



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

November 6, 2023 - 5:00 PM

AGENDA

Google Meets:

<https://meet.google.com/vtf-ubnq-yxg?hs=122&authuser=0>

Directors present: Sherry Gilbert, Linda Warner, Andrew Landry, Timothy Rector, Janna Townsend, Heather King

Directors absent: Andrew Carlton

Staff: Jill Alves, Jasen Richardson, Rachel Merrill

Public: Shana Page, Bernie Glover, Deborah Glover

1. Call to Order / Declaration of a Quorum Sherry Gilbert declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Drew Landry, seconded by Linda Warner, to accept October BOD minutes. Unanimous.

3. Public Comment - Shana Page applauded the school and staff for its swift response and plan of action to recent events in Lewiston. Mr. King reviewed the positives and negatives of what the school needs to go over in regards to building safety. Shana mentioned potential collaboration with a local theater company and there will be a follow-up conversation soon.

4. Administrative Report - Jasen Richardson shared that this was the third year that students visited Salem, MA after studying Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Students visited the Peabody-Essex Museum and the Salem Witch Museum. Jasen commented on the importance of traveling and forming new relationships. Heather King commented that Stephen Legawiec has already visited two outside theater performances with MeAA students. Linda Warner shared that she enjoyed reading the report.

5. Committee Reports

a. Tim Rector - Chair, Finance Committee - Tim reported on the work being done by the committee.

b. Janna Townsend - Chair, Academic Excellence Committee - Janna reported on the work being done by the committee.

c. Drew Landry - Chair, Governance Committee - Drew reported on the work being done by the committee.

Motion by Drew Landry, seconded by Janna Townsend, to approve the evaluation tool for the Head of School. Unanimous.

d. Linda Warner - Chair, Development Committee - Linda reported that the next meeting will be November 20 at 4:00pm.

6. Additions/Adjustments by Chair/Directors - Sherry Gilbert adjusted the agenda putting item 8a prior to item 2. Approval of Minutes.

Sherry Gilbert added a short discussion about the celebration of Life for Shelley Reed.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

- a. Student appeal for early graduation

Motion by Drew Landry, seconded by Janna Townsend, to grant permission for this student to graduate in June. Unanimous.

- b. Charter Commission meeting update - Meeting was on October 10, 2023. Sherry Gilbert attended the meeting. Norm Higgins held a moment of silence in honor of Shelley Reed. Torey commented that there were 6 types of students who attended Maine Connections Academy. Lee and Joe Drago discussed what should be done with \$160,000. Sherry urged those in attendance to contact Norm Higgins at the Charter Commission to encourage them to distribute these funds to the remaining 9 charter schools. Melinda Browne shared a report about Maine Virtual Academy. Norm and Lana both said that they have not received any requests for the 10th charter school. Sherry Gilbert shared that there may be a potential new board member for review. The Charter Commission has an application form for new board members to complete.

Facilities meeting was held on October 19, 2023. Half of the runway lights along the corridors have been turned off to conserve lighting expenses. Reduction in force was also implemented. Heather King shared there were some funds awarded as a result of the application for emergency funding. A safety grant was also awarded to the school. Johnson Control will look at valve replacement and shutting down boilers. Board members discussed the obligation of being financially responsible for maintenance and potential damage to fire hydrants near the school building.

Sherry Gilbert would like to speak with community partners and ask for donations and support for MeAA.

Sherry Gilbert spoke at the celebration of life in honor of Shelley Reed. Sherry shared the program from the service. Linda Warner has a dear friend who is the executive director for the John Lennon bus line, which teaches students in recording, producing, and directing music. If they can arrange for it to come to Maine, it would probably be a weeklong process. Because MeAA is a rural school that pulls from so many communities and because it's not a wealthy school, he thinks it's a possibility that they can consider. It would be a great opportunity for MeAA students to gain experience in recording, producing, and directing music. This could potentially happen in late spring of 2024.

9. Announcements & Upcoming Events / Meetings

- a. Governance Meeting: TBA, 5:00 pm

- b. Development Committee: November 20, 2023, 4:00 pm

c. Academic Excellence: December 12, 2023 4:00 pm

d. Finance Committee Meeting November 28, 5:00 pm

e. Maine Alliance for Public Charter Schools: November 9, 3:30pm

Executive Session: Title 1, Chapter 13, Sub-chapter 1, Freedom of Access, 405 6C.

Motion by Janna Townsend, seconded by Drew Landry, to enter Executive Session pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, Section 405(6)(A) to preserve and individual's right to privacy. The Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session, which commenced at 6:12 p.m. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. No votes or other actions were taken during Executive Session.

11. Next Board Meeting: December 4, 2023 - 5:00 pm

12. Adjournment - Motion by Janna Townsend, seconded by Timothy Rector, to adjourn. Unanimous.