



Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 11/12/20 from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm (Approved 1/14/2021)

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences School Building / ZOOM meeting combined

13 Easler Drive, Hinckley, Maine

BMR

Board members present: Cheryl Bulmer (by Zoom), Cheryl Mercier, Dana Doran, Jesse Wechsler, Sally Beaulieu, Scott Byrd, Troy Frost (by Zoom), Shannon Webber (by Zoom), Robin Cyr (by Zoom), Scott Cyrway (by Zoom)

Staff members present: Matt Newberg, Danni Best, Becky Dennison, Angela Hesketh (Good Will-Hinkley)

Other: Bob Kautz (Maine Charter Commission by zoom)
John Bird (Maine Charter Commission by zoom)
Gina Post (Maine Charter Commission by zoom)

Board members not present: Tom Edwards, Kim Patnode

Cheryl Bulmer called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Additions/Adjustment to the Agenda:

There were no adjustments to the agenda:

Public Comment:

Troy Frost inquired as to when Bob Kautz' official retirement from the Charter Commission was. Bob stated that he was retired as of October 31, 2020; the commission has asked that he stay on until they can find his replacement. This may or may not be his last meeting with us. Troy expressed how wonderful it had been to work with Bob all these years. Cheryl Bulmer expressed appreciation on behalf of the entire MeANS Board of Directors.

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda included the following items:

- a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from 10/23/2020
- b. Finance Committee Minutes (September and October)
- c. Development Committee Minutes (November)
- d. Head of School Report

There was a motion by Jesse Wechsler to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Cheryl Mercier.

Because of the combined zoom/in person meeting and the difficulty with hearing those in attendance, Cheryl Bulmer requested a roll call vote:

Dana Doran: I	Scott Byrd: I
Cheryl Mercier: I	Sally Beaulieu: I
Cheryl Bulmer: I	Troy Frost: I
Jesse Wechsler: I	Robin Cyr: I
Shannon Webber: I	Scott Cyrway: I

Unanimous approval; motion carried at 4:14 p.m.

First Quarter Financials:

Angela Hesketh, Board Treasurer

- Balance Sheet:
 - Through end of September: 550k in cash
 - just over 24k in grant restricted funds that is part of that cash balance
 - payables: term liabilities 406k
 - our net loss over the period: 282k
 - compared to what we had budgeted for there is a variance of 157k
 - cash is good right now
 - we're okay based on where we are headed and the funding that is coming
 - key elements
 - some payroll related liabilities
 - 3 new positions added (1 funded fully by CRF, 1 partially funded by CRF, 1 that were not part of the original budget)
 - monies from possible ESSER funds may help with the payroll of the other positions not covered by CRF
 - invoiced over 95k into the State for CRF funds which will cut the loss balance. The state is currently several weeks behind, just now processing invoices from early October
 - transportation: those numbers should level out because funds will be available from different buckets
 - Scott Cyrway wrote the commissioner of education to inquire if there is any hazard pay that could be reimbursed to MeANS for maintenance costs for hazmat outfits whenever they have to clean a facility after a Covid case

Student/Staff Presentation:

Kaya and Manu Lescault presented their report on “How our Diets Impact the Environment as a Whole:

- Cattle ranching contributes to 80% of Deforestation rates
- Livestock farming produces 14.5 % of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions
 - only produces 18 % of the world’s calories and only 37% of the world’s protein
- Livestock consumes 30% of the earth’s fresh water supply
- It takes 24k gallons of water to produce one pound of beef or 1 gallon of milk
- With the grain that we use to feed livestock, we could feed 3.5 billion extra people
- In just the last 150 years we have lost half of the earth’s top soil
- It would take 200-400 years to regain it
- Lowering the consumption of meat and dairy could begin to reverse the destruction to the earth
- Meatless Monday was one idea

Manu graduated in August, 2020 and Kaya is a student in the MeANS Threshold Program. They are both passionate about this subject having been born and raised vegetarian. They further added that it takes far less resources to maintain a vegan diet.

