

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

Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 28, 2021
Maine School of Science and Mathematics
VIRTUAL

Board members present were: K. Beaulieu, K. Brackett, M. Brozman, J. Chalmers, D. Chuhta, D. Coit, D. Eustis-Grandy, D. Ferguson, Chair; J. Havu, J. Herweh, J. McGreevy, D. Pearson, J. Pike, M. Reagan, L. Renick-Butera and R. Rice.

Absent were: M. Anderson, T. Bolen, and P. Orne.

Administrators and Staff present were: M. Beckum, H. Brigman, T. Devoe, G. Hamlin, P. Long, R. McDonald, D. Melega, T. Moore (scribe), M. Rhodes, Janice Scott, and A. Whittemore.

I. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Chair, D. Ferguson followed by introductions.

R. Rice motioned to move Executive Session as the first item on the agenda, seconded by M. Reagan.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Yes, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes, R. Rice-Yes.

Passed unanimously.

Returned from Executive Session at 1:40pm.

R. Rice motioned to make Dr. Deb Eustis-Grandy and Tracy Moore Co-Acting Interim Executive Director until July 1, 2021, seconded by M. Reagan.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Yes, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes, R. Rice-Yes.

Passed unanimously.

II. D. Ferguson, Chair, opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Public Comment:

Written comment was received from P. Towle of Aroostook Partnership. Document located here:

<https://sites.google.com/a/mssm.org/mssm-bot/home/board-meetings/2020-2021/may-28-2021>

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A. Reports and Consent Agenda

D. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda which included the May 28, 2021 Management Report.

D. Eustis-Grandy added that on the May 2021 Academic Dashboard, people felt they were left in the dark about the Executive Director hiring process. Suggested that in the future more communication/updates in the process take place.

D. Ferguson agreed but added that due to the fact that all Board of Trustees members are volunteers, it was difficult to get everyone together at one time.

M. Reagan motioned to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by J. Herweh.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Yes, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, J. Havu-Yes, J. Herweh-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, J. Pike-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes.
Passed Unanimously.

B. Committee Reports

Advancement Committee – M. Reagan updated everyone on Summer Camp. Meetings have not been very frequent due to other commitments, but will begin again soon.

Governance Committee – J. McGreevy stated that 4 new Board of Trustee candidates were brought forward from the Governor. 6 more seats will be coming up for renewal/replacement in August 2022. The Charter for the Student Welfare Committee will be added to the next meeting. J. McGreevy thanked G. Hamlin for all his help with putting together the Draft JCA – Transgender policy.

J. Chalmers asked if we will know who the new BOT members will be.

J. McGreevy stated they will be known when we are given the go ahead from the DOE.

J. Chalmers asked if we need to change our own policy regarding BOT member selection to be more aligned with the Governor since current BOT policy wasn't followed in this instance.

J. McGreevy responded that this isn't unprecedented as the Governor can select their own board members outside of any policy we have in place.

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D. Melega stated that the names of the new BOT members are listed on the DOE meeting for this Friday.

Finance & Facilities Committee – J. Pike stated they have been taking care of some maintenance issues. The committee just met this past Wednesday, May 25, 2021.

D. Ferguson thanked M. Beckum for her work. He stated that the budget looks great and he doesn't see any surprises. Kudos to the Business Office and Administration.

Program Committee – K. Brackett state that the committee has been busy. 4 meetings took place since the last BOT meeting. In March, a Title IX update was needed. Moving forward, the BOT needs to be more responsive and timely with Title IX needs/requests. The Math Department continues to feel strained by conflicting types of students. The department feels they need more guidance and resources to offer high level Math classes. They also understand the need for outreach, but need more guidance for the vision and implementation. Also, the Math team is important, but it competes for time with other extra-curricular activities.

The Program Committee charter was finished in April/May. Equity has been added into the mix but they need more guidance about equity goals for the school in general.

This year so the lowest turnout for the Student Climate Survey. L. Renick-Butera and M. Reagan have been working on focusing on the First Year experience. They held late wing night meetings to get feedback about how they feel about their experience. This was a great format to dive deeper and get ideas from the students to resolve issues. They would like to invite more BOT members to participate and share the late nights, etc.

Discussion:

M. Brozman stated that the Climate Survey used to go out during Spirit Week in order for students/class to earn points. This model seemed to work well and he suggests we go back to doing this.

