



Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, 8/26/21 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
At the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences School building
13 Easler Drive
Hinckley, Maine

MeANS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 8/26/2021 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences School Building / ZOOM meeting combined
13 Easler Drive, Hinckley, Maine
Room

Board members present: Cheryl Bulmer, Sally Beaulieu (Zoom), Scott Byrd (Zoom), Mike Muir, Shannon Webber (Zoom), Cheryl Mercier (Phone), Anna Perkins, Whitney King (Zoom)

Staff Members Present: Matt Newberg, Angela Hesketh, Abigail Skrabak

Board Members Not Present: Dana Doran, Jesse Wechsler, Kim Patnode, Robin Cyr

1. **Board Chair, Cheryl Bulmer, Call the meeting to order 5:35**
2. **Additions/Adjustment to the Agenda:**
 - a. Discussion and vote for buying a new bus immediately using covid funds.
 - b. Postpone Information sharing c. review and discussion of Charter 4-year Performance report and Spring Monitoring report. Will discuss when the new year starts.
 - c. Masking, not a voting option, but looking for Board support.
3. **Public Comment:** No
4. **Introduction:** Whitney King and Anna Perkins
 - a. Anna Perkins background in Special Ed in Maine and Mass, worked at Maine Arts. She was the Special Education Director, and has done a lot of special education work at the state and local level.
 - b. Anna will join HR Committee
 - c. Whitney will be on Finance Committee
 - d. Committee list in packet, there were no issues, stated. Meeting times, and contact information was also passed out
 - e. Introduction: Abigail Skrabak taking minutes. Please state names when doing motions.
5. **Consent Agenda: (Action requested by Approval of Consent Agenda)**
 - a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from 6/17/21

b. *Head of School report*

There was a motion by Mike Muir to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Scott Byrd.

Roll Call Vote:

Whitney King Aye

Mike Muir: Aye

Cheryl Mercier: Aye

Sally Beaulieu: Aye

Scott Byrd: Aye

Shannon Webber: Aye

Cheryl Bulmer: Aye

Anna Perkins: Aye

Unanimous approval; motion carried.

6. Action items

a. **Acceptance of Troy Frost's resignation.**

- i. Cheryl Bulmer officially accepts his resignation.
- ii. Scott wanted to recognize that Troy was an original member, and wanted to acknowledge his service. Cheryl B. Mike agrees.

There was a motion by Scott Byrd to accept Troy's resignation, seconded by Cheryl M.

Roll Call Vote:

Whitney King Aye

Mike Muir: Aye

Cheryl Mercier: Aye

Sally Beaulieu: Aye

Scott Byrd: Aye

Shannon Webber: Aye

Cheryl Bulmer: Aye

Anna Perkins: Aye

b. Review and approval of the Charter renewal application

- i. Matt sent out the renewal application. Important dates are highlighted for the renewal timeline. We are not in jeopardy of not being renewed, we would know that by now, however Gina advised us not to seek a 10-year renewal.
- ii. Sept 8: The renewal team will be coming to campus in person to meet with admin, board chair, staff, and parents and students,, and two board members. The entire visit will be from 930 to 3. There will be a 60-minute meeting with the board members present. They will schedule the time soon.

- iii. Sept 30: There will be a public hearing from 430 to 6. Gina said that's when we want our constituents to come and talk about their experience. We will want 30 to 40 people present. We can do zoom. Danni and Christine are going to recruit students and families. We would like it in person, but it may be in zoom
- iv. After those dates, the board will take a couple months to review and then have the contract signing and approval. They did submit to us the 4-year performance review, if anyone is interested it is on the commission site.
- v. **Discussion:** Scott clarified that the board member meeting for the renewal is just one hour. Scott wanted clarification on what Gina meant about not doing a 10-year renewal. Normally they only did 5-year renewals, but at some point, they allowed 10 years. Recently a school applied for a 10-year renewal, and were denied, it was possibly Acadia Academy. Gina did not think that we would be approved for 10 years, just because we had things to improve on. In renewal application, if you look at the performance section, especially student achievement, we haven't hit all the goals we want to in the last 4 years. Matt stated that looking at ourselves I personally wouldn't approve it 10 years, and he didn't want to go 10 years without any oversight either because it will help us reach our goals.
- vi. Looking for the board to approve the submission of the application, contingent on the changes that will be discussed at this meeting.
- vii. **Fixes:** Sally asked about the beginning table a and b, isn't consistent with the number on the waiting list. Matt confirmed the table is actually correct. Sally said she sent grammatical errors in an email. Mike also sent an email about grammar, but on pg. 12 part b, 2I Student Recruitment. Everything has a blurb, but section doesn't have one, and that is one of our focus areas, Matt agrees. Matt states Becky and Emanuel are looking to a grant to get a satellite program, there is some question on whether it would classify as a new expansion, or old expansion, we will provide a narrative.
- viii. **Fixes continued:** Cheryl B. suggests CTE centers spelt out. Also points out on "Looking Back" section pg. 8 vi, it says significant changes, but it doesn't mention Matt coming on board. It says "launching an alternative program," should that be identified as Threshold? pg. 9 fix 130,000. Talked about eliminating the GWH grant, "this coming year we will no longer have a grant from GWH," because we have accomplished our goal. There's reference to no changes to the schedule. pg. 12, but we changed to trimesters.
- ix. **Fixes continued:** Scott suggested when we mention IEP, should we compare the incoming freshmen with IEPs to the state average? pg. 13, We have about 3x the amount of the average. 69% vs 20%, Abby stated

that Christine mentioned the state average was 20%. Cheryl mentioned that the governing board says no changes, but we are trying to increase the board from 12 to 15.

