APPROVED

Maine Charter School Commission

Minutes

Monthly Commission Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday May 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Location
Room #103, Cross Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta

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.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
Amy Allen (remote), Lana Ewing, Susan Whipkey

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

Leigh arrived at 1:30

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 May 14, 2024 at 1:01 PM.

C. To Consider the Approval of the 3/12/24 Commission Meeting Minutes

Brian Langley made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Commission Meeting on 03-12-24.
Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. To Consider the Approval of the 4/9/24 Commission Meeting Minutes

Tom Keller made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Commission Meeting on 04-09-24.
Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

James Ford	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
Leigh Albert	Absent

Roll Call

Norm Higgins	Aye
Tori Kornfield	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Brian Langley	Aye

II. Comments from Commission Chair

A. Comments

Norm visited CRCS and thanked them for hosting.

III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

A. Additions/Adjustments

Graduation date for Maine Arts Academy is on June 2, 2024, not June 1 as listed in the agenda.

IV. Committee Reports

A. School Performance Committee

Tori reported the Committe reviewed the FY25 budget items related to school performance.

B. Finance Committee

Brian reported the Committee discussed the CRCS facility expansion. Travis Works and Nicki Reinholt from CRCS attended to provide an overview and answer questions.
The committee reviewed the FY25 budget and gave final remarks.

C. Executive Committee

Norm reported the following:

- The Committee reviewed the budget.
- Next month, MCSC officers will be nominated. Norm requested Tori and Brian serve as the nominating committee.
- The Executive Director evaluation material will be coming to Board members.

V. Public Comment*

A. Public Comment

None

VI. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

A. School Updates

- US News ranked the best public schools across the country. For Maine, MCA was #6 and MeVA was #10.
- Baxter Academy's Katie Strait is the 2024 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year.
- NPR recently ran a story highlighting MeAN'S blacksmithing program.

B. Organizational Updates

Lana attended the NICS A-Game annual conference in Chicago and gave it a good review in terms of information available about authorizing.

Next month's meeting will be at the Ecology Learning Center and Amy will be in attendance.

C. Media Updates

D. New Charter School

- The application release for the new Charter School is July 1.
- A letter of intent must be submitted by July 15 for the February application submission.

VII. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance

A. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's FY25 Operating Budget

Leigh Albert made a motion to approve the FY25 Operating Budget.
James Ford seconded the motion.
Norm noted that the spending reflects MCSC priorities.

Lana provided an overview:

- Assumed 5% increase in expenditures.

- Decrease on Staffing Agency Costs due to change in Temp Agency.
- Decrease Public Relations costs.
- Decrease Contracted Support to staff.
- Decrease for IT costs related to actual spending.
- Increase support to schools - BoardOnTrack, CountMeIn, Innovation Fund doubled to $40k.

Leigh recognized Lana's and Amy's work.
Lana thanked the Finance Committee, Amy and Joe.

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

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

VIII. Next Month's Topics

A. Next Month's Topics

- Nominating Committee will meet in Executive Session
- Discuss the July Meeting
- Joe Mattos will be presenting

IX. Announcements

A. Important Dates

Graduation Ceremonies:

- **ACADIA Academy**
  - End of Year Exhibition of Work - June 5th from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  - “Pre-Cademy” Awards - June 7th from 1 p.m. to 2.p.m.
  - Sixth Grade Promotion - June 7th at 6 p.m.
- **Baxter Academy** – Graduation - June 1st at 11 a.m., Merrill Auditorium
- **Community Regional Charter School** – Graduation - June 14th at 6 p.m.

- **Ecology Learning Center** – Graduation - June 4th at a time TBD, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardiners Assn. (‘MOFGA’).
- **Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences**
  - Graduation - June 7th at 4 p.m. at the Norumbega Cidery in New Gloucester
  - Music recitals will be held at the New Gloucester Congregational Church on May 13th for 2nd and 3rd grades; on May 14th for 4th and 5th grades; and on May 15th for 6th through 8th grades. All are at 12:30 p.m.
- **Maine Academy of Natural Sciences**
  - Threshold Graduation - July 19th.
  - Campus Graduation - July 26th.
- **Maine Arts Academy** – Graduation - June 2nd at 12:00 p.m., Augusta Civic Center
- **Maine Connections Academy** – Graduation - June 7th at 2 p.m., Merrill Auditorium
- **Maine Virtual Academy** – Graduation - June 7th at 2 p.m. via a Live Zoom Ceremony.

B. Next Regular Business Meeting

June 11, 2024 from 1pm-4pm ***at the Ecology Learning Center.***

X. 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 1:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
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.