Business Planning Committee – D. Coit and J. Chalmers shared a revised presentation (located here: <https://sites.google.com/a/mssm.org/mssm-bot/home/board-meetings/2020-2021/may-28-2021>).

UMaine has backed off as a potential partner possibly due to political. Changing the statute regarding Limestone is not a decision the board can make. They are only bringing information forward regarding locations/partnerships so that legislature can make a decision. D. Coit thanked D. Pearson and M. Beckum for putting together the numbers.

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Next steps is how do we move forward. A meeting was held with 3 commissions where they gave a 1-1/2 Hour presentation. The committee is proud of the fact they have created a better dialogue. D. Chuhta was instrumental in setting up these conversations. Governor Mills is aware of us now, and interested in talks of remedial STEM education.

K. Beaulieu asked about the data slide showing cost comparisons of Limestone vs. Colby and Unity. She feels this data is again very biased.

D. Coit stated that they are only making recommendations.

K. Beaulieu disagreed and stated that the information is already being presented as is.

Student Welfare Committee – D. Coit stated they are working on a charter and is hoping to make this more parent/student driven. He suggests making a parent co-chair with a BOT member of the Committee. This would make us immediately responsive to concerns they have about students. This has been handed over to the Governance Committee for review.

D. Ferguson motioned to accept the Committee Reports, seconded by M. Reagan.

After a 5 minute break, the meeting resumed at 2:45pm.

C. Action Agenda:

Policies:

J. McGreevy presented the JCA – Transgender Policy for first reading. She wanted to thank G. Hamlin as he was instrumental in putting this policy together. The policy was also reviewed by our attorney, Sarah Forrester.

J. Havu suggested that section on page 2 should say “not limited to.”

K. Brackett wondered if we should add language that gives the Administration/MSSM the right to not have to do certain things; ie. if a student requests something impossible for MSSM to implement, is there language in here to protect the school. Add the requests need to be reasonable based on limitations of building, etc. Part C, end of first paragraph. School staff shall comply to any plan.....there should be a term to indicate that all requests might not be possible.

D. Ferguson stated we need to make sure procedures in place are supported by the policies we’re adopting.

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D. King motioned to move policy JCA to 1st reading, seconded by J. Chalmers.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Yes, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, J. Havu-Yes, J. Herweh-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, J. Pike-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes.

Passed Unanimously.

Budget:

D. King reported that a balanced budget was submitted. M. Beckum discussed the changes from the March meeting to now.

The number of total students moved down from 129 to 127. Out of state students moved up from 0 to 2. Wanted to make sure it is clear to the board not to increase the 6100 account. Need to make sure these expenses are adjusted.

$\frac{2}{3}$ Chemistry Instructor position was removed. 1 full-time Physics Instructor was added. Music instructor was changed from part-time to adjunct. Anthem Blue Cross insurance premiums went down a bit to match true rates coming up for this year.

Contingency leaves us with just over \$45k in 4500 account. All other accounts are balanced, though no additional is available and she wants to make sure that people are aware of that.

D. Pearson added that the budget is based on continued flat funding. It does not take into account the request for funding that was made to Cultural Affairs Committee and moved forward to the Appropriations Committee.

D. King added that this budget does include a slight increase for faculty and staff equally.

D. King motioned to submit the 2021-2022 budget for approval, seconded by D. Ferguson.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Abstain, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, J. Havu-Yes, J. Herweh-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, J. Pike-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes.

Passed with 11 Yes, 1 Abstain.

Motion for Line of Credit:

D. Ferguson motioned to approve the Annual Motion for Line of Credit, seconded by D. King.

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Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Abstain, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, J. Havu-Yes, J. Herweh-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, J. Pike-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes.

Passed with 11 Yes, 1 Abstain.

Election of Officers:

The following officers are up for election: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer. The existing slate of officers have all agreed to continue. Please send your ballots to Tracy Moore so we can make a tally.

III. Adjourn

M. Brozman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:16pm, seconded by J. Pike.

Roll Call Vote:

K. Beaulieu-Yes; K. Brackett-Yes, D. Chuhta-Yes, M. Brozman-Yes, J. Chalmers-Yes, D. Coit-Yes, J. Havu-Yes, J. Herweh-Yes, D. Ferguson-Yes, J. McGreevy-Yes, J. Pike-Yes, M. Reagan-Yes.

Passed Unanimously.