



Maine Charter School Commission

Monthly Commission Meeting

Published on September 5, 2025 at 10:41 AM EDT

Date and Time

Tuesday September 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM EDT

Location

Dimensions Academy, 1192 West Ridge Road, Cornville or via Zoom

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.

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

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
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I. Opening Items

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| A. | Record Attendance | | Susan Whipkey |
| B. | Call the Meeting to Order | | Leigh Albert |
| C. | To Consider the Approval of the 8/12/25 Commission Meeting Minutes | Approve Minutes | Leigh Albert |

II. Comments from Commission Chair

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| A. | Comments | Discuss | Leigh Albert |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------------|

III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|
| A. | Additions/Adjustments | Discuss | Leigh Albert |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|

IV. Committee Reports

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| A. | School Performance Committee | FYI | Tori Kornfield |
| B. | Finance Committee | FYI | Brian Langley |
| C. | Executive Committee | FYI | Leigh Albert |

V. Public Comment*

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------|--------------|
| A. | Public Comment | Discuss | Leigh Albert |
|-----------|----------------|---------|--------------|

VI. Presentation(s)

- *Community Regional Charter School*

VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------|------------|
| A. | School Updates | Discuss | Lana Ewing |
| B. | Organizational Updates | Discuss | Lana Ewing |

	Purpose	Presenter
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- SY25-26 Annual Priorities

C. Media Updates	FYI	Lana Ewing
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- None

VIII. Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report

A. Spring Panorama Survey Results	Discuss	Lana Ewing
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B. SY2024-25 Year End Unenrollment/Enrollment	Discuss	Lana Ewing
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IX. Unfinished Business

- None

X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance

A. To Receive and Place on File the Commission's FY25 Reconciled Financials	Vote	Leigh Albert
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XI. New Business Requiring Notification to the Commission (No formal action to be taken by Commission)

A. New Governing Board Members	FYI	Leigh Albert
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- *Community Regional Charter School (Jessica Dionne)*
- *Maine Arts Academy (Jonas Maines)*
- *Maine Arts Academy (John Neal)*

B. Board Member Resignations	FYI	Leigh Albert
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- *Community Regional Charter School (James Hodgkin)*
- *Community Regional Charter School (Nicki Reinholt)*

C. Board Member Term Outs	FYI	Leigh Albert
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Purpose Presenter

- *Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences (Susan Doughty)*
- *Maine Arts Academy (Sherry Gilbert)*
- *Maine Arts Academy (Janna Townsend)*

XII. Future Topics

A. Future Topics FYI Leigh Albert

October

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

November

- To Receive and Place on File SY2024-25 Annual Monitoring Reports
- To Consider the Approval of the SY2024-25 Annual Report to the Commissioner

December

- No meeting

XIII. Announcements

A. Important Dates FYI Leigh Albert

- *September 16, 2025 (9:00am-11:00am) for School Leaders*
 - *Map Growth: Reports for Teachers: Analyze Start Data Virtual post-assessment administration*
- *September 23, 2025 (10:00am-12:00pm) for Board Members and School Leaders*
 - *Board 101 and Introduction to BoardOnTrack*
- *October 28, 2025 (10:00am-11:30am) for Board Members and School Leaders*
 - *Finding, Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Board Members to Meeting Your 3-5 Year Goals*
- *November 12, 2025 (9:30am-12:00pm) for Commission Members*
 - *Message and Media Training*
- *November 13, 2025 (9:30am to 12:00pm) for School Leaders*
 - *Why Communications and Advocacy Matters*
- *May 2, 2026 (11:00am-1:00pm)*

Purpose Presenter

◦ *Maine Arts Academy 10-Year Anniversary Gala*

B. Upcoming Business Meeting(s) FYI Leigh Albert

- *October 14 (Room #103, Cross Office Building, Augusta or Zoom)*
- *November 12 (Room #103, Cross Office Building, Augusta or Zoom)*

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting Vote Leigh Albert

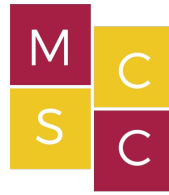
* The Charter School Commission does not allow airing of complaints in public meetings regarding Commission and charter school employees or school employment matters, in order to protect employee privacy, to comply with Maine law and pursuant to our contractual relation with the schools. To the extent 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 8/12/25 Commission Meeting Minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. To Consider the Approval of the 8/12/25 Commission Meeting Minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for Monthly Commission Meeting on August 12, 2025

DRAFT



Maine Charter School Commission

Minutes

Monthly Commission Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday August 12, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Location

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

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.