Cheryl Bulmer had to jump off the zoom meeting at 4:52; Cheryl Mercier took over the meeting at this time.

Head of Schools Update: Matt Newburg

CRF2 projects

- Able to get the threshold mobile project lab
- The foundation for the yurt has begun, already underway with Dubois Construction
- Dubois quotes were budgeted and those will not change
- The Pavilion folks are coming tomorrow, 11/13/2020, hoping to raise it the week after Thanksgiving
- Angela and Matt staying in close touch with invoicing, etc.

Covid Update:

- Somerset County went yellow as of Oct. 30
- some discussion around going remote from Thanksgiving to the New Year (Nov. 21 – Jan. 5th)
- asking Board to consider the possibility
- collaborative Planning Team felt that this would be a great idea
- very proactive measure

- relieved and proud that MeANS has gotten through a full quarter without any cases
- very proud of the teachers and staff
- will need preparation for teachers to go back to full remote
- Troy Frost commented that although there could be some financial savings from returning to remote learning the true point is *safety first*
- if we are going to do this, we need to make the decision quickly as there is only one full week of classes before Thanksgiving
- need to be as creative and caring as possible to keep kids engaged during remote learning periods
- As was True during our last remote session, we will absolutely do what is needed to ensure student success
- There will be a location for families to come and pick up meals during a specific window of time
- School Nurse Brittney Ibbitson applied for certification for CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment); making MeANS an authorized testing site. Brittney will be the only one who can administer the test

Scott Cyrway asked why we would consider going to remote learning when there have been no active cases in our school, and parents did have problems during the last remote learning.

Matt responded that there has been a lot of anxiety around the growing numbers throughout the state, worrying about ‘when’ that first case will occur. This is a proactive measure to insure that we remain case free. Angela Hesketh stated that she felt a January 5th return date may also be too soon right after Christmas/New Years with the potential family gatherings; just a thought to push the return date out by a week.

By All MeANS.

- the Development Committee made the decision to start a fund call the “By All MeANS” fund
- funds will be used to help ‘bridge the gap’ and will be available for materials used for programming
- 100% participation from the Board and Faculty is needed
- notices will be sent out to Parents/families and Alumni.
- will be a yearly fundraiser launching each fall
- staff/teacher response was very positive
- we need to build our base of support
- there will be different variations on the letter based on whom it is sent to
- for now, all funds raised will be placed in the general operating vs. direct funds
- the hope is that parents/alumni will be willing to give toward the Green House, the farm, and the maple sugar processing as their kids experienced each of these things

**Goal Setting 2020/2021: Update from Joint Council meeting on Strategic Plan
(Cheryl M & Matt N.)**

In reviewing our strategic plan, we found a lot of commonalities between MeANS and Good Will-Hinckley with where we are heading

Matt and Rob have been tasked with reviewing the commonalities and coming up with goals related to those commonalities (meeting set up for next week)

Both Programs have the need to market themselves

Each will market separately but using the same resources (TruLine)

Other: Meeting Dates and Time

- Friday, January 15th meeting changed to the Thursday the 14th, 4:00-6:30
- Thursday meetings are better for some board members
- The 4 p.m. time is still hit or miss, but if the zoom option remains available, it makes it more convenient

Prep for Next Meeting:

- Cheryl Mercier reminded everyone that Surveys for Head of Schools need to be turned in
- No meeting in December, next meeting will be January 14th, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Danni mentioned that there are spices that the kids made, and bottles of maple syrup that are perfect for stocking stuffers. Let Danni know what you would like and she will put together your order. The students are also collecting canned goods and taking donations for their annual Thanksgiving Baskets. Please make your checks out to MeANS and write Thanksgiving in the memo field. Swags are also coming out soon; it will be posted out on Facebook. The proceeds from the swags go towards the bee project.

Jesse Wechsler motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Scott Byrd seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.