebec Valley Coaching and several performances in the school's new location.

Maine Arts Academy received a \$100,000 COPS Safety grant and \$54,000 from the Department of Education for the Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative. The senior class, with 56 graduates, received over \$250,000 in scholarship funds this year from colleges and universities.

For more information, visit [www.maineartsacademy.org](http://www.maineartsacademy.org) or call Diane Manter at 207-480-7917.



Dani Marquis singing during a school performance of the Maine Arts Academy. *Submitted photo*



Isaiah Clements during a Maine Arts Academy Foundation of Art class — architecture drawing. *Submitted photo*



Emily Carlton as Truffaldino in a Maine Arts Academy theater performance of "The Servant of Two Masters" *Submitted photo*

### **Check out upcoming area events!**

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Comments are not available on this story.

filed under:

augusta maine, people you know

© 2024

## Dawson White achieves Eagle Scout rank

January 17, 2024 / 0 Comments / in Community, Sidney / by Website Editor



*Darrin and Sarah White, proud parents, stand on either side of their Eagle Scout, son Dawson, following the presentation of the Eagle Scout rank to him during a ceremony at the Augusta Lodge of Elks on January 6. (Photo by Chuck Mahaleris)*

**[by Chuck Mahaleris](#)**

Dawson James White, 18, of Sidney, was presented with Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout, during a ceremony at the Augusta Elks, on January 6, 2024, which capped off an eleven-year Scouting career. "I learned so much in Scouting," White said. "I learned survival skills, people skills and how to be a decent person in Scouting."

"This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection," said former Troop #401 Scoutmaster Ryan Poulin, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

"The Eagle Scout rank is the highest recognition Scouting offers a Scout. It is earned through the advancement program, and only a small percentage of youth who begin in Scouting are recognized with this honor. In full awareness of the challenge of these times, the parents and leaders of this Eagle Scout have labored long and faithfully to develop him to be alert and to participate in citizenship through the Scouting program. His efforts culminate today in the presentation of the Eagle Scout Badge. The success of these efforts will become evident in the way this Eagle Scout will set his social pattern for all the lives he may touch. Democracy is a fresh conquest for each generation."

Dawson, who lives in Sidney, is now a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop #401 and will become an Assistant Scoutmaster after he turns 21. He graduated from the Maine Virtual Academy and is working full time at Rainbow Valley Dairy Farm. He said he had many great experiences in Scouting.

He enjoyed the Troop's trip to Gettysburg, camping at Camp Bomazeen, the West Point Camporee, and overnights aboard the USS Massachusetts (BB-59) in Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts. "I built a bunker gear dryer for the Sidney fire department's turnout gear so it will take a day instead of a week to dry and built shelving for above their new extractor which is an industrial washing machine. They also had a six inch ledge that had no safety marker on it so we did that," Dawson said of his Eagle Scout project that benefited the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department. Overall, 80 hours of volunteer work were spent on the project. "I know several people who are firemen and was really happy to help out."

Troop #401 Committee Chairman Andy Steinberger said, "To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for what is right. While trusting in God with faith in his fellow citizens, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work."

The Eagle Scout medal was pinned to his uniform by his mother and Dawson in turn presented pins to his parents Darin and Sarah White.



*Sarah White pins the Eagle Scout rank onto the uniform of her son Dawson. He started the Scouting path 11 years earlier as a Tiger Cub and has reached the highest level of Scouting. (Photo by Chuck Mahaleris)*

# Kennebec Performing Arts Company announces scholarship winners

 [dailybulldog.com/arts/kennebec-performing-arts-company-announces-scholarship-winners/](https://dailybulldog.com/arts/kennebec-performing-arts-company-announces-scholarship-winners/)

June 14, 2024 June 13, 2024

AUGUSTA – Kennebec Performing Arts Company (KPAC) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Student Music Scholarships for the 2023-2024 season. Isla Granholm is the daughter of Sven and Elise Granholm of Topsham. A home-schooled student, Isla will be starting her senior year this fall. She has been singing all her life and became a member of the KPAC chorus in September, 2023. She credits directors Chuck Milazzo and Jason Giacomazzo, accompanist Christina Misner Rao, and the alto section for their guidance and encouragement.