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

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Leigh Albert

Guests Present

Amy Allen, Lana Ewing, Susan Whipkey

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

James Ford joined at 1:10

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 Aug 12, 2025 at 1:05 PM.

Jim Handy read the Commission's Mission and Vision Statements.

C. To Consider the Approval of the 6/10/25 Commission Meeting Minutes

Jim Handy made a motion to approve the minutes from the Monthly Commission Meeting on 06-10-25.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Leigh Albert Absent

James Ford Absent

Jim Handy Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Tom Keller Aye

Brian Langley Aye

II. Comments from Commission Chair

A. Comments

Norm will chair the Commission today on interim basis.

III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

A. Additions/Adjustments

- *None*

IV. Committee Reports

A. School Performance Committee

Tori reported the Committee discussed the following:

- The criteria and process guide for the Moxie Public Schools expansion.
- The Community Regional Charter School proposed facility move.
- The proposed calendar for the upcoming year.
- The Maine Arts Academy amendment to their mission statement due to the addition of the middle school.
- The proposed Professional Development opportunities for the upcoming year.
- The graduation requirements for Charter Schools and Public Schools.

B. Finance Committee

- No meeting in August

C. Executive Committee

- No Meeting in August

V. Public Comment*

A. Public Comment

- None

VI. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

A. School Updates

Lana reported that the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences has hired Ryan Anthony as the new Head of School.

B. Organizational Updates

- Lana shared an end of year priorities reflection from the Commission staff and reported that the three major goals for SY24-25 were completed.
 - A new charter school was approved, Moxie Public Schools.
 - A new Commission strategic plan was finalized and implemented.

- The Commission structure to become a public instrumentality of the state was approved through legislation.
- Presenting the "Annual Report to the Commissioner" to the Education Committee was the only goal not realized during the year as the Committee wasn't able to fit it into their calendar. Tom suggested drawing on the legislative experience of several Commission members to determine topics the Education Committee should hear when the Commission gets a chance to present to them again. Tori responded that providing transparent, factual information about charter schools would go a long way. The more the Committee knows, the better.
- Lana reported that Moxie Public Schools has signed their contract. The School Performance Criteria reviewed and approved the process criteria the Commission will use to evaluate their expansion to additional campuses. Tori clarified the process will be used for any school seeking to expand.
- Amy provided a status update on the Commission's restructuring as a public instrumentality of the State. She informed that an EIN # has been obtained and the staff is in the process of choosing a bank. September 25th is the effective date to operate under the new structure.
- Lana gave an overview of upcoming Professional Development opportunities planned throughout the year with the following partners:
 - Board on Track will hold topical sessions for School Boards live and virtually.
 - PLT Strategies will hold session with Schools & School Boards on communication strategies and will also hold one for the Commission.
 - NWEA will hold 3 training sessions for school leadership on testing results analysis.
 - Naomi-Rubin Deveau will hold a session for School Boards to check in on their short-term goals planning and another session for the Commission to review the progress on its strategic plan progress.
- Lana provided an update on the Community Regional Charter School facility location search. They are looking at a proposed location in Waterville to take the place of their buildings which are in need of replacing and will present data to address concerns in September. They have offered to host the September Commission meeting at their campus.
- Lana and Norm met with the new chair of the State Board of Education.
- Lana proposed the September Commission meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month but starting in October, the meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday each month to align with the new State Board of Education meeting schedule.
- End of Year meetings with all the schools are being held to review the performance outcome submissions. The conversations will inform the writing of the annual reports.

C.

Media Updates

VII. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance

A. To Consider the Appointment of Leigh Weisenburger-Albert as Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission

Tori Kornfield made a motion to appoint Leigh Weisenburger-Albert as Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission.

