



MeANS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2020, 2:30 p.m.

Remote public meeting with call in number 605-313-5111 access code 214632#

Board members present on the call: Cheryl Bulmer, Stephanie Johnson, Cheryl Mercier, Scott Cyrway, Scott Byrd, Sally Beaulieu, Troy Frost, David Cyr, Kimberly Patnode, Dana Doran

Staff members present: Matt Newberg and Donna Ferenc McGorty (Good Will-Hinckley).

Members of the Public present: Jesse Weschler and Gina Post (Maine Charter Commission)

Cheryl Bulmer called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda:

Cheryl B. shared that the agenda to follow was the shorter revised agenda posted publicly. She also explained the special legislation passed to allow public meetings of boards to be held remotely as long as public notice was made and everyone is able to hear and talk. Also, she is required to take all votes by roll call vote.

Public comment to the Agenda Items:

Gina Post commented that she was pleased to be able to attend and thank you.

**There was a motion by Kim P. to approve the minutes of the 2/28/20 board meeting.
Second by Scott C. The roll call vote was as follows:**

Cheryl B. aye

Stephanie J. aye

David C aye

Troy F. aye

Scott C. aye

Scott B. aye

Cheryl M. did not vote as she did not join the meeting until 2:50

Dana D. aye

Sally B. aye

Kim P. aye

Motion was carried.

Update from the Head of School:

Matt informed the board that the staff completed the 3-week intensives in Forestry, Veterans and Post-Secondary Education before the announcement of no school. They were planning to switch back to regular curriculum on Tuesday. There was also a great article on the Maple sugaring.

Sunday, March 15th the decision was made to close the school and begin remote learning. They had a virtual in service over video on Tuesday which went well. The teachers gather students in “hang outs” to take attendance and to set them up for courses in google classroom. Solomon has done a home improvement class. Some students have not behaved well on these virtual sessions and may need to be shut off. The admin worked through Wed. until 3:30 and then only Jeanna and the janitor are in the building doing cleaning. Parents are being updated on messenger on infinite campus and on the website. Today Matt has been doing midyear reviews. Some schools have already announced an extension of closure to April 26th. We will need to consider this. Dana shared that RSU 18 has and Bangor schools. Gina shared that she knew that RSU 19 and other schools have as well. David and Scott B. said they believed it will be statewide. Sally asked if they have been experiencing any internet problems and Matt said they had 5 families who did so they provided materials by mail or some came to the school to pick them up. Sally shared that the law says we have to be able to educate all or none. Matt shared that Skowhegan chose not to do remote learning for that reason and due to having to still provide special ed. Services. On the 18th the commissioner has appealed to schools to continue to pay the hourly staff.

Jesse commented that he has students at home and it is not being done well. It is impressive that you have the participation that you do. “My hats off to you.”

Troy asked if the board makes these decisions. He knows that other boards have given the superintendent the authority to act.

Cheryl M. shared that the same thing happened in her district.

Stephanie J. made the following motion: That the board grant Matt Newberg the authority to make administrative decisions during this state of emergency declared by the Governor in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 following the guidance of the Maine Charter Commission and the DOE. Troy F. seconded the motion.

Dana asked how Matt felt about this motion and how does this work with what GWH is doing. Matt said that they are making decisions together and that GWH is not dictating. Scott B. commented that Matt should feel comfortable that he can come back to the board if needed as he may want to. Cheryl B. and Stephanie said they are confident that Matt will reach out to the board if needed and did not feel that needed to be added to the motion. Kim said she felt guidance would come from the Charter commission and the DOE. Gina said there was guidance that came out today during the state of emergency meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Cheryl B. aye
Stephanie J. aye
David C aye
Troy F. aye
Scott C. aye
Scott B. aye

Cheryl M. **aye**
Dana D. **aye**
Sally B. **aye**
Kim P. **aye**
Motion was carried.

