

++Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2026

Individuals in Attendance:

David King
Rob Constantine
Deb Eustis-Grandy
Marian Reagan (virtual)
Craig Cunningham (virtual)
Joel Pike (virtual)
Alicia Jalbert (virtual)
Trey Cox (virtual)
Ray Rice (virtual)
Brad Choyt (virtual)
Dan Chuhta (virtual)

M. Reagan called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

No Public Comments were received.

D. King moved to accept the 08/23/25 meeting minutes, seconded by C. Cunningham
Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

R. Rice moved to accept the 10/11/25 meeting minutes, seconded by D. King.
Roll Call Vote. D. Chuhta - abstained, All Others - yes.

T. Cox moved to accept the 01/24/26 management report, seconded by B. Choyt
Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

Rob thanked the Leadership Team for providing highlights and noted challenges with Res Life transition

It was also noted that mid year attrition was 8 students (7% of student body) - some attributed to academics, some to homesickness

Admission Review Committee - look at applications and try to reduce risk through identifying patterns.

D. Chuhta asked about safety plan - Rob & Marie indicate an update will be provided at the April 2026 meeting. R. Rice offered that the Director of Safety for UMPI, Joey Sealy, could help review MSSM's safety plan.

J. Pike noted that it was nice to see students getting out to experience a professional conference.

Rob indicated that our propane boiler is 50 year old equipment - some work was needed
It is good to have two types of boilers - gives options and alternatives

Needed maintenance to our buildings has been deferred to focus on the student experience

The current insurer through the State informed us they do not insure students. We were able to connect with a broker to provide insurance needed for student internships. We will continue to work with brokers to cover other gaps in coverage.

Further discussions around budget constraints that force us to focus our resources on the student experience. We have had to lay off 10 people in 3 years - people are doing tasks that they are not ideally suited for.

Ryan Sheppard presented a teaser from Magnetic North showcasing a film project he has been working on at MSSM.

Committee Reports

- Audit - J. Pike
Audit process now complete with all federal requirements
- Student Welfare - M. Reagan
Rob urged that we focus on programmatically what our "number" is - 115
Should be budgeted number of students for next year and next couple of cycles
- Program - P. Stancioff
Strategic Plan worked on developing action items & make mission statement align better
- Governance - T. Cox
Policy readings to review
Many come from statutory requirements - want to make sure they are updated on the website. Sarah Forester reviews policy that doesn't come from MSMA templates directly.
All policies will go before Sarah Forester before board approval
- Advancement - R. Rice
Foundation funds 2% of overall budget but crucial to meet MSSM budget needs
- Finance & Facilities - D. King
Need to approve Room & Board, out-of-state tuition, salary pool increase
Last year we wiped out our accumulated deficit
Should finish the current year without a deficit
Next year with flat funding the only way to make the budget work is to borrow against future revenues

Attrition this year created about \$30,000 in Bad Debt - some of that expenses was budgeted in Contingency

Took a 15 minute break

Action Agenda

- T. Cox. moved to approve the first reading of GDB - Vacation Policy, seconded by D. King. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- It was noted that it will go before Sarah Forester before 2nd reading.
- T. Cox moved to approve the first reading of JICJ - Personal Electronic Device Policy and seconded by D. King. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- Every school has a policy for school day device use. Typically a few options for grade school - high school levels. Most teachers had their own policies in the classroom.
- Came from a bill that was going to ban cell phones - changed to have local districts have a policy. DOE is good with whatever works for each school/district.
- Social gains from cell phone ban - less about instructional
- Further discussions around application for residential school, laptops and how it impact school safety plan and lunch time experience at MSSM
- T. Cox moved to approve the first reading of JFAA - Residential Requirement seconded by R. Rice.
- Legislature updated our residential requirement - still leaves question of "what is a resident" to MSSM.
- Lays out what it means to reside in Maine. Sarah Forester cut down from original draft.
- "Public School" in reading - should it be board
- D. Chuhta brought up definition of residence already in statute
- T. Cox. made a friendly amendment to include residence statute reference - 20A 5202
- Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- T. Cox moved to approve the first reading of EBBB - Temperature Standards seconded by R. Rice with edits, suggestions. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- Only talks about exceeding maximum - nothing about under minimum. Defined terms for "comfort zone" make sense.
- Rob explained that the anticipated Room & Board and out-of-state tuition rate need to be set for 26-27. He suggested a 5% increase in Room & Board rate to \$11,400.
- D. King moved to increase the Room & Board rate to \$11,400 for 26-27 school year seconded by C. Cunningham. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- B. Choyt praised the work to make the fee affordable and a great deal for parents. It was suggested to make sure parents are aware that the current rate includes \$1,800 from state appropriated funds.

- D. King moved to approve the published out-of-state tuition plus room & board rate to \$52,500 for the 26-27 school year (same as last year) seconded by R. Rice. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- Currently 1 out-of-state student
- We are required that students pay the “expected tuition rate” - which is impacted by appropriation and number of students
- Out-of-State market has significant potential gains if we can break into that market (easier with better price point)
- T. Cox moved to enter into executive session for discussion of personnel matters in accordance with Maine Statute Title 1, Chapter 13, Paragraph 405, Section 6A. Seconded by D. King. Passed unanimously.
- Exited executive session at 11:49am
- T. Cox moved to adjourn at 11:50am, seconded by P. Stancioff. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.