Jim Handy seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Jim Handy Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Brian Langley Aye

Tom Keller Aye

Leigh Albert Absent

Norm Higgins Aye

James Ford Aye

B. To Consider the Appointment of Tom Keller as Vice Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission

Jim Handy made a motion to appoint Tom Keller as Vice Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Tori Kornfield Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Jim Handy Aye

Tom Keller Abstain

James Ford Aye

Leigh Albert Absent

Brian Langley Aye

C. To Receive and Place on File Addendums to the SY2023-24 Annual Monitoring Reports Financial Management & Viability Outcomes

Jim Handy made a motion to to receive and place on file addendums to the SY2023-24 Annual Monitoring Reports Financial Management & Viability Outcomes.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Jim Handy Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Roll Call

Tori Kornfield Aye
 Tom Keller Aye
 Leigh Albert Absent
 Brian Langley Aye
 James Ford Absent

D. To Consider the Approval of the Proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Year

Tori Kornfield made a motion to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the year.

Jim Handy seconded the motion.

Lana presented a Commission meeting calendar proposal as follows:

- The September meeting at Community Regional Charter School.
- In Person meetings in October, November, February, April, May and June.
- Virtual meetings in January and May.
- No scheduled meetings in July, December and March.

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

Roll Call

Brian Langley Aye
 Norm Higgins Aye
 Tori Kornfield Aye
 James Ford Aye
 Jim Handy Aye
 Leigh Albert Absent
 Tom Keller Aye

E. To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Request to Amend the School's Mission

Jim Handy made a motion to approve Maine Arts Academy's request to amend the School's Mission.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

Lana noted the school has a slight change to its mission to add the middle school. The School Performance Committee reviewed this request during their meeting.

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

Roll Call

Norm Higgins Aye
 James Ford Aye
 Brian Langley Aye
 Tori Kornfield Aye
 Tom Keller Aye
 Jim Handy Aye
 Leigh Albert Absent

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

A. New Governing Board Members

B. Board Member Resignations

- *Ecology Learning Center (Justin MacDonald)*

C. Board Member Term Outs

- *Ecology Learning Center (Beth Alma)*
- *Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences (Susan Doughty)*

IX. Future Topics

A. Future Topics

September

- Spring 2025 Panorama Survey Results Presentation
- FY25 Year End Reconciled Financials
- SY25-26 Commission Priorities
- Community Regional Charter School Presentation

October

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

November

- To Receive and Place on File SY2024-25 Annual Monitoring Reports
- To Consider the Approval of the SY2024-25 Annual Report to the Commissioner

X. Announcements

A. Important Dates

The Maine Arts Academy Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be hosted in May.

B. Upcoming Business Meeting(s)

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 2:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norm Higgins

Documents used during the meeting

- SY 2024-2025 EOY Priorities Progress Report.pdf
- Central Maine charter school wins state competition.pdf
- From Screens to Streams_ Maine Connecti...pdf
- SY2023-24 Addendum - All.pdf
- SY 25-26 Commission Calendar (1).pdf
- MeAA Request to Amend the School's Mission Statement.pdf

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Coversheet

Organizational Updates

Section:	VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report
Item:	B. Organizational Updates
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	SY 2025-2026 Annual Priorities .pdf



SY 2025-2026 Annual Calendar

SY 2025-2026	
Priority	Outcome by close of SY2025-2026
New School Launch: Support MOXIE Public Schools in their pre-operational year.	MOXIE is fully prepared for a successful launch in Fall 2026. Executive Tasks in Pre-Opening Tracker
Communications: Strengthen communications and charter school messaging capacity across the Commission, staff, school leaders, and school boards.	Participants demonstrate improved skills in messaging, policymaker engagement, media relations, and hosting policymaker visits via participation in development sessions hosted by PLT Strategies.
Public Instrumentality Status: Implement the Commission’s new organizational structure.	Finance, employment, and IT systems are fully operational and aligned to instrumentality status.
Charter School Board Development: Expand governance capacity for charter school boards and leaders.	Strong participation and improvement capacity via near-monthly in-person and virtual trainings delivered on critical governance topics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using MAP Growth data• Roles and responsibilities of charter boards• Communication and advocacy• Board recruitment, retention, and training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic planning• School leader evaluation• Annual board cycle (meetings, officer elections, committee assignments, recruitment, and onboarding)
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Coversheet

Spring Panorama Survey Results

Section:	VIII. Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report
Item:	A. Spring Panorama Survey Results
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Spring 2025 Panorama Survey Results.pdf

