



MeANS Board of Director Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 2, 2020

Present: Cheryl Bulmer, Kim Patnode, Sally Beaulieu, Troy Frost, Scott Byrd, Scott Cyrway, Cheryl Mercier

Absent: Jesse Wechsler, Dana Doran, Tom Edwards, Shannon Webber, Robin Cyr

Staff present: Matt Newberg, Danni Best

Cheryl Bulmer called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda: Matt Newberg asked that we add a discussion and vote on a student who is now 20 continuing their education at MeANS. This will be added after item 9. Cheryl B. shared that we only have one student matter to discuss so items 8. and 9. on the agenda will not take place.

Public comments: None

Motion by Cheryl M. to approve the consent Agenda, Seconded by Scott C. All 7 members voted Aye. Motion Carried

Mission discussion- The amended mission statement was sent to the Charter Commission. The review team has come back with a recommendation that under the value of Responsibility we change the wording from “individualized curriculum” to individualized instruction” as they were concerned that our curriculum was not individualized but how it was taught may need to be. Kim asked if this change would play out differently as to what is needed to graduate. Matt said no it would not. The charter needs our final amended mission statement for their board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 6th for approval.

Motion made by Scott C. to approve the mission wording change as proposed by the charter, seconded by Cheryl M. All 7 members voted Aye.

Motion Carried

Motion made by Cheryl M. to enter executive session to consider a student disciplinary matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6) (B). Seconded by Scott C.

Roll call vote:

Cheryl Mercier – Aye

Cheryl Bulmer - Aye

Scott Byrd – Aye

Scott Cyrway – Aye

Sally Beaulieu – Aye

Troy Frost – Aye

Kim Patnode -Aye

Motion Carried.

At 3:50pm the board came out of executive session into public session.

Motion made by Cheryl Mercier to expel a student from school until July 30, 2021 pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 1001(9) on the grounds that such expulsion is necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school, and to direct the Head of School to provide the student's parents written notice of this action. Seconded by Troy Frost

Roll call vote:

Cheryl Mercier – Aye

Cheryl Bulmer - Aye

Scott Byrd – Aye

Scott Cyrway – Aye

Sally Beaulieu – Aye

Troy Frost – Aye

Kim Patnode -Abstain

The chair ruled that the motion did not carry as she believed a vote of the majority of the board members (7 of 12) was needed to pass. (Note: after the meeting the chair followed up with legal council about this matter and was advised that the majority of the board is required in attendance in order to hold the board meeting and act on matters. However, once the majority of the board (in our case 7 out of 12) are present a vote can pass with the majority of the members present (in this case 4 out of 7). So, the motion should have passed. Due to the following action the same result was approved with the addition of a reentry plan)

Kim Patnode asked if the board could go back into executive session.

Motion made by Sally B. to enter executive session to consider a student disciplinary matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6) (B). Seconded by Scott C.

Roll call vote:

Cheryl Mercier – Aye

Cheryl Bulmer - Aye

Scott Byrd – Aye

Scott Cyrway – Aye

Sally Beaulieu – Aye

Troy Frost – Aye

Kim Patnode -Aye

Executive session began at 3:58pm and came out of executive session into public session at 4:18pm

Motion made by Cheryl Mercier to expel a student from school until July 30, 2021 pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 1001(9) on the grounds that such expulsion is necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school, and to direct the Head of School to provide the student's parents written notice of this action and develop a reentry plan for the student as required by law. Seconded by Troy Frost

Roll call vote:

Cheryl Mercier – Aye

Cheryl Bulmer - Aye

Scott Byrd – Aye

Scott Cyrway – Aye

Sally Beaulieu – Aye

Troy Frost – Aye
Kim Patnode -Aye
Motion Carried

Matt shared that the second executive session on a second student was not needed as the manifestation hearing which took place on the 1st of October determined that the behavior was a manifestation of his disability. This is complicated. Over the next week another IEP meeting will take place and a decision will be made as to whether we move to an expedited due process hearing as the student would be scheduled to return to the school building next Friday and all involved agree that the school building environment is not a good setting for this student.

Matt brought forward the issue that we have another student who has turned 20 and has not finished all of his requirements to graduate. The student should be able to finish by December and Matt would like to request that the board vote to allow him to finish.

Motion was made by Scott to accept the student through the remainder of the school year to complete graduation requirements. Seconded by Cheryl M. All 7 members voted Aye.
Motion Carried

Motion to Adjourn meeting by Troy F., seconded by Scott. All 7 members voted Aye.
Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 4:29p