



Heather King, Head of School Rachel Merrill, Principal

Mission "Providing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and well-rounded arts education to enrich the lives of our students."

Vision "Nurturing the next generation of leaders to become invaluable citizens at the heart of Maine's cultural, economic and social well-being."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 4, 2024 - 5:00 PM

Passed April, 1, 2024

Google Link

<https://meet.google.com/yzt-konq-irh?authuser=0>

Directors present: Sherry Gilbert, Janna Townsend, Mitchell Thomas, Andrew Landry, Timothy Rector, Heather King

Directors absent: Linda Warner

Staff: Cory King, Jenna Murray, Jasen Richardson, Rachel Merrill

Public: Shana Page

Call to Order / Declaration of a Quorum Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Mr. Rector read the mission statement and vision statement.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Rector, seconded by Ms. Townsend to approve the minutes from February's Board of Directors meeting. Unanimous.

2. Public Comment Ms. Page shared that the parent group has a meeting planned for Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00pm.

3. Administrative Report - Board members commended the administrative report.

4. Operations Director Report Mrs. King stated that Mr. King is working on obtaining the building permit from the state fire marshal and that the school's contractor cut his hand and had to undergo

major surgery. Mr. King stated that he is building risers for seating for the theater department's upcoming performance. There will be two shows to accommodate seating for 90 audience members each show. Each show will feature the same performance. Ms. Gilbert discussed the need for a substitute custodian and offered to share information about Shelby's Cleaning Service to help with coverage when the custodian is absent. Mr. Rector agreed and suggested looking into it. Mrs. King stated that there is a part-time custodial position in the budget for next school year. Mr. King discussed upcoming work on the heating system. Mr. King shared that 70 of 144 pieces of protective window film have been installed in the school.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Tim Rector - Chair, Finance Committee - Mr. Rector reported on work being done by the committee. Mrs. King shared that the school was awarded a \$50,000 grant for mountain-biking and photography summer program.
- b. Drew Landry - Chair, Governance - Mr. Landry reported on work being done by the committee.
- c. Linda Warner - Chair, Development - Mr. Thomas reported there was no meeting.
- d. Janna Townsend - Chair Academic Excellence - Ms. Townsend reported on work being done by the committee.

6. Additions/Adjustments by Chair/Directors Ms. Gilbert passed around a list of school lunches that was published in the newspaper, which included MeAA. Ms. Gilbert discussed that the music showcase will feature two different lineups and she is concerned that scheduling two evenings in a row may present challenges. Mr. Rector and Mr. Landry agreed. Ms. Gilbert also shared her concern that more performances should be scheduled during the school day. Mr. Rector stated that the school received a large donation of library reference materials and antique cameras. Ms. King has agreed our library be named after the donor's relative.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

a. Board office update - Ms. Gilbert stated that she introduced the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum guitar contest with the deadline of April 1, 2024 and the prize of a Martin guitar to Mrs. King and Mr. Herman, who agreed to promote the contest to MeAA guitar students. Ms. Gilbert shared information that is posted on the bulletin board outside the Board of Directors' office including the Kennebec Performing Arts Company's start of spring rehearsals for the annual Pops Concert Series on May 3 and 4, the \$1000 Shelley Reed memorial scholarship, the Colby Kennebec Choral Society's invitation for singer to perform Beethoven's 9th Symphony and the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame's annual guitar competition. Ms. Gilbert also spoke with Mr. Cox about whether or not his students are participating in an art show at Green Block and Schupf Center. Mr. Cox said he had not received an invitation this year. Mr. Rector suggested reaching out to Waterville Creates about this. Mrs. King stated that there are several businesses in downtown Augusta who are hanging artwork by MeAA students and other surrounding schools, including Callie's Flower Shop, Cushnoc's, Saylor Ink, Best Life Nutrition, Downtown Diner, Otto's, and more to come. Ms. Gilbert also stated that MeAA theater students may want to participate in the Maine Drama Festival and One Act Play Competition in the future.

b. National Charter School Institute workshop update from 2/22/24 - Mrs. Jenna Murray and Ms. Gilbert attended the workshop on building a better budget. Topics covered included

avoiding one-time sources for ongoing expenses, knowing the costs of retirement, living, etc., and having a monthly income statement. Boards should take part in approving positions and creating new positions. Administration and finance committee should know all of the financial information pertaining to the school and the school budget should be planned out for 18-24 months. Using red, yellow, and green to identify where the school is in the budget was also discussed. Mrs. Murray added that 60-80% of the money in the budget goes to teachers' salaries.

c. Maine Alliance of Public Charter Schools update from 2/8/24 Ms. Gilbert shared that there were 10 adults and 2 students from Baxter in attendance. Legislative bills 1064 and 2188 were discussed along with family medical leave. Ms. Janna LaPointe loved the logos presented by MeAA art students. The next meeting is May 9 and they send out a zoom link. Ms. Gilbert will send out the meeting information when she receives it.

d. Charter Commission meeting update from 2/13/24 Mrs. King attended in person and Ms. Gilbert attended via zoom. Ms. Gilbert reported there was discussion on asking DOE to provide more subsidy for bus transportation. Mr. Rector stated that MeAA's transportation needs exceed nearly all other charter schools. Chair Norm Higgins expressed concerns about charter schools taking students from rural schools. Mr. Higgins also noted changes to the performance framework. Ms. Gilbert shared the virtual map which highlights the number of students from each location who attend charter schools.

e. FY25 Proposed Budget - Vote

Motion by Mr. Rector, seconded by Mr. Landry to accept the first reading of the current preliminary budget as presented by Heather and Jenna to all board members by email. Unanimous.

9. Announcements & Upcoming Events / Meetings

- a. Governance Meeting: TBA, 5:00 pm
- b. Development Committee: March 27 2024, 4:00 pm
- c. Academic Excellence: TBA, 4:00 pm
- d. Finance Committee March 27, 5:00 pm
- e. Maine Alliance of Public Charter Schools: May 9, 2024
- f. Parent/Teacher conferences/Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Wednesday April 3 3:00 to 6:00 PM
- g. Art Walk to highlight Youth Mental Health, Saturday April 6 Downtown Augusta Folk and Blues Ensemble is performing at 3:00 at Kennebec Valley Chiropractic
- h. Theater Production: *The Servant of Two Masters* May 3 at 7:00pm, May 4 at 2:00pm and May 5 at 2:00pm at the school
- i. Music Performance May 8, and 9 UMA Farber Forum, 6:00pm
- j. Graduation Sunday June 2, Augusta Civic Center 12:00 pm

Heather stated that the school needs six-foot bookshelves for the library.

11. Next Board Meeting: Monday, April 1, 2024 - 5:00 pm

12. Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Landry to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.