	Spring 2025 Panorama Survey Results									
	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6	School 7	School 8	School 9	
Family	44% Participation	53% Participation	52% Participation	78% Participation	73% Participation	37% Participation	55% Participation	58% Participation	69% Participation	
	School Climate	99%	99%	99%	99%	90%	99%	20%	99%	99%
	School Safety	99%	99%	99%	99%	90%	99%	50%	99%	90%
	School Fit	90%	90%	99%	99%	90%	99%	40%	99%	99%
Student (Grades 3-5)				92% Participation	100% Participation		90% Participation			
	School Rigorous Expectations			10%	10%		10%			
	School Teacher-Student Relationships			10%	20%		20%			
	School Safety			40%	70%		30%			
	School Climate			10%	20%		10%			
Student (Grades 6-12)	75% Participation	82.7% Participation	79% Participation	90% Participation	76% Participation	76% Participation	100% Participation	90% Participation	85% Participation	
	School Safety	99%	99%	99%	40%	99%	90%	90%	99%	70%
	School Rigorous Expectations	70%	40%	70%	40%	90%	20%	10%	90%	20%
	School Teacher-Student Relationships	99%	90%	99%	40%	99%	30%	20%	99%	40%
	School Climate	99%	99%	90%	40%	99%	10%	10%	99%	20%
Teacher	93% Participation	100% Participation	76% Participation	62% Participation	80% Participation	75% Participation	100% Participation	100% Participation	88% Participation	
	School Climate	90%	80%	99%	60%	99%	99%	20%	99%	99%
	School Leadership	70%	70%	90%	40%	99%	99%	10%	90%	90%
	Professional Learning	99%	90%	60%	40%	99%	99%	10%	90%	99%
	Feedback and Coaching	99%	90%	40%	10%	90%	99%	10%	50%	99%
Staff	100% Participation	100% Participation	76% Participation	73% Participation	83% Participation	85% Participation	100% Participation	100% Participation	100% Participation	
	School Climate	99%	90%	99%	50%	99%	99%	10%	99%	99%
	School Leadership	90%	99%	60%	40%	80%	99%	10%	99%	99%
	Professional Learning	99%	99%	80%	60%	90%	99%	10%	90%	99%
	Feedback and Coaching	99%	99%	40%	30%	70%	90%	10%	70%	80%
			Exceeding	Meeting	Approaching	Not Meeting				

Coversheet

SY2024-25 Year End Unenrollment/Enrollment

Section:	VIII. Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report
Item:	B. SY2024-25 Year End Unenrollment/Enrollment
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	SY2024-25 Unenrollment-Enrollment Data .pdf

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals
Number of Students Enrolled	118	1514	226	10	8	7	80	18	16	0	4	2	2003
Number of Students Exited	25	85	49	67	37	31	43	16	27	13	7	104	504
Grade Breakdown													
Pre-K	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	11
KG	0	4	1	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	18
1st Grade	1	3	2	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	6	17
2nd Grade	0	5	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	20
3rd Grade	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	15
4th Grade	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	1	3	0	0	6	17
5th Grade	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	18
6th Grade	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	9
7th Grade	0	8	4	3	3	6	3	0	1	0	1	5	34
8th Grade	1	8	6	4	8	2	6	2	3	0	0	25	65
9th Grade	3	14	9	10	6	2	8	1	5	2	0	13	73
10th Grade	6	13	8	21	8	7	11	3	5	3	1	16	102
11th Grade	5	12	8	10	3	8	11	4	4	3	4	4	76
12th Grade	4	6	3	4	0	0	3	1	2	4	0	2	29
Gender Breakdown													
Male	13	32	20	30	10	13	14	5	14	4	4	45	204
Female	12	53	29	36	27	18	29	11	13	9	3	59	299
Not Selected	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Race/Ethnicity													
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Asian	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Black or African American	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	8
Hispanic/Latino	0	6	4	3	1	2	2	0	3	1	0	2	24
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Two or More Races	1	1	3	6	1	1	4	0	1	1	0	6	25
White	24	77	40	58	34	27	35	16	22	10	7	90	440
504 Plan													
Yes	3	8	2	7	1	2	7	0	4	1	1	13	49
No	22	77	47	60	36	29	36	16	23	12	6	91	455
Special Education													
Yes	0	9	12	18	7	7	13	8	10	2	1	24	111
No	25	76	37	49	30	24	30	8	17	11	6	80	393
Economically Disadvantaged													
Yes	15	58	31	39	28	23	29	14	22	8	5	45	317
No	10	27	18	28	9	8	14	2	5	5	2	59	187

