

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors held on October 21st, 2025.

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a virtual annual meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on Zoom at 4:00 PM, October 21st, 2025. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Stacey Blanchard, and Tina Meserve. Cherieann Harrison, Scott Richardson, and Susan Walters were excused. A quorum was not present.

Attending for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Lena Vitagliano, Christina O'Grady, Mary Violette, Chelsea Osgood, and Stephanie Emery.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

Opening Items.

Finance Report. Dr. Browne gave a concise finance update:

- The auditors have provided a draft report and are planning to present at the next governing board meeting on November 18th.
- Also on the November agenda is the FY26 Quarter 1 Financials.

Auditors have provided a draft report and are planning to present them at the next board meeting on Nov 18th, it was a clean report.

On the November board meeting agenda Jennifer Hight will present the FY26 Quarter 1 financials. Dr. Browne said that we are right on track and staying on budget so far. No unforeseen expenses have come up.

Donna made the point that she is happy we got the audit done early! Dr. Browne committed to submitting the audit report to the state and Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC), after the board approved.

Administration. Dr. Melinda Browne presented the Head of School Report.

- SY 2024/25 Draft Annual Monitoring Report: Mostly meeting/exceeding performance measures, with ongoing work to do in math and reading proficiency, as measured by the Maine Through Year (MTY). We are focusing on high quality implementation. Congratulations to the MEVA board for exceeding their performance items.
- MEVA Assessment Data Reports: Fall assessment data informs course placement and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). In Person, fall 2025 MTY is underway – strong participation.
- SY 2025/26 Progress with Teacher Presentation: Mary Violette, math teacher, Consumer Math.
- SY 2025/26 Core Course Students and Staffing. Exhibit in the preferred format informs staffing decisions.
- SY 2025/26 Enrollment: Full school on October 1st, 2025, funds SY-2026/2027. Special education count is down slightly from the previous year, but we have several students in referral.

The annual monitoring report is essentially MEVA's report card for the prior year. MEVA is mostly meeting and exceeding performance measures. We still have a lot to work on with math and reading proficiency, Dr. Browne stated, though progress is made.

Dr. Browne thanked Donna and Tina for their input on curriculum mapping.

Dr. Browne congratulated the board for exceeding their performance items.

Donna stated that she was pleased with the MCSC's report, and they pointed out what MEVA and the Board need to work on, which Donna appreciated.

Dr. Browne sent the board data reports, which showed positive results for the fall-to-fall growth and achievement, as measured by NWEA MAP and Accuplacer. Dr. Browne stated that MEVA was wrapping up fall testing, and we expected to attain ninety-five percent (95%) participation.

Dr. Browne shared a breakdown with the course, student, and staff ratios. The board requested this information in the past and desired to see this in the fall and spring semesters, annually.

Tina expressed concerns about the student numbers in science classes, they seemed large. Don Fournier, Academic Administrator, stated we did have an increase of students in a few grades. However, some courses were broken down to two live classes each. Don stated that there was support in place. General education courses did not need a lot of support typically. Donna said that she had the same concerns. As an example, she pointed out Chemistry, which had a 39: 1 ratio. Donna hoped the staff would be comfortable with the size of the classes and were progressing well.

Tina would like to see a review of pass and fail rates for science and mentioned it would be good to monitor this. Dr. Browne committed to gathering this information and sharing it with the board. Don Fournier reported that a portion of students take the course asynchronously so there may be a lot fewer students in those classes live.

Teacher Presentation by Mary Violette, Consumer Math.

Mary provided an overview of the school's Consumer Math course, which offers mathematical concepts with real-world financial applications. The course's goal was to help students use math as a tool to make informed, responsible, and personalized financial decisions that supported their long-term well-being. The semester 1 covered topics associated with taxes (income, sales, and property), checking and savings accounts including how to compound interest and budgeting. Students learned to use tools like spreadsheets for decision making. Semester 2 covered investing, credit, and insurance topics. Students explored stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, and index funds. They learned about risk versus reward. Students developed investment portfolios and participated in simulations to apply concepts. They also learn and talk about how to manage credit and credit scores. Mary also covered topics associated with debt and insurance types like health, life, property, renters etc. Mary stated that students gained lifelong skills in this course and were exposed to new financial concepts.

Donna expressed appreciation for Mary's presentation and the alignment between the course and broader math curriculum.

SY 2025/26 Enrollment.

Dr. Browne – stated that MEVA had a full school on October 1st, 2025, which bodes well for funding SY-2026/2027. Special education overall is at one-hundred-seventeen (117) students – one percent (1%) lower than last year.

Stacey inquired about student retention. Dr. Browne stated that retention is a strength at the school, and we tried hard to retain students. Currently, retention was strong at MEVA.

Donna inquired about the seventh (7th) grade class and asked if it has always been that small? Dr. Browne stated, yes, it was the typical number. It was good that this class was a smaller size since they needed a higher level of support. Donna concurred that they probably received more individual support.

October 1st, 2025, Counts:

10/1 Final						
GRADE	New	Returning	Grand Total	10/1 - EPS Funding	EUT Funding	Total Students Funded
7	24	0	24	24	0	24
8	34	36	70	69	0	69
9	38	20	58	57	1	58
10	44	64	108	106	1	107
11	29	98	127	126	1	127
12	30	83	113	112	1	113
Grand Total	199	301	500	494	4	498

SE			
Row Labels	New	Returning	Grand Total
7	7	0	7
8	8	11	19
9	7	8	15
10	9	15	24
11	6	25	31
12	5	16	21
Grand Total	42	75	117

Governance.

MEVA Board Training Update:

The Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) confirmed that the Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) training completed by all members of the MEVA board satisfies the training requirements for SY-2025/2026.

The MCSC is sponsoring a series of professional development opportunities for board members throughout the school year. Here are the dates:

- 10/28: Finding, Recruiting, and Retaining Board Members and Training Board Members to Meet 3-5 Year Goals.
- 2/10: Strategic Planning: Mid-Year Update.
- 3/10: Charter Public Schools Communications and Advocacy and the Role of the Board.
- 3/17: School Leader Evaluation.
- 5/19: Planning for Summer/Making the Most of the Summer Months (Annual Meeting, Officer Election, Committee Assignments, Annual Recruitment, and Onboarding Process.

Public Discussion.

Donna expressed appreciation to everyone who was present here today, who provided support to MEVA.

Adjournment.

The board meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne, Secretary pro tempore.