APPROVED

Maine Charter School Commission

Minutes

Monthly Commission Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Location
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, 13 Easler Drive, Hinckley 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 Amy Allen at (207)592-6364 or amy@mainecharterschoolcommission.org

Directors Present

Brian Langley (remote), James Ford (remote), Jeremy Ray (remote), Jim Handy (remote), Leigh Albert, Tom Keller (remote), Victoria Cohen

Directors Absent
None

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

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Leigh Albert called a meeting of the board of directors of Maine Charter School Commission to order on Wednesday Jun 10, 2026 at 1:07 PM.

C. To Consider the Approval of the 5/13/26 Commission Meeting Minutes

Jim Handy made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Commission Meeting on 05-13-26.
James Ford seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Leigh Albert	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Absent
James Ford	Aye
Brian Langley	Aye

II. Comments From Commission Chair

A. Comments

Leigh's comments included the following:

- A thank you to all as this is her last in person meeting. Leigh is stepping down after four years on the Commission.

- An introduction of new Commission members Vicky Cohen and Jeremy Ray. Vicky has joined the School Performance Committee and Jeremy has joined the Finance Committee.
- A reminder the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee will provide an update later in this meeting.

III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

A. Additions/Adjustments

Agenda item X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance was moved ahead of Agenda item VI. Presentation - MEANS to allow Brian's participation.

IV. Committee Reports

A. School Performance Committee

Tom reported the School Performance Committee discussed the following:

- Innovation Fund Grant proposals from Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences, MOXIE Public Schools, Maine Academy of Natural Sciences and Maine Connections Academy.
- NWEA and the differences and value of administering both the through-year and the MAP Growth assessments. Both tests operate from the same item bank.
- The upcoming school year meeting schedules for the Commission and the School Performance Committee.

B. Finance Committee

Brian reported the Finance Committee discussed the following:

- Maine Charter School Commission Monthly Financials - tracking very close to budget at this time.
- Community Regional Charter School Request to Incur Debt to enable it to bring its meal service in house. The Finance Committee recommends approval.
- 3rd Quarter School Financial Metric Reports.
- The Reserve Fund Investment Policy.
- Commission and Professional Development Calendars.

C.

Executive Committee

Leigh reported the Committee reviewed the Commission policies to be voted on later in this meeting.

D. Ad-Hoc Election of Officers Committee

Jim Handy and James Ford served as the Ad-Hoc Election of Officers Committee. Jim reported that they met and recommend Brian Langley as Chair of the Commission and Tom Keller as Vice Chair of the Commission for the upcoming year.
Lana reminded the members that the formal vote will take place in August.

V. Public Comment*

A. Public Comment

- *None*

VI. Presentation(s)

A. MEANS

Head of School Ryan Anthony and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Evan Coleman presented an overview of school operations.

Mission - The MEANS mission is twofold:
1) to provide project based, student-centered instruction immersed in the natural sciences of Maine including agriculture, forestry and the environment.
2) to provide a relationship based program where students are challenged to connect with their education in order to grow as individuals, interact with their communities, and lead fulfilling lives.

MEANS operates two programs:

- Campus with 125 students in grades 9-12. The program provides experiential learning with intensives and a strong advisory component.
- Threshold with 55 students in grades 11 & 12. Teachers in this program provide personalized instruction, meeting with students one on one in their homes.

Four areas of strength highlighted:

- Natural Science Intensives which are two week instructional units held each season with each grade. The inter-disciplinary curriculum has evolved over 5 years and provides a balance of academic content, skill and place-based projects. An overnight experience is offered for each grade. The intensives are the backbone of the school mission and weave career opportunities into the program. They have partnered with other schools who have implemented similar programs.

- Restorative Practices - Faculty wide discussions have been held and a professional learning committee was established. There has been family involvement and there has been a dramatic reduction in exclusionary discipline.
- Student & School Data - Efforts to create a climate and culture around raising the academic bar is reflected in student data. On the Accuplacer exam, 92% of seniors met the college preparedness mark in math and 84% in reading. 93% of the campus group is on track to graduate this year. AP Courses are now offered and dual enrollment options are strong.
- Post Secondary Planning - Students made 8 Maine college visits this year and also explored careers as part of the intensive program. The school partners with Gear-up and next year proposes to offer overnight college campus experiences. More students than ever applied to college this year. Two students received a Mitchell scholarship and six received a Worthington scholarship.

Threshold Student Spotlight - A disengaged student dropped out of a traditional public school and became part of the threshold program. She is now a graduating senior and Worthington scholar recipient.

Next year the school is up for renewal and is focused on academic rigor in the classroom.

VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

A. School Updates

Lana provided the following school updates:

- Maine Connections Academy held their graduation ceremony for 92 students. Kate Re, an accomplished motorsports driver and 2022 graduate was the keynote speaker.
- Maine Arts Academy held their 8th grade graduation with performances, awards and certificates. The school also held Day of Caring volunteer events at Viles Arboretum, the Maine Vets Home, and a local nursing home. The 12th grade ceremony will be held at the Augusta Civic Center.

B. Organizational Updates

Two schools are in charter renewal this year and Amy provided the renewal timeline up to the October Commission vote.

- Spring - The schools submit preliminary performance framework outcomes and a self-assessment. The staff then meets with school leadership and board members

in advance of the issuance of the Year-Four Performance Report to the schools by June 30.

- Summer - End of year documentation by the schools is due and the renewal application is released. An on-site end of year visit by staff will be held in August.
- Fall - The schools will submit the renewal application along with any amendment requests. The staff will conduct site visits and focus groups with students, families, teachers and other staff. A public hearing will be held prior to the Commission vote in October.

Lana noted the following:

- The informational binder of Maine Charter School Commission information has been updated and will be set up in a virtual binder in Board on Track. Amy showed the group how to find the documents in Board on Track in the Commissioner Resource area.
- The last Professional Development workshop "How to Make the Most of Summer Months" was held led by Mike Mizzoni of Board on Track.
- The Panorama survey window closes on June 11 at 3 pm. A presentation will be provided in August.

C. Media Updates

VIII. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance

A. To Consider the Approval of Community Regional Charter School's Request to Make Changes to the Food Service Program/Incur Debt

Brian Langley made a motion to approve Community Regional Charter School's Request to Make Changes to the Food Service Program/Incur Debt.
Jim Handy seconded the motion.
Brian reported that with Joe Drago's analysis supporting the request, the Finance Committee supports approval of the request to incur debt up to $100,000. Jim asked for clarification on wages for the Chef and the Assistant Chef. Travis noted the Assistant Chef position is already included in the budget.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Leigh Albert	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Brian Langley	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
James Ford	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye

B. To Consider the Approval of Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Innovation Fund Request

Tom Keller made a motion to approve Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Innovation Fund Request.
Jeremy Ray seconded the motion.
Lana noted their are five Innovation Fund Requests up for vote.
Fiddlehead requests $8K for a cross-school professional learning initiative, The Regulated Classroom. The school will lead a partnership with RSU 14 and The Friends School to train 55-65 educators in student self-regulation, co-regulation and executive functioning as Tier 1 supports. The partner schools will contribute $150 per educator to offset the costs. The budget includes $8.5K for training, $1K for the venue less $1.5K for the partner contributions.
Tom reported the School Performance Committee recommends approval of the grant, is excited for the collaboration, and looks forward to a summary when the project is finished.

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

Roll Call

Jim Handy	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
James Ford	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
Brian Langley	Aye

C. To Consider the Approval of Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' Innovation Fund Request

Jeremy Ray made a motion to approve Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' Innovation Fund Request for a Community School Coordinator focused on Chronic Absenteeism.
Brian Langley seconded the motion.
Lana noted this $4,750 request is to fund a staff stipend with travel ($3,500), attendance initiatives ($500) and a student support fund ($750) for a community school coordinator focused on chronic absenteeism. Home visits, family engagement and root cause problem solving will be part of the work in MEANS' rural, high-poverty area.

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

Roll Call

Brian Langley	Aye
James Ford	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye

Roll Call

Victoria Cohen	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye

D. To Consider the Approval of Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' Innovation Fund Request

Victoria Cohen made a motion to approve Maine Academy of Natural Sciences' Innovation Fund Request to the Woodshop Project.
Jim Handy seconded the motion.
$4,750 for wall panels and heating.
Jim reported the School Performance Committee did not recommend the proposal. Vicky suggested it may be a good project to tackle with Community partners.
The motion did not carry.