Returning Student	9	67	15	20	12	12	15	7	12	6	2	48	225
1st Year Student	16	18	34	47	25	19	28	9	15	7	5	56	279
End Status Reason													
Transfer to a Maine private school	2	6	2	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	7	24
Transfer to a Maine public school in same LEA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to a public school in a different LEA	14	63	36	33	18	16	25	9	16	2	0	73	305
Transferred to home schooling	6	12	10	28	12	10	9	2	9	6	3	8	115
Transferred to a charter school	2	4	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	14	26
Expelled	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Reached maximum age for services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discontinued schooling (student formally withdrew)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
Unenrolled due to lack of required vaccinations	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Withdrawn; under the age for compulsory attendance	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Withdrew & enrolled in ABE, Adult Ed, or Adult ESL Program	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	3	1	4	2	1	18
Enrolled in a postsecondary early admission program	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Language													
Chinese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
English	41	68	48	65	37	30	41	16	27	12	7	103	495
French	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Latvian	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Somali	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spanish	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Portugeuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
English Learner													
Yes	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
No	41	69	48	65	37	30	43	16	27	12	7	103	498
End Status Reason "Other"													
Transferred to a Maine private school	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred to a school in a different state	7	3	2	5	2	3	3	1	0	0	4	6	36
Transferred to a school in a different country	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	11
Transferred to a public school in a different LEA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred to a charter school	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred to home schooling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Died	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Graduated	0	0	0	7	0	1	24	1	8	0	1	461	503

Coversheet

To Receive and Place on File the Commission's FY25 Reconciled Financials

Section:	X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance
Item:	A. To Receive and Place on File the Commission's FY25 Reconciled Financials
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	FY25 MCSC Budget vs Actual Report-Reconciled.pdf



MCSC FY25 Budget vs. Actual (As of June 30, 2025)

Revenue	Projection FY25	Actual FY25	Difference FY25	Actual FY24
Allotment - Legislatively Mandated	\$694,809	\$694,809	\$0	\$694,809
Additional State Subsidy Available	\$110,603	\$116,613	\$6,010	\$29,395
Total Allotment - ED279	\$805,412	\$811,422	\$6,010	\$724,204
Carryover Funds	\$38,285	\$3,836	(\$34,449)	\$82,096
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,163
TOTAL Annual Revenue	\$843,697	\$815,258	(\$28,439)	\$808,463

Expenses (1)	Projection FY25	Actual FY25	Difference FY25	Actual FY24
Total Expense Summary	\$849,472	\$731,200	\$118,273	\$715,055

(1) Detail of Expenses

	Projection FY25	Actual FY25	Difference FY25	Actual FY24
Personnel				
Staff Salaries	\$302,779	316,573	↓ (\$13,794)	\$275,491
Atlantic Staffing Service Fee	\$67,669	69,991	↓ (\$2,322)	\$101,932
Benefits	\$63,000	63,000	→ \$0	\$60,000
TOTAL Personnel	\$433,448	449,564	(\$16,116)	\$437,423

Contracted Services				
Financial Consultant	\$51,739	26,258	↑ \$25,481	\$38,408
Public Relations/ Engagement	\$25,000	18,500	↑ \$6,500	\$20,843
Project-Based Support	\$45,000	18,466	↑ \$26,534	\$51,563
Operational/Financial Support	\$0	-	→ \$0	\$0
TOTAL Contracted Services	\$121,739	63,224	\$58,515	\$110,814

Personal Services - Per Diem / Commission Members				
Per Diem	\$15,400	10,890	↑ \$4,510	\$12,729.00
TOTAL Personal Services	\$15,400	10,890	\$4,510	\$12,729

Travel				
Commission Members	\$8,400	3,791	↑ \$4,609	\$3,958.18
Staff	\$13,000	9,991	↑ \$3,009	\$7,771.93
TOTAL Travel	\$21,400	13,782	\$7,618	\$11,730

General Operations				
Insurance/Risk Management	\$893	27	↑ \$866	\$822
Printing/Photocopying Services	\$1,000	911	↑ \$89	\$516
Dues and Subscriptions	\$7,203	6,708	↑ \$495	\$6,926
Meeting Room Rental	\$1,050	800	↑ \$250	\$0
Postage	\$315	21	↑ \$294	\$272
Advertising	\$525	1,190	↓ (\$665)	\$200
Food	\$420	1,509	↓ (\$1,089)	\$234
General Government Service Center	\$11,825	14,470	↓ (\$2,645)	\$9,395
Legal and Professional Services	\$11,401	500	↑ \$10,901	\$10,858
Office and Other Supplies	\$525	109	↑ \$416	\$413
TOTAL General Operations	\$35,157	26,245	\$8,912	\$29,636

