

**MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Special BOT Meeting Minutes
Saturday, October 24, 2020
Maine School of Science and Mathematics
VIRTUAL

The Special Board Meeting shall be called to:

Review and approve the Board Annual Report;
Review the Phase One work of the Business Planning Committee and vote, if warranted, on the committee's recommended vision for MSSM, and to vote, if warranted, on the committee's partnership report.

Pursuant to MSSM by-laws only those Board Members in attendance at the Special Board Meeting may vote and pursuant to current State of Maine emergency declarations all votes shall be roll call votes.

Board members present were: K. Beaulieu, T. Bolen, M. Brozman, J. Chalmers, D. Chuhta, D. Coit, D. Eustis-Grandy, D. Ferguson, Chair; J. Havu, J. Herweh, D. King, P. Orne, D. Pearson, Clerk, J. Pike, M. Reagan, and L. Renick-Butera.

Absent were: M. Anderson, K. Brackett, D. Haines, Honorary Member, J. McGreevy, J. Patterson, Honorary Member and R. Rice.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by D. Ferguson, Chair, followed by introductions.

I. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

II. Board Annual Report

D. Ferguson moved to make a motion to accept the Board Annual Report. Motioned by D. Coit, seconded by R. Rice.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu – Yes, T. Bolen – Yes, M. Brozman, J. Chalmers – Yes, D. Chuhta – Yes, D. Coit – Yes, D. Ferguson – Yes, J. Havu – Yes, J. Herweh – Yes, D. King – Yes, J. Pike – Yes, M. Reagan – Yes, L. Renick-Butera – Yes, R. Rice - Yes

Passed unanimously.

**MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

III. Business Planning Committee – Phase One

D. Coit stated that the Business Plan was presented to Staff, Students, Parents and Alumni. He, J. Chalmers, P. Hart and others went through the entire slide presentation. (located here: <https://sites.google.com/a/mssm.org/mssm-bot/home/board-meetings/2020-2021/special-meeting-october-24-2020-1>).

D. Melega commented the committee did excellent work in identifying problems with school, but history would be warranted. These are not “new” problems. Experiment has been run. International students were pursued decades ago because we needed outside revenue. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the underling funding problem is still there. The Board of Trustees has tried to solve these problems before. I think it will make it very hard to go to the State to ask for money. Historically it has been difficult to get students here and the school is short-handed. The school already cut \$800k from the budget and another 13% cut is coming. MSSM is very much at a tipping point. He really hopes and implores the BOT to take this conversation to its finality, once and for all.

D. Coit agrees completely.

M. Brozman asked if we are expecting cuts to funding, how much more can we afford to cut and keep the school running?

D. Coit responded that we are not able to answer this question during this meeting.

J. Herweh asked for clarification given the partnerships. Is the underlying assumption that it would also require a move or change of location?

D. Coit stated we are unable to answer that right now as we are just in Phase One.

L. Renick-Butera appreciates the explanation of the process. She states it is really important to know the process that was used to get to the conclusion.

P. Hart presented her portion of the slide presentation. (same document as listed above).

D. Eustis-Grandy added on to what D. Melega said in that nothing has ever come to fruition of previous plans. We should point out MSSMs successes instead of just focusing on the financial.

J. Chalmers presented his portion of the slide presentation. He stated that budget comparisons were based on increase of 240 students.

**MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

J. Pike stated that somehow we need to capture true costs based on P. Orne's presentation.

P. Orne stated we are doing a service to Maine. I am proud of what MSSM does.

M. Reagan thinks it is very important to add a slide of tiered Gifted and Talented students because we are a Tier 3 school. Most people don't know there is a tier system. This makes a huge difference.

D. Eustis-Grandy commented that outreach needs a huge influx of funding. There are only so many hours in the day for faculty on the ground.

M. Reagan stated that the slide without 9th graders should be edited to include Alumni statements from their meeting. She doesn't think we should close the door completely on 9th grade.

D. Ferguson motioned to vote on the message that the Board of Trustees Adopt the Outreach Vision and Residential Vision as presented in the bolded bullets in the slide deck, seconded by J. Pike.

A friendly amendment was made by John Herweh to strike the word "host" from "establish a host college."

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu – Yes, T. Bolen – Yes, M. Brozman, J. Chalmers – Yes, D. Chuhta – Abstain, D. Coit – Yes, D. Ferguson – Yes, J. Havu – Yes, J. Herweh – Yes, D. King – Yes, J. Pike – Yes, M. Reagan – Yes, L. Renick-Butera – Yes, R. Rice - Yes

Passed with 13 yes and 1 abstain.

D. Coit presented the last portion of Phase 1 of the Business Plan.

M. Brozman said overwhelming amount of Students support moving. Students feel Limestone does not offer much in the way of things to do, as well as lack of control over facilities. Colby has financial resources that we need more than ever. Financial struggles have constantly plagued MSSM...10+ years. Large sentiment is that the school won't exist because of our finances.

D. Eustis-Grandy asked what strings are attached to these partnerships? It is not always an altruistic proposal. We can't be a recruiting tool for someone else (ie. Colby). Discussions regarding the available pool of faculty talent that would be available based on a move equals a complete purge of current faculty/staff. Some people are very worried about that. There needs to be a clear commitment to retaining as many faculty/staff that would want to make a move.

**MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

J. Pike said it will be easy to drop our budget, but very hard to change our statute. He is interested to see how this will play out. He is intrigued by the Unity College option, but in the end, it will be Augusta that makes the decision.

D. Ferguson stated that the Vision is doable at any of the locations mentioned with the States correct investments.

L. Renick-Butera asked what the action steps are to Phase 2.

D. Coit stated that more work on the budget needs to be done before Phase 2 can be discussed.

K. Beaulieu asked if we have received figures on running at other schools?

D. Coit stated they haven't spent alot of time on this until we know what Augusta wants us to do. We are looking for guidance from them first.

K. Beaulieu stated that if Augusta doesn't approve leaving, she would like MSSM to pick a path and get there soon so we can focus on moving forward.

R. Rice said a critical point is demonstrating what MSSM does and the cost it would take to move up the work. These decisions come at different levels. We need to show them and point this out.

D. Pearson commented on the multiple issues/monies spent in our current building. We fixed an eye wash station because no one had fixed the infrastructure around it. That's just the tip of the iceberg. We're trying to create a school that thrives here.

D. Ferguson thanked everyone for all their continued hard work.

D. Coit made a motion to adjourn at 11:35am, seconded by M. Reagan.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu – Yes, T. Bolen – Yes, M. Brozman, J. Chalmers – Yes, D. Chuhta – Yes, D. Coit – Yes, D. Ferguson – Yes, J. Havu – Yes, J. Herweh – Yes, D. King – Yes, J. Pike – Yes, M. Reagan – Yes, L. Renick-Butera – Yes, R. Rice - Yes

Passed unanimously.