“The chance to sing together with people who have the same deep love and passion for music is such a wonderful thing, and some of the best moments of my life have been when we finally get the harmony right and our voices just soar together.”



Isla Granholm

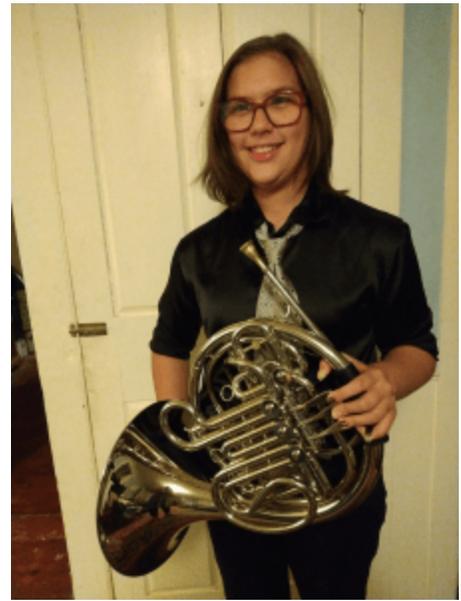
Since 2020, Isla has studied piano under Linda Craig, performing her first recital in April, 2024 at an advanced level. She will use the KPAC scholarship to attend the Csehy Summer School of Music in Langhorne, PA for two weeks this summer, where she will major in piano and participate in chamber choir and handbell ensembles.

Victoria Hahn is the daughter of Ken and Kamala Hahn of Fairfield. She has just completed her freshman year at the Ecology Learning Center in Unity. Victoria began playing violin at age four, continuing for nine years. Two years ago, she began playing French horn, which is now her exclusive focus. She studies under Brittany Genness and has participated in various ensembles, including Mid-Maine Youth Orchestra, KPAC, Kennebec Valley Music Educators Association Honors Band, and Maine All-State Band. Victoria has attended the summer Bay Chamber Envision Program, and Maine Summer Youth Music Camp at the University of Southern Maine, where she will return this summer using her KPAC scholarship.

Victoria is a member of the KPAC Wind Ensemble, joining two years ago to have the opportunity to play challenging music.

“I really enjoy the community because everyone is extremely friendly and supportive of me as a musician. People often talk about how difficult the French horn is, but honestly, that is one of the reasons I like it. It is challenging and annoyingly finicky.”

Kennebec Performing Arts Company encourages the participation of young musicians in its groups. Student members entering grades 9-12 are eligible to apply for the \$500 scholarship for tuition to a summer camp or music program of their choice.



Victoria Hahn

# Scarborough teen considered one of the top young figure skaters in the US

by [Dave Fid](#), WGME

Mon, July 8th 2024 at 9:12 PM





*He may have just turned 13 years old, but Scarborough's Ben Schmidt is considered to be one of the top young figure skaters in the country. (WGME)*

PORTLAND (WGME) – He may have just turned 13 years old, but Scarborough's Ben Schmidt is considered to be one of the top young figure skaters in the country.

In fact last year, he was the USA's #1 skater in the juvenile level, and with the help of Maine Connections Academy, Ben Schmidt is scoring high grades both on and off the ice.

Ben Schmidt started figure skating at just four years old, and it wasn't long after when everything just clicked.

"I'd say 9 or 10 when I started getting really good," Ben Schmidt said. "I was just doing singles and stuff at like 8 and stuff, and then I started getting really good and getting into the harder jumps."

His dad could see early on his talent was off the charts.

"As he started doing competitions, you could see him shine and the talent come through, so we kind of just progressed from there," father Tony Schmidt said.

For his family, it's been a total team effort.

"My wife and him get up around 3:30/4:00 every morning, drive down to Massachusetts, and he skates 3 or 4 hours a day if not more depending on the day, and then drive home, so it's some long days," Tony Schmidt said.

While mom's behind the wheel, Ben Schmidt is in the books.

