

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held March 17, 2026

Pursuant to email and public website notices, a virtual meeting of the Board of Maine Learning Innovations was convened on Zoom at 4:00 PM, March 17th, 2026, Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Cherieann Harrison, Tina Meserve, Scott Richardson, and Susan Walters. Stacey Blanchard was excused. A quorum was present.

Attending for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Christina O'Grady, Chelsea Osgood, Lila Theriault, Lindsey Samson, Colleen Ford, and Stephanie Emery.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

Opening Items.

Approval of Minutes.

Tina motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of February 27th, 2026. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

FY26 Budgeting/Planning Update

- We had our first FY27 budgeting workshop on Feb. 27th, 2026.
- We are currently gathering information: health insurance (in progress), staff computers (obtained), and student computers (in progress). We have a student/staff computer replacement-inventory plan that you approved in August 2025.
- We will reconvene the finance committee once we have everything.
- The goal is to have the FY26 budget ready for approval at the May meeting.

Dr. Browne said we can expect FY27 health insurance pricing in May. Dr. Browne reported receiving information relating to staff computer needs for next year and are currently gathering student computer needs using the approved process (outlined in the board policy manual). The finance committee will reconvene once all the information has been gathered and have the budget ready for approval at the May meeting.

Donna said that both she and Susan attended the first budgeting workshop as board representatives. She hoped to have health insurance and the federal grant updates in April as well.

Dr. Browne committed to scheduling a second FY27 budgeting workshop for early May.

Tina saw in the prior meeting minutes, discussion regarding student and staff ratios and the increases to the FY27 ED279. It was mentioned that the board typically reviewed staff/student ratios around budget time.

Dr. Browne committed to updating that information and sending it to the board in advance of the April board meeting.

Administration.

Dr. Browne provided the Head of School Report.

SY-2025/2026 Progress

- We launched the Spring 2026 Panorama School Climate Survey to teachers/staff, students, and families. The annual stakeholder survey is part of our Maine Charter School Commission performance framework. Results become available in June (and will be shared with you upon release). We will meet the participation requirements and expect to meet the related measures. We will update our Panorama Survey Action Plan (see following slide), factoring in the new data.
- We are planning Spring 2026 state testing in eight (8) locations. The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) has adjusted the dates. The updated MEVA assessment calendar is on the following slide.

SY-2025/2026 Panorama Survey Action Plan

- Target **Rigorous Expectations (Students)**: Overall, how high are teachers' expectations of you?
- Action Plan (Students): **Have a healthy competition in class.** From Panorama Playbook "Creating a competition around issues such as homework completion, note-taking, or talking during class is an effective way to motivate students to change behavior for the better. This move works to establish routines and increase engagement in what might otherwise be less-exciting activities."
- Target **School Climate (Teachers)**: On most days how enthusiastic are students about being at school?
- Action Plan (Teachers): **Increase training on how to encourage student engagement in the virtual setting.**
- Target **Feedback and Coaching (Teachers)**: How often do you receive feedback on your teaching? How much feedback do you receive on your teaching? How much do you learn from the teacher evaluation processes at your school?
- Action Plan (Teachers): **Increase teacher/peer observations and feedback through peer observations and presentations at department meetings.**
- Target **Professional Learning (Teachers)**: Through working at your school, how many new strategies for your job have you learned?
- Action Plan (Teachers): **Increase targeted professional learning/training at weekly Professional Learning (PL) Meetings (formerly Process Improvement Meetings).**

New SY2025/2026 Updated Assessment Calendar

Assessment Type	Fall Dates	Winter Dates	Spring Dates
NWEA	September 16, 17, 18, 2025 (Makeup Day - September 19, 2025)	January 13, 14, 15, 2026 (Makeup Day - January 16, 2026)	May 5, 6, 7, 2026 (Makeup Day - May 8, 2026)
MEA (ELA & Math)	October 6-17, 2025	NA	April 13-17, 2026
MEA (Science)	NA	NA	April 13-17, 2026 (HS) May 11-22, 2026 (8 th Grade)
ACCUPLACER	September 16, 17, 18, 2025, with makeup days scheduled throughout the year	Ongoing	Ongoing
i-Ready Diagnostic	ALL 7 th - 11 th -grade students will complete math & Reading. August 25 - September 9, 2025, during Math & English classes, with makeups held during FOX Time and HelpDesk	January 13-15, 2026 (For mid-year enrollees only)	May 26-29, 2026, during Math & English classes, with makeups held during FOX Time and HelpDesk

State testing planning is in progress; MEVA testing dates were slightly re-adjusted to align with date corrections within the state calendar.