Roll Call

James Ford	No
Tom Keller	No
Victoria Cohen	No
Leigh Albert	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Brian Langley	No
Jim Handy	No

E. To Consider the Approval of Maine Connections Academy's Innovation Fund Request

Jim Handy made a motion to approve Maine Connections Academy's Innovation Fund Request to Support the Establishment of an Multi-Tiered System of Support Coordinator Position.
Victoria Cohen seconded the motion.
Lana explained MCA's proposal is for a stipend to fund an MTSS coordinator to review and build support plans for entering students with low math performance scores. The School Performance Committee did not recommend the proposal.
The motion unanimously did not carry.

Roll Call

Tom Keller	No
Brian Langley	No
Leigh Albert	No
Victoria Cohen	No
Jeremy Ray	No
James Ford	No
Jim Handy	No

F.

To Consider the Approval of MOXIE Public Schools' Innovation Fund Request

Tom Keller made a motion to approve the MOXIE Public Schools' Innovation Fund Request to pilot OKO in SY2026-27.
Victoria Cohen seconded the motion.
Lana summarized that MOXIE Public Schools is requesting $9,320 to pilot OKO which is an AI powered school-wide small group math discourse program. The budget includes $5K for the license, $3.3K for equipment, $520 for mini-whiteboards and $500 for PD materials.
Tom reported that the School Performance Committee supports the proposal.

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

Roll Call

Jim Handy	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Brian Langley	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
James Ford	Aye

G. To Consider the Recommendation to Make NWEA MAP Growth an Opt-In Assessment for Charter Schools

Tom Keller made a motion to allow schools to opt in or out of administrating the NWEA Map Growth Assessment for the upcoming school year.
Jim Handy seconded the motion.
Lana explained the Commission currently requires that students in grades 3-8 take the NWEA Map Growth along with the Maine Through Year Assessment which increases testing time. She researched the results with a NWEA team and found the platform records just one assessment, generally the Maine Through Year, so schools do not see scores from both. In light of this, this is a proposal to make the NWEA Map assessment optional for the schools.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Brian Langley	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
James Ford	Aye

H. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's SY2026-27 Calendar

Jim Handy made a motion to approve the Commission's SY2026-27 Calendars including the Full Commission Calendar, the Professional Development (PD) Calendar and the Commission Member Calendar.
Tom Keller seconded the motion.
Lana noted the SY2026-27 Commission meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning at 10 am. The Committee meetings will all be meeting on the Tuesday prior to the Commission meetings.
No meetings will be held in December and July and the November and April Commission meetings will be extended to include PD.

The PD Calendar includes one School Leader meeting each month and the following:

- Accelerate Education will facilitate an opt-in leadership development program for 5-6 executive directors.
- PLT Strategies will focus on charter school communications strategies.
- BoardOnTrack will offer board development workshops.
- Panorama Education will help schools delve into school climate data.

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

Roll Call	
Leigh Albert	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Brian Langley	Absent
James Ford	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye

I. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy

Jim Handy made a motion to adopt the Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy.
Victoria Cohen seconded the motion.
Lana noted that as part of the Commission's transition to on of a Public Instrumentality of the State, policies are being written to guide internal operations. The Executive Committee has reviewed all four and the Finance Committee reviewed the Investment and Reserve Policy. Joe Drago and Sarah Forster, Maine's Assistant District Attorney also provided comment.
The Conflict of Interest Policy establishes the ethical standards and disclosure procedures for Commission members and staff and addresses three main statutes as follows:
Chapter 20A - Dual role prohibition bars members and staff from simultaneously serving as an employee, trustee, vendor or contractor of a charter school the Commission oversees.

Title V, Section 18 - Prohibits members from substantial participation in any matter where the member, immediate family or partner of the member, or an affiliated organization has a direct financial interest.
Title V, Section 18-A Prohibits members from any direct or indirect financial interest in any contract to which the Commission is a part.

Jim requested amended language to clarify that in all cases no Commission member or staff may serve on a charter school board that the Commission oversees. Lana read all the proposed adjustments for vote.