"So on the drive to the rink, I will usually do my schoolwork, like complete at least some of it for the day, and then on the drive home from skating, I will go and do the school work also," Ben Schmidt said.

Although Ben Schmidt has Olympic dreams someday, he and his family are taking it one jump at a time.

"We don't want to try and say, 'You're going to be an Olympian,' let's focus on this year this season, this competition," Tony Schmidt said. "As long as he's enjoying it, we're going to be there for him and supporting him."

# MaineCF grants will strengthen Waldo County communities



by [BDN Community](#) July 16, 2024

*More than \$76K will support area organizations, projects*

More than \$76,000 in Maine Community Foundation grants will help strengthen nonprofit organizations and projects in Waldo County. MaineCF's Waldo County Grantmaking Committee awarded \$70,000 to eight organizations through the foundation's Community Building Grant Program. MaineCF donors with advised funds made three additional grants totaling \$6,738.

2024 grantees include:

- Belfast Theatre Arts Company, general support, to provide sustainable, community-based entertainment and learning for Waldo County through films, music, performance and civic activities
- Ecology Learning Center, project support, to hire a community engagement manager for its newly acquired Arts and Educational Center
- Waldo County Community Action Partners, project support, to provide residents with financial education and counseling to afford long-term home ownership and to maintain housing stability.

For a complete list of grantees, visit [www.mainecef.org/recentgrants](http://www.mainecef.org/recentgrants).

The Waldo County Fund, established in 1990, is a permanent endowment that supports projects and nonprofit organizations that strengthen communities. Proposals are submitted through MaineCF's Community Building Grant Program, the foundation's largest, and are reviewed by a committee of community members.

For more information, visit [www.mainecef.org/communitybuilding](http://www.mainecef.org/communitybuilding).

2024 grants from the Waldo County Committee:

- Belfast Theatre Arts Company, general support, to provide sustainable, community-based entertainment and learning for Waldo County through films, music, performance and civic activities: \$10,000
- **Ecology Learning Center, project support, to hire a community engagement manager for its newly acquired Arts and Educational Center: \$10,000**
- Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County, general support, to provide free services such as grief support to patients and families affected by life-limiting illness: \$2,000
- Knox Booster Club, general support, to support Waldo County youth sports by maintaining infrastructure and making improvements: \$10,000
- Timelines Community, general support, to create a three-day festival on the importance of open space for planetary health: \$10,000
- Waldo County Bounty, general support, to improve operations, expand community programming and advance mission to ensure residents have access to fresh, nutritious food: \$10,000
- Waldo County Community Action Partners, project support, to provide residents with financial education and counseling to afford long-term home ownership and to maintain housing stability: \$10,000
- Waldo County Woodshed, general support, to provide free firewood to those in need: \$8,000

From donor-advised funds:

- Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County, general support, to provide free services such as grief support to patients and families affected by life-limiting illness: \$3,000
- Northeast Historic Film, project support, to digitize, catalog and make publicly accessible a collection of film and video featuring life in Waldo County: \$1,748
- RSU 71, project support, for a field trip to the Bangor Symphony Orchestra: \$1,990

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

## Maine Arts Academy is building out new campus, expanding programs and enrollment



Photo / Courtesy, Maine Arts Academy The larger location of the Maine Arts Academy is expected to benefit students and the community.

[By Laurie Schreiber](#)

After moving a year ago to Augusta and into a new home, the Maine Arts Academy is now outfitting it with a new dance studio and performance hall.

The hall will seat about 200 and perhaps as many as 250, Heather King, the head of schools, told Mainebiz.

“We are adding a stage and opening up the ceiling,” she said. “We’ve taken walls down on each side to create a space that is roughly 4,000 square feet.”

The contractor is Boucher Builders LLC in Windsor. The engineer overseeing the project is Criterium Engineers in Freeport. WBRC Inc., an architectural firm in Bangor and Portland, designed the spaces.



Photo / Courtesy, Maine Arts Academy

Construction is underway on the Maine Arts Academy's new dance studio and performance hall.