LD 2113:

This is a bill that prevents charter schools from using state funds for Anti-union campaigns. Matt said he read Dan Stockford’s testimony and there was a hearing but that is all he knows. Scott C. said it came out of committee as “ought not to pass” but due to the recess of the legislature it will be carried over. Dave asked what prompted this legislation. Gina shared that Maine Connections went through this and had to hire lawyers which caused concern about where the money came from for that.

New Board member evaluation process:

Scott B. shared the guidelines that he documented after a discussion at the development committee. This was intended to capture thoughts around some guidance only. Troy commented that it was the most in-depth process that he has seen and Stephanie said she thought it was great. Kim said she would have welcomed a process like this as a new member. Scott C. asked if there was any form that perspective board members had to fill out. Cheryl B. shared that we ask for a letter of intent and a resume and then after the member is voted in there is a form the Charter Commission asks for. Dave suggested that we treat it as guidance and maybe add bullets or skills needed. Cheryl B. shared how we are using the board matrix to look at skill sets already on the board and what is needed in the recruiting process for both the elected board members and the appointed members by GWH.

Strategic planning:

Scott B. shared that there is a meeting today after the board meeting to discuss the path forward on the strategic plan. We are thinking we could proceed with the meeting on March 30th with the board and staff but have it be a shorter meeting remotely. We can do break out rooms on zoom. We can continue with the mission work with the faculty and staff. If we do not meet, we are worried that we will lose momentum. Cheryl B. shared that we have applied for funds to pay for a consultant with the Charter Commission and with the Unity Foundation and she feels confident that we will be able to get what we need to move forward. Scott B. asked if anyone would be willing to help with the breakout groups and Sally volunteered.

Board member webinars:

Cheryl B. reminded the board of the board member webinars that the Charter Commission has hired Angela Irwin from Airwin Educational Services to provide. The first seminar is March 30th at 4pm and we were originally going to do it together at the school after the strategic planning session so Matt registered, however now each board member will have to register themselves and join the seminar at home. She will email out the registration information again in case board members do not have it. There are 4 webinars in the series being provided “Understanding the three-legged stool: maintaining balance – Authorizer, Board and School Leadership”. Each webinar is 1 hour long from 4pm to 5pm on the following dates 3/30, 4/27, 5/18, 6/15. The webinars will be recorded so that they can be used with future board members however the Charter Commission would request each current board member to participate in person if at all possible.

Executive Session:

Cheryl B. stated that we needed to go into executive session to discuss some confidential matters related to next years budget and asked if the two members of the public would mind leaving the call and she would email them to join back on the call when we get out of executive session. They agreed and dropped off the call.

David made a motion to go into Executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) for the purpose of discussing budget 20/21 assumptions. The motion was seconded by Scott C.

The following was the roll call vote:

Cheryl B. aye
Stephanie J. aye
David C aye
Troy F. aye
Scott C. aye
Scott B. aye
Cheryl M. aye
Dana D. aye
Sally B. aye
Kim P. aye

Motion was carried. Executive session began at 3:37.

Dave made a motion to come back out of executive session and Cheryl M. seconded.

The following was the roll call vote:

Cheryl B. aye
Stephanie J. aye
David C aye
Troy F. aye
Scott C. aye

Scott B. aye
Cheryl M. aye
Dana D. aye
Sally B. aye
Kim P. aye

Motion was carried. The board came out of executive session at 4:10. The two members of the public were notified that the board was back in public session and they both rejoined the call.

David made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Troy seconded. There was no further discussion.

The following was the roll call vote:

Cheryl B. aye
Stephanie J. aye
David C aye
Troy F. aye
Scott C. aye
Scott B. aye
Cheryl M. aye
Dana D. aye
Sally B. aye
Kim P. aye

Motion was carried.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2020. Cheryl B. mentioned that Stephanie Johnson and David Cyr will be leaving the board in June. We need officers and committee chairs for next year. She will be calling to talk with the board members to see how they are willing to serve next year and also asked that people contact her with ideas and interests.

Matt shared a sincere thank you. He said he feels very supported by the board.

Troy Frost made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Kim Patanode. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.