Technology for Schools				
NWEA MAP Test	\$14,400	\$7,871	↑ \$6,530	\$13,351
Panorama Education	\$11,500	\$10,625	↑ \$875	\$10,625
Infinite Campus	\$21,789	\$22,024	↓ (\$235)	\$19,615
Lotterease	\$2,625	\$4,614	↓ (\$1,989)	\$6,669
Epicerter	\$40,646	\$34,210	↑ \$6,436	\$33,710
College-Readiness Diagnostics	\$4,725	\$2,520	↑ \$2,205	\$4,500
Board on Track	\$35,000	\$27,495	↑ \$7,505	\$0
TOTAL Technology for Schools	\$130,684	\$109,359	\$21,326	\$88,470

Technology for MCSC				
Office of Information Technology	\$3,675	\$12,148	↓ (\$8,473)	\$8,636
Cell Phone Services	\$2,730	\$1,660	↑ \$1,070	\$2,664
Website	\$5,000	\$0	↑ \$5,000	\$0
Remote CART Captioning Service	\$0	\$0	→ \$0	\$2,350
BoardOnTrack	\$5,775	\$5,495	↑ \$280	\$5,495
TOTAL Technology for MCSC	\$17,180	\$19,303	(\$2,123)	\$19,145

Charter School Innovation/Collaboration				
Innovation Fund/Professional Development	\$40,000	\$31,042	↑ \$8,958	\$0
Board & Schools Meetings & Events	\$1,700	\$517	↑ \$1,183	\$1,511
CountMe In	\$1,500	\$1,500	→ \$0	\$0
TOTAL Charter School Innovation/C	\$43,200	\$33,059	\$10,141	\$1,511

Sta-Cap				
Sta-Cap	\$10,264	\$5,776	↑ \$4,488	\$3,597
TOTAL Sta-Cap	\$10,264	\$5,776	\$4,488	\$3,597.28

Contingency				
Contingency	\$21,000		↑ \$21,000	\$0
TOTAL Contingency	\$21,000	\$0	\$21,000	\$0

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: CRCS New Governing Board Member (Jessica Dionne).pdf
MeAA New Governing Board Member (Jonas Maines).pdf
MeAA New Governing Board Member (John Neal).pdf

Public Charter School Governing Board Member Information Sheet

Name of Public Charter School _____ Community Regional Charter School _____

Name of Board Member _____ Jessica Dionne _____

Email Address ____ 106 Parkman Hill Road Skowhegan, Maine 04976 _____

Occupation _____ Behavior Consultant _____

Please respond to the following questions:

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

I would like to become a school board member to support the school and to help ensure that my children and all students have a supportive and high-quality education that helps them thrive.

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

As a parent in the community, I believe the educational needs of students in our catchment area are diverse and multifaceted. Many families choose a charter school because they are looking for a non-traditional educational setting for their children.

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

I do not have school board experience; however, I do have experience with various schools from a teacher/staff and parent lens.

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

Understanding of student and staff needs, problem-solving skills, a collaborative approach, knowledge of education and best practices, and an understanding of school governance.

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

My role as a public charter school board member would include, but not be limited to: governance and policy oversight, fiscal Responsibility, accountability, strategic planning and vision, advocacy, and support for school leadership

Sign Jessica Dionne Date 8/19/2025

This form MUST be submitted to the Maine Charter School Commission via Epicenter.

Public Charter School Governing Board Member Information Sheet

Name of Public Charter School: Maine Arts Academy

Name of Board Member: Jonas Maines

Email Address: jonas.maines@gmail.com

Occupation: Asst. to the Deputy Commissioner, Legislative Operations, Dept. Administrative and Financial Services

Please respond to the following questions: professional

Why do you wish to serve on the governing board?

In my adolescence, I was fortunate enough to benefit from a school environment that nurtured and cultivated artistry in its students. My experiences at that formative age shaped the trajectory of my adulthood, where performance- and the arts in general- are now everyday parts of my life. It is my belief that an active relationship with the arts is one of the greatest boons a student can have; I would lend my personal experiences and insights towards providing that, if I can.