Features in the dance studio will include Marley flooring, a specialized vinyl surface often used in dance. There will be new mirrors along the walls and an accessible door, and the ceilings will be lifted slightly.

In the auditorium, there will be a stage with the ceiling lifted substantially above the stage for lighting, along with a sound and lighting booth for performances.

The charter school for the arts moved into 310 Cony Road in June 2023 and began the school year two months later.

The building, a former Maine Veterans' Homes site, [is about six times larger](#) than the academy's previous 12,000-square-foot location at 11 Goldenrod in Sidney.

By contrast, 310 Cony Road, purchased for \$3.25 million, is 69,615-square-foot building on nine acres.



Photo / Courtesy, Maine Arts Academy

After moving into its new home at 310 Cony Road in Augusta a year ago, the Maine Arts Academy is in the next phase of development.

USDA Rural Development provided a direct loan and a loan guarantee to Kennebec Savings Bank to make possible the school's purchase.

USDA Rural Development staff, include COO Roger Glendenning, recently visited the campus to see how the funding worked on the ground.

"When touring the new facility with Heather and her team, I could envision the potential it has for students involved in dance, music, visual and other creative arts," Glendenning said. "How exciting to know this school will now have the capacity to expand and grow into the future."



Photo / Courtesy, USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development's Roger Glendenning with Maine Arts Academy's Heather King, left, and Rachel Merrill.

Established in 2016, the school for grades 9 through 12 offers studies in dance, music, theater, visual arts and film, as well as English, math, science, social studies and world languages.

Charter schools in Maine are publicly funded schools through the state, but do not receive local tax support. They rely on state money, grants and donations.

"Our enrollment has increased every year since we have been open," said King. "We are hoping for 250 to 260 students this upcoming year."

The school is seeking approval to add a middle school.

"If we get approved, we will open it in the fall of 2025 with 7th and 8th grade," she said. Meanwhile, additional bus stops are bringing students from farther away.

"We have students coming from Westbrook, Newport, Mechanic Falls and as far east as Bucksport," King said.

She expects that the larger space will benefit the school's theater, music, dance and visual arts departments, as well as the public.

"This space will also support other community endeavors," she added.

For example, the local Colonial Theater held a dinner theater in the building this past spring and is using the building for rehearsals until the company's own theater is complete in downtown Augusta.

“Pineland Suzuki School's Orchestra will be using our building as well,” King said. “We have driver's education in the building, and Healthy Communities of the Capital Area and Indigo Arts Alliance out of Portland have both been working on projects with us that highlight the arts and social issues.

“Having a larger space will not only benefit our students but will benefit community partnerships.”

# Coversheet

## New Charter School

**Section:** VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report  
**Item:** D. New Charter School  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Midcoast Academy for the Arts & Technology.pdf  
The New School.pdf  
Wabanaki High School.pdf  
The Learning Connection.pdf  
Midcoast Montessori School .pdf  
Moxie Community School.pdf  
Maine International Charter School.pdf



## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: \_\_\_\_\_Midcoast Academy for the Arts and Technology\_

Proposed School Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Topsham/Brunswick

Proposed Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_9-12\_\_\_\_\_

Target Population: \_\_Students interested in pursuing work in art and technology fields

Anticipated First Year Enrollment and Projected Targeted Enrollment: \_\_100-150 (50-75 per grade for grades 9 and 10, grades to be added with maximum enrollment of 75 per grade each year). Maximum school size 300 9-12 students. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_Meleena Erikson\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant Entity: \_\_Board Member\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant Organization: \_Midcoast Academy for the Arts and Technology\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_NA\_\_\_\_\_

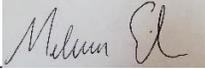
Contact Telephone Number: \_\_617-875-9423\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address:  
\_\_\_\_meleenaerikson@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

*Midcoast Academy for the Arts and Technology will provide students with an experiential, hands-on education with a focus on the arts and technology. Students will be engaged with learning through traditional and project-based learning and internship and externships. The goal of the school is to prepare students for further education and or careers in the arts or technology fields.*

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 07/15/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

If different than Contact Person, please print name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: \_\_The New School\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed School Location: \_\_38 York Street, Kennebunk\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Grade Levels: \_\_9 through 12\_\_\_\_\_

Target Population: Self-directed high school students in York and Cumberland counties who are interested in a learning environment that allows for exploring personal passions within the guardrails of a standards-based Maine high school diploma program, with a foundation in social and environmental responsibility.