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

Roll Call	
James Ford	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye

J. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's Data Privacy/FERPA Policy

Tom Keller made a motion to approve the Commission's Data Privacy/FERPA Policy.
Jim Handy seconded the motion.
Lana noted this policy covers proper handling of information the Commission holds and receives including student records, personnel files, applications, vendor records, and public correspondence. The policy aligns with FERPA, Maine Student Privacy and Records Confidentiality Statutes and the Freedom of Access Act.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Tom Keller	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
James Ford	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye

K. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's Investment & Reserve Policy

Victoria Cohen made a motion to approve the Commission's Investment & Reserve Policy.
Jim Handy seconded the motion.
Lana noted the policy contains guiding principles as follows:

- Risk Free Investment - safety first.
- Funds are invested with enough liquidity and flexibility to ensure enough cash on hand to meet operational needs.
- Invest funds to achieve best yield possible.

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

Roll Call

Jeremy Ray	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Brian Langley	Absent
Victoria Cohen	Aye
James Ford	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye

L. To Consider the Approval of the Commission's Records Retention & Document Management Policy

Jim Handy made a motion to approve the Commission's Records Retention & Document Management Policy.
Tom Keller seconded the motion.
This policy supersedes the Commission's current policy and establishes the official records retention policy. It will also have to be submitted to the Maine Archives Advisory Board for approval.
The policy is organized by record type and specifies the retention period, the legal authority dictating the period and whether it is to be destroyed or archived at the end of the period.

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

Roll Call

Brian Langley	Absent
Jim Handy	Aye
James Ford	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye
Jeremy Ray	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Tom Keller	Aye

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

A. New Governing Board Members

- None

B. Board Member Resignations/Left the Board

Bruce Woodard - Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences

C. Board Member Term Outs

- None

X. Future Topics

A. Future Topics

July

- No Meeting

August

- Election of Officers
- Panorama Survey Results Presentation

XI. Announcements

A. Important Dates

Graduation

- *Friday, June 12th at 5:00pm - Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences (Norumbega Cidery, New Gloucester)*
- *Friday, June 12th at 6:00pm - Overman Academy (Skowhegan Opera House, 225 Water Street, Skowhegan)*
- *Friday, July 10th at 6:00pm - Maine Academy of Natural Sciences/Threshold (13 Easler Road, Hinckley)*
- *Friday, July 17th at 6:00pm - Maine Academy of Natural Sciences/Campus (13 Easler Road, Hinckley)*

B. Upcoming Business Meeting(s)

- *July - No Meeting*
- *August - will be held in person in Augusta*
- *September*

XII. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

Jim Handy made a motion to adjourn.
James Ford seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

James Ford	Aye
Jim Handy	Aye
Leigh Albert	Aye
Victoria Cohen	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leigh Albert

Documents used during the meeting

- ME Career Connected Learning ELO Profiles of Students Success.pdf
- Kennebec Savings Report 2025 (1).pdf
- Request for Approval to Incur Debt - Line of Credit (Part 2).pdf
- FSAS_Innovation_Fund_Request_Form.pdf
- MeANS_Innovation_Fund_2026___Chronic_Absenteeism.docx.pdf
- MeANS_Innovation_Fund_2026_Responses.pdf
- MeANS_Innovation_Fund_2026___Woodshop_Yurt.docx.pdf
- MCA_Innovation_Fund_Request_Form.pdf
- MOXIE_Fund_Request_Form.pdf
- SPC_Memo_MAP_Growth_v2.docx.pdf
- SPC_Presentation_MAP_Growth_v2.pptx.pdf
- MCSC-MTYA-MAPG-Comparison_05.29.2026.pdf
- MCSC_FULL_Calendar_26_27_FINAL.pdf
- MCSC_PD_Calendar_FY27_FINAL.pdf
- MCSC_Commission_Member_Calendar_SY2627_FINAL.pdf
- DRAFT Conflict of Interest Policy.pdf
- DRAFT Data Privacy and FERPA Policy.docx.pdf
- DRAFT Investment + Resolve Policy .pdf
- DRAFT Record Retention + Document Management Policy.pdf

* 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.