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

One of the most important contributing factors to a student's academic success is a resolute understanding that their school environment supports them in all aspects of their life and identity. I have seen, in recent years, schools in the Central Maine area struggle to honor this commitment, especially to queer youth- given my personal background in advocacy for transgender students, this is an issue I take incredibly seriously. The intersectionality between the arts and inclusivity highlights this importance, as creative environments are often a safe harbor for marginalized students. In order for a young mind to thrive in an educational setting, they must be confident that they are free to learn and grow as themselves.

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

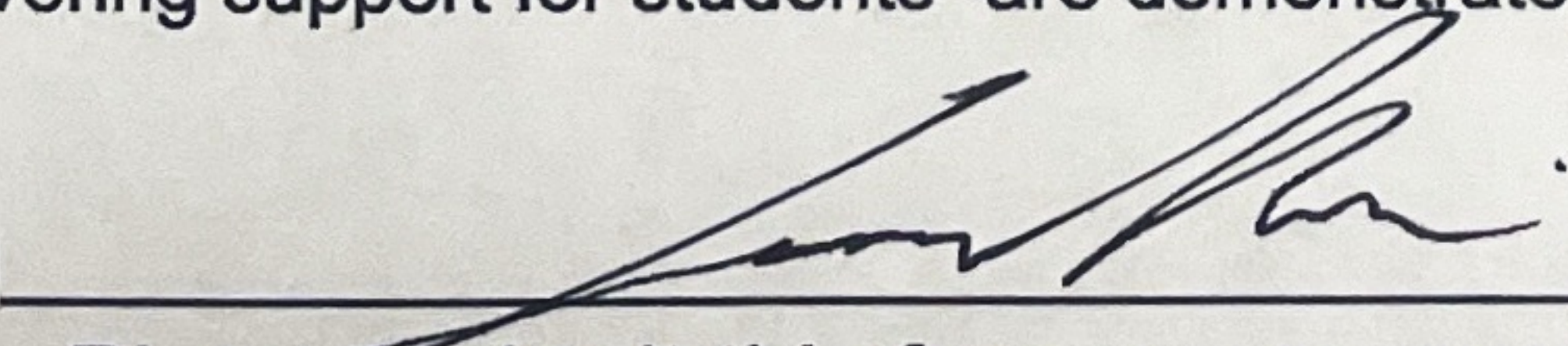
I have presented as a featured speaker at numerous public and private schools across Maine, including Erskine Academy, Sanford High School, South Portland High School, Wiscasset High School and Waynflete School; my presentations focused on the importance of allyship in school and the tools for being an effective ally. Additionally, I have worked as a guest director in public school theatre programs in Sanford and Portland, and have previously volunteered in Bangor as a facilitator for annual *Destination Imagination* competitions.

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

I spent my collegiate years in a number of leadership roles geared towards artistic excellence; chiefly, I served as president of the University of Maine Farmington's local chapter of the National Theatre Honor Society, where I organized educational programs aimed at developing student's technical theatrical skills. After graduating, I served briefly as an Assistant Artistic Director at Hyde Park Theatre in Austin, TX, and later as an Enterprise Account Specialist managing a 13-person team responsible for a multi-million dollar logistics portfolio in Chicago, IL.

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

It is my understanding that, as a member of the board, I will be collaborating with fellow board members to ensure that the mission of Maine Arts Academy is maintained, and the guiding principles of "creativity, inclusivity and unwavering support for students" are demonstrated in the goals and operations of the school.

Sign  Date 5/9/2025

Please submit this form once complete to the MeAA Head of School or Board Chair.

Public Charter School Governing Board Member Information Sheet

Name of Public Charter School: Maine Arts Academy

Name of Board Member: John H. Neal II

Email Address: JandRNeal@aol.com

Occupation: retired music educator, conductor of Kennebec Performing Arts Company, pianist and theater musical director

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

Having set up and organized the MeAA music department as a founding faculty member and its first Director of Music, and thereafter serving six years on the MeAA faculty, I have a vested interest in seeing the Academy succeed and prosper in the future. Moreover, I believe that there is a burning need for an institution like MeAA in Maine, to serve artistically-talented youngsters and nurture their abilities beyond the level which the regular public schools can achieve. I would like to have a hand in keeping this kind of opportunity available to every Maine youngster who would benefit from it, and in shaping and strengthening the arts programs at the Academy to best prepare the artists and musicians of the future.