Anticipated First Year Enrollment and Projected Targeted Enrollment: \_\_First year: 20;  
Projected: 80\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_Christine Knowles\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant Entity: \_\_Education Director\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant Organization: \_\_The New School\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_38 York Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone Number: \_\_(207) 985-3745\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address:  
\_\_thenewschool@tnsk.org\_\_\_\_\_

School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

*The New School in Kennebunk is designed as a progressive, democratic, student-centered educational experience to ignite students' talents and passions. Established in 2000, it currently provides a flexible, inclusive learning environment with small class sizes and a supportive community where diverse learning styles thrive. The curriculum integrates traditional subjects with unique programs like three-week intensive studies, enabling students to explore specific topics through immersive, hands-on activities, often including travel.*

*As a charter school, The New School would continue to prepare students for college and beyond by engaging them in community involvement and real-world applications, promoting personalized learning and critical thinking in a nurturing environment where they can develop essential life skills. More students would be able to reap the benefits of an educational environment that emphasizes experiential learning, social and environmental responsibility, and a strong community spirit.*

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/9/24\_\_\_\_\_

If different than Contact Person, please print name: MaryBeth Luce\_\_\_\_\_



## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: Wabanaki High School

Proposed School Location: University of Maine at Machias

Proposed Grade Levels: 9-12

Target Population: The four federally recognized tribes of Maine: the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribes, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs.

Anticipated First Year Enrollment and Projected Targeted Enrollment: We plan to open Wabanaki High School in Fall 2026 with an initial cohort of 50 students in grades 9-12, growing by another 50 students for the following year to serve 100 students in grades 9-12 by 2028. Through our unique educational and cultural model, Wabanaki High School will fulfill the Commission's mission of providing an excellent, equitable and community-responsive public-school option that empowers historically underserved students.

Contact Person: Dr. Reza Namin

Relationship to Applicant Entity: Superintendent of Maine Indian Education

Name of Applicant Organization: Maine Indian Education District

Address: 39A Union Street, Calais, ME 04619

Contact Telephone Number: (207) 454-2126

E-Mail Address: [dr.namin@maineindianeducation.org](mailto:dr.namin@maineindianeducation.org)

School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

Wabanaki High School will serve Native American students from Maine's Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot Tribes. The school will provide a culturally relevant, academically rigorous secondary education to prepare students for success in college and careers. Key program elements will include Native language and culture classes, project-based learning, STEM education with a focus on environmental science and sustainability, and extensive community partnerships to provide mentorship, internships, and dual enrollment opportunities for students. The school plans to contract with the Bureau of Indian Education for select administrative functions as an Education Service Provider. Wabanaki High School will empower Native youth with the knowledge, skills, and cultural pride to become the next generation of leaders for their Tribes and communities.

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.

Signature: 

Date: July 11, 2024

If different than Contact Person, please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: The Learning Connection

Proposed School Location: Portland, ME

Proposed Grade Levels: Pre-K to 8

Target Population: Pre-K through Grade 8 students, emphasis on students experiencing neurodivergence and/or trauma

Anticipated First Year Enrollment 80 students

Projected Targeted Enrollment: 150 students

Contact Person: Joanna Horton McPherson

Relationship to Applicant Entity: Founder, President

Name of Applicant Organization: Madre Tierra Foundation

Address: 11 Crescent Ave Peaks Island, ME 04108

Contact Telephone Number: (928)-821-8853

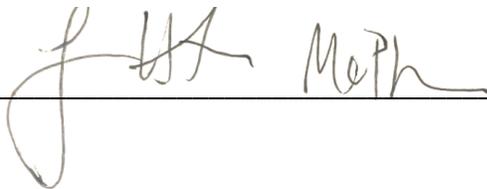
E-Mail Address: [jch166@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:jch166@mail.harvard.edu)