Tina asked if we were able to use the same testing locations given the adjustments. Dr. Browne said, yes, we were able to use the same locations that we use every testing season.

Linday Samson, Art Teacher, presented an overview of three courses, Digital Art, Photography, and Contemporary Art.

Digital Art: Students explore digital painting, visual storytelling, and basic animation using industry-standard Adobe programs. Coursework includes character creation, written storytelling, and a final animation project. Students compile a professional portfolio for college or career use.

Photography: Courses accommodate all camera types, including smartphones and DSLRs. Students learn camera settings, lighting, composition, and photo editing in Photoshop and Lightroom. Projects include portrait sessions, environmental photography, photo essays, artist studies, and surreal composites, aimed at developing real-world skills.

Contemporary Art: Students work with physical art materials provided in personalized art kits. Courses focus on contemporary artists, current events, cultural engagement, and creative experimentation. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, critical thinking, and divergent thinking skills.

Across courses, students develop technical proficiency, critical thinking, confidence in self-expression, constructive feedback skills, and portfolios demonstrating growth and readiness for advanced study or creative careers. Art courses at MEVA are completely accessible for all

students. Curriculum and materials are regularly updated to remain current with industry standards.

Donna observed that everything looked fantastic and we were thankful for the presentation.

Cherieann stated that the artwork shown on the slides was fantastic. She expressed thanks to all the artists. Tina agreed and appreciated the examples of the students' work.

Governance.

A. Curriculum Map: Marine Biology.

Tina motioned to approve the curriculum map for Marine Biology. Cherieann seconded. All in favor, so moved.

B. Curriculum Map: Contemporary Art.

C. Curriculum Map: Photography.

D. Curriculum Map: Digital Art.

Cherieann motioned to group art curriculum maps B, C, and D. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Cherieann motioned to approve art curriculum maps B, C, and D. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

E. Curriculum Map: Spanish I.

F. Curriculum Map: Spanish II.

Cherieann motioned to group Spanish I and II curriculum maps E and F. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

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Review Progress on FY26 Board Goals.

Donna shared a slide with a reminder on the board goals.

Goal 1 – Board to develop a curriculum review schedule by Dec 2025 - this has been done.

Goal 2 – The board will review and/or update board policies at a minimum of every 5 years - The board has continued to do this consistently.

Goal 3- The board will expand board diversity by June 2026 -

The board continues to look for new members to expand diversity, however the board has brought on additional board members.

Dr. Browne sought clarity from the board on Goal 2, in relation to policies that only needed review and did not require any changes, how should that look on the agendas?

Donna directed to put those policies on the agenda as a review or recommendation to accept.

Tina suggested, if Donna and Dr. Browne agreed that no changes were needed to the policy, that it would be best to put it onto the agenda as an item to review. The board will, instead of approving, review the current policy. Then in the board manual list the original adopted date, and a line showing reviewed on the applicable date in the board manual.

Or if updates were needed, then it would show the initial adopted date, updated date, and/or review date for each policy.

Susan made the point that the Board just needed to acknowledge that they reviewed the policy and documented it in the manual, so the public knew.

Tina said she was having trouble finding the board agendas on the website.

Dr. Browne screen shared and walked Tina through finding the link to the agendas at the bottom of the main homepage, of the mainevirtualacademy.org website.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

- April 28th – Can we move the meeting from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm? We will have the first batch of policies for your review.
- May 19th
- June 16th

Donna asked the board if this time adjustment will work for the board. Board members agreed.

Donna committed to sending out board goal planning information for next year.

Public Discussion.

Donna appreciated Stephanie Emery's work on testing planning and for Dr. Browne's walkthrough of the website.

Dr. Browne will reach out to the finance committee to schedule a second FY27 budgeting workshop for early May. By then the FY27 health insurance information must be available.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore