MeANS Board of Directors meeting minutes
1:30 March 22, 2019
Goodwill-Hinckley Alumni Center

Board members present: Mara Casey Tieken, Mike Muir, Stephanie Johnson, Cheryl Bulmer, Cheryl Mercier, Scott Cyrway, David Cyr, Dana Doran (by phone)

Staff members present: Tonya Arnold, Danni Best, Donna Ferenc McGorty, Susie Bright, Emanuel Pariser, Nadya Plante, Christine Sullivan, Becky Dennison, Michelle Theriault

Students present: Karen Carter, Kaylyn Brown

There were two adjustments to the agenda; a student presentation was added, and Item 10 was canceled.

Kaylyn described her upcoming hike on the Appalachian Trail, which she'll begin on April 1. She has been planning this hike for a year; she had to finish her academic work at an accelerated pace, and she's also raised enough money to cover the costs. (She brought yummy AT cookies!)

There were no comments from the public.

There was a motion by Mara Tieken to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Cheryl Mercier. Unanimous approval; motion carries.

Filling Board positions:

- Karen Kusiak had to withdraw from her board position due to her new role as legislative liaison at the Maine DOE. There is a proposal for Stephanie Johnson to fill Karen's position through 2020 (rather than rotating off in 2019 and going up for a second term).

There was a motion by David Cyr for Stephanie to complete Karen's term through June 2020, seconded by Cheryl Mercier. Unanimous approval; motion carries.

- There are a few Board positions coming open in June 2019. Mike will request to stay on a second term, but we will need to fill 3. GWH has pre-approved 2 possible Board members.
- We need a mix of backgrounds and experiences to fill these positions: education, fundraising, nonprofit management, legislative.
- Board members discussed names of some possible candidates. Members who mentioned a name will reach out to these potential candidates to assess their initial interest.

Developing a Board calendar:

- We need an annual calendar to determine if/when meetings are held, major committee activities, and coordinating of actions across committees. This will also create some institutional memory, as Board members turnover.

- Mike has shared a website where we can record this: https://tinyurl.com/MeANSBoardCalendar
- If you are a chair of a committee, please add existing activities to this document.

Committee assignments:

- We have two new Board members that need committee assignment on one of our four committees: Academic Program Committee, Finance, Human Resources, and Development. Cheryl expressed interest in Academic Program Committee; Dana has the most expertise in Development. Mike will make both of those appointments.
- The Board discussed whether it makes sense for the MeANS and GWH Development Committees to either coordinate their activities or to have a single committee. The coordination/collaboration is necessary to ensure that the two entities do not pursue the same funding; also GWH has expertise and resources that might be useful to our efforts.
- If there was a joint membership, there would need to be some level of trust between committee members; however, MeANS members on this committee would need to advocate specifically for MeANS projects. It might be helpful to have something in writing articulating general principles for how the joint committee works and collaborates.
- In order to comply with charter school regulations, each entity will likely need to have their own committee, and these committees work together.
- Mike will let Heather and Rob know that we're interested in pursuing this, and David and Dana will follow up.

Finance committee report:

- The second quarter financials: we're running favorably on student tuition and employee expenses, and we've got a few costs on transportation, food, and consulting fees. Overall, we're running about $280,000 favorable to our anticipated budget.
- Cheryl Bulmer also reviewed the anticipated budget for the rest of the year; we're also now anticipating a favorable forecast for the rest of the year.
- Cheryl then reviewed the FY 19/20 budget; these documents were sent by email and also made available in hard copy at the meeting. She reviewed assumptions that guided writing the budget.
- Staff compensation was guided by a recommendation from the HR Committee; we moved staff salaries to market average. This was necessary due to the constricted teacher pool and the need to attract and retain good teachers.
- The five year budget projection was provided for Board members' information (available in hard copy at the meeting). These projections forecast a loss in upcoming years, so we'll need to make adjustments (or fundraise). Also, the state's funding formula will be revised this June.

Scott Cyrway made a motion to approve the 19/20 budget, seconded by Mike Muir. 6 approve, no nays, one abstention; motion carries.

- The 990 was sent out via email; there was one modification, which clarified Rob's role.

Donna addressed Board members' questions.

Cheryl Bulmer made a motion to accept the modified 990, seconded by Scott Cyrway. Unanimous approval; motion carries.

Disciplinary Hearing

Stephanie Johnson made a motion, seconded by Scott Cyrway to move into executive session for Student Matter X pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(B) at 3:39 pm. The Board came out of executive session at 4:05 p.m.

David Cyr made a motion to readmit student X to the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, effective Tuesday, March 26, 2019, seconded by Cheryl Balmer. Unanimous approval; motion carries.

RESOLUTION on Student X.

The motion approved by the Board on Friday, March 22, 2019 was to readmit Student X to Maine Academy of Natural Sciences effective March 26, 2019.

Head of School Report and Prep for Next Meeting:

As a result of going through a national audit, the Charter Commission put forward a proposed amendment which includes a set of new performance indicators. These indicators align with national standards and the Commission has recommended their adoption. They have asked the Board to vote to approve these new performance indicators along with whether they are to be implemented in 2019-20 or 2020-21. Many charter school heads are concerned that these criteria are heavily focused on testing and don't align with the mission of MeANS. As Tonya described, we are already held to the same standards as public schools in addition to additional standards in our contract; the usefulness of implementing a set of "one-size-fits-all" standards is questionable and could put the school at an unfair disadvantage. The current contracted performance measures aren't set to expire until the end of the 2021-2022 year. It isn't clear whether MeANS is required to adopt these new standards, or whether we can negotiate a new set of standards once the current contract expires. Board members are asked to review the proposed standards and let Tonya Arnold or Mike Muir know about their concerns. If a vote to approve needs to be taken, it will be done at a future Board meeting in May.

Scott Cyrway moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mara Casey Tieken