School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

The Learning Connection will enroll up to 150 Pre-K through Grade 8 students in a school that emphasizes student autonomy and provides developmentally appropriate opportunities for both play and physical activity. The school will be intentionally small to create continuity of relationships over time, recognizing that belonging is a requisite condition for learning for all young people and that opportunities for problem solving and relationship building are critical to the success of many children who are neurodivergent or have experienced trauma. The curriculum will combine meaningful interdisciplinary project-based learning with direct instruction in foundational academic skills taught using a small group format. Family engagement will be a primary focus of the school, seeking to affirm student's identity and experiences within the life of the school and to establish robust two-way engagement with families to ensure optimal student outcomes.

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: July 15, 2024



## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: Midcoast Montessori School (to be confirmed)

Proposed School Location: Between Thomaston/Rockland and Rockport/Camden

Proposed Grade Levels: Pre-k to third grade to start (expand to upper elementary)

Target Population: Diverse, inclusive population of coastal/rural children and families

Anticipated First Year Enrollment and Projected Targeted Enrollment: 75-150 students

Contact Person: Rachel Nixon

Relationship to Applicant Entity: Head of School

Name of Applicant Organization: Children's House Montessori School

Address: 58 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843

Contact Telephone Number: 207-236-2911

E-Mail Address: director@camdenmontessori.org

School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

Midcoast Montessori School cultivates curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking in young learners, while nurturing a sense of care for each other, the environment, and the world. Guided by Maria Montessori's pioneering philosophy, MMS inspires a lifelong love of learning in children ages 4 to 10 years. We provide carefully designed, multi-age classrooms and nature-based opportunities where children master skills at their own pace and grow toward independence in a cooperative environment.

Our primary programs (ages 4-5 years) promotes independence and concentration, as well as friendship and group skills. Curricular areas include Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, Geography and Cultural studies, Science and the Arts. Our elementary program integrates a multi-faceted curriculum including Biology, Botany, Geography, Geology, Music, Art, Math, Language, and Geometry. Through collaborative problem solving, children develop empathy, respect for differences, and responsibility.

In all that we do, we honor the values of respect, inclusion, community, and sustainability.

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.

Signature: *Rachel Nixon*

Date: 7/9/24

If different than Contact Person, please print name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: Moxie Community School- PWM ("MCS-PWM")

Proposed School Location: Intent to operate multi-site charter over time. Initial campus Portland/Westbrook, with planned additional campuses in Cumberland County and Lewiston.

Proposed Grade Levels: 6-12

Target Population: Diverse by design middle and high school, with special focus on learners who are high-mobility/recently arrived in State, low income, and/or require customized learning support due to multilingual household and/or learning difference

Anticipated First Year Enrollment and Projected Targeted Enrollment: First year (6th, 9th)- 120; Projected Target Enrollment: Starting campus- 400; Multi-site (3 campuses)- 1200

Contact Person: Dr. Beth Rabbitt

Relationship to Applicant Entity: Co-Founder, Member of Board of Directors

Name of Applicant Organization: Moxie Public Schools ("Moxie")

Address: 411 Congress St. Portland, Maine 04101

Contact Telephone Number: 603-547-0942

E-Mail Address: beth@moxiepublicschools.me

School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

MCS-PWM is the first school in a multi-site 6-12th grade network, Moxie Public Schools. Through Moxie's innovative, competency-based model, each learner will develop the deep sense of place, confidence and competence, and purpose and commitment necessary to flourish with others in a complex world.

Programmatically, Moxie middle school learners will engage in inquiry-based curriculum, with an emphasis on personalized learning to support accelerated mastery of academic standards alongside projects that foster deep real-world connections and understanding. High school learners will engage in hybrid learning, which will include in-person, online, and place-based experiences aligned to Maine's diploma requirements and recently adopted economic development priorities. All graduates will earn career- and college-relevant credentials and credits, alongside the networks and plans needed to activate them. This will be supported by strategic resource sharing across the network, including the development of a robust nonprofit, early college, and workforce partner ecosystem.