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

All public high schools must prepare Maine students to successfully meet the Maine Learning Results, adequately preparing them for a functional adulthood and responsible citizenry through math, English language skills, history, foreign language and science. Educational supports must also be in place for those learners who either arrive behind in these skills, or who bring to the school an educational disability making it difficult for them to learn. A significant number of students in the catchment area (when I was on the MeAA faculty, almost 60%) come from economically-disadvantage families, bringing to school all the issues associated with living in poverty, along with unmet physical, emotional and educational needs. And all of MeAA's students choose to come either because they want an augmented and superior artistic experience, because they were bullied in their local high school, or because behavioral problems have rendered MeAA their last option.

3. Please list any previous or present educational involvement such as board member, budget committee, citizens committees, etc. List schools or districts.

Bachelor of Music Education, the Ohio State University, 1978

Master of Music in Performance (Conducting), University of Connecticut, 1985

Director of Bands, MSAD #24 (Van Buren, ME), 1978-1983

Director of Bands, Edward Little High School (Auburn, ME), 1985-1995

Director of Music, Oak Hill High School (Sabattus, ME) 1999-2016

Director of Music, Maine Arts Academy (2016-2022)

Faculty Representative on MeAA Board's Academic Excellence Committee, 2019-2022

Lecturer in Marching Band Techniques, University of Southern Maine, 1990-1996

Director, Bates College Band, 2005-2008

Conductor, Kennebec Performing Arts Company Wind Ensemble and Choir, 2024-present

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

I have 43 years of experience teaching music in Maine public schools, along with two college degrees in music. I am well acquainted with procedures and protocols in Maine public high schools, and used that experience to help craft the faculty handbook, faculty evaluation protocols, senior capstone project, and other such functional documents for Maine Arts Academy. I also have exceptional English language skills.

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

In general, I believe that the school board is the liaison between the public and the school administration, and thus its members function as the public's representatives – and voice – in the operation of the school. Consequently, the board members must be skilled at communicating with the school's stakeholders (parents, faculty, and administration) and must reflect the constituent communities' values when making decisions around the operation of the school. As a former teacher, however, I am a strong supporter of academic freedom and abhor micromanagement of school employees (both faculty and administration) by board members.

More specifically, Maine school law rests certain decisions in the hands of the board – decisions around budget, decisions around general policy, and decisions around egregious cases of student discipline (i.e., when student misbehavior escalates to the level of expulsion). And finally, it is technically the board which hires the school's administrators, and approves the hiring of its faculty.

Addendum to Public Charter School Governing Board Member Information Sheet

Home Address: 72 Sedgley Road, Greene, ME. 04236

Home Phone: (207) 946-7789

Cell Phone: (207) 402-0883

Employer: retired

Education: Bachelor of Music Education, the Ohio State University, 1978

Master of Music Performance (Conducting), University of Connecticut, 1985

Current Volunteer/Civic Involvement: Conductor, Kennebec Performing Arts Company Choir and Wind Ensemble; pianist for several area high school and community theaters

Awards, Honors, Notable Accomplishments:

Author, "I Hope This Helps", published 2025, available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and at Authorhouse.com.

BroadwayWorld Maine Nomination, Best Music Direction and Orchestra Performance, November 2023.

Inspiring Educator, selected by WCSH6-TV and the Maine Education Association as an "Inspiring Educator" in May of 2016.

Maine Music Educator of the Year, selected in 1994 by the Maine Music Educators Association.

Recordings, “Fox Island Afternoon” 2005 and “Vasalisa” 2012, available on iTunes and CDBaby.

References: Heather King, Maine Arts Academy (207-620-0155)
Jason Giacomazzo, President, Kennebec Performing Arts Company (207-239-0060)

1) Do you have any particular experience or interest in the arts or arts education?
In my case, a superfluous question given all the preceding data on this application!

2) Have you participated in any kind of formal board training? No.

3) What skills can you offer to enhance our mission and vision?
I have strong opinions, based on decades of experience in music education, about what MeAA should be, what programs it should offer, and – in music at least, what skills students should master before graduation. I am also a strong advocate for standards-based curriculum design and I have significant experience in this realm.

4) What time and commitment are you willing to make to the board's work?
As a retired teacher, I can devote whatever time is required to advance the board's – and the school's – agenda.