MeANS Board of Directors meeting minutes
5 p.m. July 31, 2019
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
Room A101

Board members present: Cheryl Bulmer, Stephanie Johnson, Cheryl Mercier, David Cyr, Scott Cyrway, Scott Byrd (by phone), Tom Edwards (by phone), Sally Beaulieau

Staff members present: Danni Best, Donna Ferenc McGorty, Nadya Plante

Cheryl Bulmer called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. by welcoming two new members to the Board: Scott Byrd and Sally Beaulieau.

There was one adjustment to the agenda: a section "Other" was added before the Executive Session to discuss several miscellaneous topics.

Public Comment:
Danni Best on behalf of the MeANS staff thanked the Hiring Committee and the Board for their "positive energy" and collaboration during the search process for the new Head of School. She emphasized that Board Members are always invited to all MeANS events and welcome to visit the school on any day. The Board and the Staff are at the stage of "feeling good at where we are" and look forward to developing a positive and productive relationship with the Board.

Stephanie Johnson in return thanked Danni Best for serving as an Interim Head of School during the transition period. She pointed out Danni Best did an excellent job keeping everything "going great" in her leadership role as the interim Head of School.

There was a motion by Cheryl Mercier to approve the consent agenda, seconded by David Cyr. Unanimous approval; motion carried at 5:08 p.m.

Nomination of a New Board Member:

There was a motion by Cheryl Mercier to nominate Kimberly Patnode for a membership to the Board of Directors, seconded by Stephanie Johnson.

David Cyr expressed a concern that although Kimberly came highly recommended by a faculty member, and Cheryl Bulmer had a lot of communication with her over email, no one met her in person. There was a discussion about revising and improving the process of hiring new board members, to incorporate meeting a nominee in person, prior to voting. For the time being, there was a decision to go ahead with the vote, as several other potential candidates fell through.

Unanimous approval; motion carries at 5:13 p.m.
Cheryl Bulmer will notify Kimberly Patnode.

Committee assignments:
HR committee and finance committee each need one new member. David Cyr suggested that somebody else may better serve the development committee than he. Scott Byrd volunteered to be on the development committee. Scott, in his current position, does a lot of grant writing and will research what grants may be available for which MeANS can apply. He will leverage his partnerships.

Troy Frost expressed interested in joining the development committee as well. The tentative membership of the Development Committee is Troy Frost, Scott Byrd, and David Cyr. David, who is also on the Finance Committee, stressed that it is important that the Development Committee collaborate with GWH since they are a good resource.

Board of Directors has been approved to have 11 members, but can be increased to 15 members. However, GWH needs to be reached for approval and then the Maine Charter commission needs to be notified.

Stephanie Johnson made a motion to reach out to GWH to increase the board member capacity from 11 to 15 members. Tom Edwards seconded. Unanimous approval; motion carries at 5:20 p.m.

Enrollment:
Enrollment is not stable. It changes daily -- especially in the Threshold Program. In the previous years, the school never accepted new students after September 1st. Danni Best has discussed with the staff the possibility of accepting new students through the end of September, prior to the October 1st enrollment reporting deadline. She said that the staff is in favor of this change.

The school will get state funds for 197 students. The budget for the 2019-20 year is based on 215 students, including 155 in the building and 60 in the Threshold Program.

Update on the barn:
Committee met several times over the summer to share ideas about the barn. Danni Best shared MeANS vision for the barn. We have $91,000 to spend. There was a discussion about obtaining an architect's opinion on the cost. It was suggested that the project can start small and then grow from there. Hammond Lumber can estimate for $500 and then credit it back if you buy all the lumber from them. David Cyr offered to donate the $500 to get the process going and Danni thanked him.

Important Dates:

- The Senior Banquet is on Thursday, August 1st. Each graduating student will present a speech about their MeANS experience. All board members are invited for dinner and this event, starting at 5:00 p.m.

- Graduation is on Friday, August 2nd at 6 p.m. Thirty-six students will be graduating this year, which is the biggest graduating class in the history of MeANS. Tom Edwards will be a

guest speaker.

- The Charter Commission will visit MeANS on August 30th from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. They would like to meet as many board members as possible.

- Gala Night and Silent Auction will take place on October 19th. Donations are being sought for the auction. Cheryl Bulmer mentioned that the cost for a table of 8 people is $800 and that it would be nice to see board members present. The Board will talk more about this in their September meeting. David Cyr asked how the funds will be allocated. Rob Moody and Michelle Theriault can provide more information in September.

Head of School Discussion:

There was a motion by Cheryl Mercier to go into executive session for personnel discussion pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A), seconded by Scott Cyrway. Unanimous approval; motion carries. The Board went into executive session at 5:45 p.m.

Scott Cyrway made a motion to come out of executive session seconded by David Cyr. Unanimous approval; motion carries. The board came out of the executive session at 6:15 p.m.

There was a motion by Cheryl Mercier to authorize the Board Chair and Vice Chair to offer the position of MeANS Head of School to Matt Newberg and negotiate a contract that is within the budget approved by the Board, seconded by Scott Cyrway. Unanimous approval; motion carries.

Preparation for the next meeting:
Cheryl Bulmer would like to have a full Board meeting instead of an executive committee meeting on September 20th at 1:30pm. Rob Moody will be invited.

Scott Cyrway made a motion to nominate Tom Edwards as the Secretary of the Board. Stephanie Johnson seconded. **All but one in favor, David Cyr opposed; motion carries at 6:25pm.**

Stephanie Johnson made a motion to adjourn, Scott Cyrway seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.