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.

Signature:  Date: 07/12/2024

If different than Contact Person, please print name: n/a



## Intent to Submit a Charter School Application (for School Opening 2026)

Proposed Charter School Name: \_\_Maine International Charter School

Proposed School Location: \_\_former Unity Environmental University campus at 90 Quaker Rd., Unity, Maine 04988

Proposed Grade Levels:

\_\_9-12

Target Population: The Charter School will target Maine students from throughout the State, interested in a high-level academic program using the International Baccalaureate program, but focused on integrated curriculum with the themes of international collaboration, sustainability, community building, and technological innovation. The affiliated private non-profit school will target both domestic (US) and international students who will share facilities, faculty, and program with the Charter School, effectively subsidizing the Maine students through higher tuition.

Anticipated First Year Enrollment and Projected Targeted Enrollment:

\_\_2026

Contact Person: \_\_John

Stadler

Relationship to Applicant Entity:

\_\_Founder/CEO

Name of Applicant Organization:

\_\_PlanetLabs.Earth

Address: 36 Sea Kiss Pt, West Bath, ME, 04530 (mailing address: PlanetLabs.Earth, PO box 621, Bath ME, 04530)

Contact Telephone Number:

(978) 406-1131

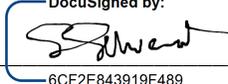
E-Mail Address: [jas314159@gmail.com](mailto:jas314159@gmail.com)

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School Program Design (150 words or less): *Include a brief description including any anticipated contracts with an Education Service Provider (ESP).*

MICS will use the International Baccalaureate programs: both the Diploma Programme and Career Programme for grades 11-12, preceded by the Middle Years Programme (MYP) for grades 9-10. There will be individualized instruction and flexible promotion, so that students who are able to graduate with two years of college credit (i.e., an Early College program) have the courses and assessments to do so. While MICS will not be affiliated with an ESP, it will collaborate with PlanetLabs.Earth (a non-profit education provider based in Maine) to develop a separate private school co-located and co-operated with MICS. This sister school -- operated like many private schools that provide public education in Maine (e.g. George Stevens Academy) -- will primarily target out-of-state and international students. We may also collaborate with Unity Environmental University for online instruction, especially in the CP courses, and for apprenticeship placements.

This indicates our intention to submit an application in response to the RFP issued by the Maine Charter School Commission. I understand this document is not part of the application, but that I must provide this document to the Commission within 15 days of the issue of the RFP if I wish to submit an application.

DocuSigned by:  
  
6CF2E843919F489...  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/9/2024

If different than Contact Person, please print name: Susan Schwaab

# Coversheet

## Spring 2023 Panorama Survey Results

**Section:** VIII. Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report  
**Item:** A. Spring 2023 Panorama Survey Results  
**Purpose:** Discuss  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Spring 2024 Panorama Survey Results - Spring 2023.pdf