- x. Matt stated that if anyone is interested, there is a 47 page renewal packet from 2016. He double checked with Gina about how in depth the application needs to be now. We used Maine Arts Academy for a guide. Currently the applications are substantially less in depth.
- xi. **Changes:** Cheryl pg. 11 Board “informative”, pg. 12 marketing campaigns “strive” instead of hope. Mike: Near the top pg. 43 public charter in a 20 mile radius. By adding “additional” reinforces the idea of competition, driving home the point. Mike doesn’t believe that there is that level of density at any of the other charters in any other part of the state. It makes it harder to recruit.
- xii. Matt: We are currently looking at doing a satellite site for Threshold, however we are surprised that they are pushing back on the grant. They are trying to decide whether we need to do formal documents, or use the ones we used currently.
- xiii. Cheryl mentioned about the numbers 147 compared to 285, to elaborate more on the large difference in numbers. Means we we’re going to get to that higher number with Threshold. Day numbers have been consistent. Financials are saying that we aren’t going to be able to try to get to 280 students.
- xiv. **Additions to Application:** Finance committee will look at all of the financials. Matt will send finished copy

The motion would be to accept the application with the changes discussed with Matt, and the changes with the Finance Committee. Anna Perkin motions, Mike Muir seconds.

Roll Call Vote:

Whitney King Not Present

Mike Muir: Aye

Cheryl Mercier: Aye

Sally Beaulieu: Aye

Scott Byrd: Aye

Shannon Webber: Aye

Cheryl Bulmer: Aye

Anna Perkin Ayes

7. Purchase of Bus

- a. Paula Taylor, Transportation Coordinator, has done an outstanding job of getting students to and from school, and keeping us staffed. She has requested for us to purchase a large bus since our ridership has increased. The CDC is still requiring everyone to distance. We are almost at capacity. We have \$500,000 outstanding balance from ESSERF2 and \$350,000 in American Rescue. We are proposing to take \$100,000 from ESSERF2 budget. Buying this bus will also give us more flexibility for field trips.
- b. **3 quotes:**
 - i. O'Connor in Maine: \$120,000 with AC
 - ii. American Bus: \$105,000, located out of the state. May not go with this company, we would like to go with Cressy, because we have gotten other buses from them.
 - iii. Cressy: \$104,000 has AC
- c. We do not have an estimate on maintenance. Boulet has not gotten back to us yet. Hoping to get 2 years from the ESSERF2 pot, and will build in insurance and maintenance into fall for 2023.
- d. Angela asked if we have to have the ESSERF2 fully approved before we add this in there? Matt said pending approval from the DOT, then we would ask to approve it once it's approved by DOT. Cheryl asked what is the timeline? Matt said we could get it soon, because they have it in stock, and they can hold it for us. If we do not act now, it will take a couple months to get another one. We want it running this fall.

Mike Muir moves to approve purchasing the bus from Cressy. Sally Beaulieu seconds.

Roll Call Vote:

Whitney King: Not Present

Mike Muir: Aye

Cheryl Mercier: Aye

Sally Beaulieu: Aye

Scott Byrd: Aye

Shannon Webber: Aye

Cheryl Bulmer: Aye

Anna Perkins: Aye

Anna received an Aye from Cheryl M. from her phone.

The motion carries.

8. Information sharing

- a. **Recruitment update:** Can you explain the jump in enrollment in Threshold? Some students went from day to Threshold. Not wanting to mask. We are trying to look at how can we get these enrollments sooner, because if this is our

enrollment model it would be a stressful summer. We have a few more students in the que. Looking good, Threshold is down to five teachers because one left, looking at the numbers we will not have to let any Threshold teachers go.

- b. We are at 166 aiming for 190 students
- c. **Year financial update (Angela):** Angela gave a brief summary that all the documentation will be given to the auditors before they arrive. We will end the year in the positive without any specifics.

9. Other

- a. Conflict of Interest forms needed for the new year
- b. Board member bios and pictures, we have some bios and some pictures we would like the whole board on the website
- c. **Mask requirements:** Matt recommends doing in door masking, and universal pool testing. Pool testing is the antigen test and it will be done by the individuals themselves every Wednesday. People would be given swabs, self swab, and then put in a sharp's container. If there is a positive, they will do PCR test. The reason why we didn't do it beforehand is because of our schedule, but the real incentive is if we can get 30% of the school population the DOE says we won't have to quarantine if there is a positive test. Brittany will be there for family weekend getting forms. Will make a video reiterating how detrimental the hybrid model is, and we want to avoid virtual, and quarantine. Will announce tomorrow, I don't think it requires a vote or approval, but want the board's support.
- d. Sally likes having masks because it is aligned with Maine CDC. Scott says not all masking are created equal, the students have to have substantial cloth masks, gators won't qualify.
- e. Any board members available for the renewal process? Mike is available if zoom is the option and Sally for Sept 8 for renewal. Scott will be back up.
- f. Cheryl asked for people to think of auction items for the gala. The gala raises money for campus life there are two freshmen boys from Portland. There is no question that we can have kids that couldn't enroll without the program, any auction items for that personal or from other businesses will be helpful. Date is Oct. 16. The Board has had a table in the past and we may want to again if the gala is in person.
- g. **Prep for next meeting:** Sept 16, we will know more about the gala. Meeting will be from 4:30 -6:30. Going to do goal setting. We need to look at performance reports, strategic planning, and personnel policies that we need to bring to closure as goals; Scott will coordinate to accomplish goal setting. It would be nice to have it in person.

10. Mike Muir moves to adjourn. Scott seconds.

Roll Call Vote:

Whitney King: Not Present

Mike Muir: Aye

Sally Beaulieu: Aye

Scott Byrd: Aye

Shannon Webber: Aye

Cheryl Bulmer: Aye

Anna Perkins: Aye

The motion carries.

Adjourn 6:40pm