Spring 2024 Panorama Survey Results									
	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6	School 7	School 8	School 9
<b>Family</b>	<b>52% Participation</b>	<b>41% Participation</b>	<b>42% Participation</b>	<b>56% Participation</b>	<b>15% Participation</b>	<b>52% Participation</b>	<b>45% Participation</b>	<b>43% Participation</b>	<b>44% Participation</b>
School Climate	99%	99%	99%	99%	10%	99%	90%	70%	99%
School Safety	99%	99%	99%	70%	10%	99%	90%	50%	99%
School Fit	99%	99%	90%	99%	20%	80%	70%	50%	99%
<b>Student (Grades 3-5)</b>				<b>82% Participation</b>	<b>86% Participation</b>		<b>94% Participation</b>		
School Rigorous Expectations				30%	20%		10%		
School Teacher-Student Relationships				30%	10%		10%		
School Safety				40%	20%		10%		
School Climate				30%	10%		10%		
<b>Student (Grades 6-12)</b>	<b>79.9% Participation</b>	<b>81.4% Participation</b>	<b>77.3% Participation</b>	<b>93% Participation</b>	<b>92.6% Participation</b>	<b>78% Participation</b>	<b>88% Participation</b>	<b>80% Participation</b>	<b>69% Participation</b>
School Safety	90%	99%	99%	99%	70%	99%	20%	50%	99%
School Rigorous Expectations	50%	70%	80%	99%	10%	50%	10%	10%	90%
School Teacher-Student Relationships	90%	99%	99%	99%	10%	99%	60%	20%	99%
School Climate	90%	90%	99%	99%	20%	99%	60%	10%	90%
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>84% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>95% Participation</b>	<b>74% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>90% Participation</b>	<b>88% Participation</b>
School Climate	99%	99%	99%	80%	10%	70%	20%	99%	99%
School Leadership	70%	80%	99%	70%	10%	70%	30%	90%	90%
Professional Learning	80%	90%	99%	90%	10%	99%	40%	90%	80%
Feedback and Coaching	80%	70%	99%	70%	10%	90%	10%	90%	40%
<b>Staff</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>81.25% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>97% Participation</b>	<b>75% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>100% Participation</b>	<b>89% Participation</b>	<b>38% Participation</b>
School Climate	99%	99%	99%	70%	30%	90%	10%	99%	90%
School Leadership	99%	90%	99%	50%	60%	99%	40%	99%	90%
Professional Learning	99%	90%	99%	80%	90%	99%	70%	99%	90%
Feedback and Coaching	99%	50%	99%	40%	70%	90%	10%	99%	60%
			Exceeding	Not Meeting	Approaching	Not Meeting			

# Coversheet

## New Governing Board Members

**Section:** XI. New Business Requiring Notification to the Commission (No formal action to be taken by Commission)  
**Item:** A. New Governing Board Members  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Baxter - New Governing Board Member (Daniel Strader).pdf

## Public Charter School Governing Board Member Information Sheet

Name of Public Charter School: Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Name of Board Member: Daniel Strader

Email Address: dstrader@pierceatwood.com

Occupation: Attorney, Pierce Atwood, LLP

Please respond to the following questions:

1. Why do you wish to serve on the governing board?

Education has long been a passion of mine, and I would like to contribute to strengthening the educational options in our community by supporting Baxter Academy. I have been impressed with the education model the school offers, and I think it represents a great option for many students.

2. What is your understanding of the educational needs of students in the catchment area?

The students in the catchment area have a wide array of educational needs, and I do not believe that education has a one-size-fits-all solution. Many students will thrive in a more traditional public school setting, and others will thrive in a place like Baxter Academy, which offers a more hands-on and student-led curriculum. I believe it is important for families to have options to select the educational model that best meets the needs of their child(ren), and Baxter Academy fills an important niche in that regard.

3. Please list any previous or present educational involvement; such as board member, budget committee, citizens committees, etc. List school(s) or district(s).

Before attending law school, I was a substitute and then full-time teacher in public middle school in Sarasota, Florida, from 2007-2009. From approximately 2016-2017 I served on the board of a Title I charter school in Sarasota, Florida. I have also been heavily involved in Goal 1 funding for the Thive 2027 program through The United Way of Southern Maine, which focuses on reading proficiency for K-3 students in southern Maine.

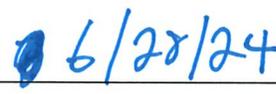
Updated 1.9.17

4. What special qualifications do you have that will help you to be a board member?

As an employment lawyer, I can assist the school with legal issues pertaining to personnel, as well as general, high-level legal advice affecting its decision-making. As a former school teacher and charter school board member, I believe I also have valuable insight into the education system, school budgeting, and related matters.

5. What is your understanding of the role you will play as a public charter school board member?

I understand that my role is to provide oversight of the school's operations and finances, and to exercise good judgment and decision-making, keeping in mind the best interests of the school and the community that we serve.

Sign  Date 

For your convenience this sheet is located on our website under Resources for Authorized Schools (<http://www.maine.gov/csc/>).

Please see the Maine Charter School Commission's Policy on Public Records.