

Maine Learning Innovations

Minutes for a Meeting of the Board of Directors held October 20, 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, October 20th, 2026. Board members attending were Donna Pelletier, Cherieann Harrison, Tina Meserve, Scott Richardson, Erin Shannahan, and Susan Walters. Stacey Blanchard was excused. A quorum was present. Emersyn Williams, Student Representative to the Board, was present.

Attending for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) were Melinda Browne, Don Fournier, Lila Theriault, Christina O'Grady, Chelsea Osgood, Stephanie Emery, Jillian Dearborn, and Jennifer Hight.

Attending from Wipfli was Kelsey Frennette.

Attending from Stride was Tom Travia.

Opening Items.

Reading of MEVA's Mission and Vision Statement.

Cherieann did the reading.

Approval of Minutes.

Tina motioned to approve the minutes of the Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Governing Board Business Meeting of September 15th, 2026. Cherieann seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Finance Report.

FY26 Audited Financials.

Kelsey Frennette, Wipfli, reviewed the required Wipfli to MEVA communications letter with the board. It summarized the results of the audit. There were no significant changes to be aware of, and no barriers on obtaining any needed information from MEVA management. Kelsey expressed that there were no disagreements with MEVA management as well. The only informal recommendation for improvement was establishing a policy for journal entries and that entries were consistently reviewed and approved. Overall, Kelsey stated that MEVA had an unmodified decision on assurance, which was the highest level that can be received in an audit.

MEVA ended the year with \$4.4 million in assets, and \$3.8 million in net assets, which was an increase of \$400,000 over prior year. State subsidy went up, reflecting the expanded number of students. However, federal grants decreased due to the ESSER grant ending in the prior year. The interest figures were comparable to FY25.

Kelsey went through all the summary pages with the board and in the end mentioned that the biggest expenses showing for MEVA were the salaries and benefits. Kelsey also mentioned that MEVA had a reserve that could sustain the school for eight (8) months, which was an increase from prior years. Wipfli recommended an average of three to six (3-6) months in reserve but asserted that having more was great to have in place.

Kelsey stated that the audit process was very smooth this year. Everything went well with an early start, and it was a great experience for both Wipfli and MEVA.

Dr. Browne asked if we needed a board policy on the journal entries. Jennifer replied that we will discuss that further; the entries were on the QuickBooks side. We may need approval on non-standard journal entries. Kelsey stated at the end of the day, we were seeing the effect of the journal entries, and we would like to see active entries. It was not overly concerning; we can work on a solution that is best for everyone.

Donna appreciated the hard work of Jennifer, Dr. Browne, and Jillian with the school finances.

Scott motioned to approve the FY26 audited financial statements. Tina seconded. All in favor, so moved.

FY26 Form 990

This information was reported to the federal government on MEVA's finances. This was included and part of the package MEVA has with Wipfli. They prepared this form based on the school financials. This was a compliance item.

Tina motioned to approve the FY26 Form 990. Scott seconded. All in favor, so moved. (Susan abstained from this vote due to her late arrival.)

Administration.

Dr. Browne presented the Head of School report.

Draft SY-2025/2026 Annual Monitoring Report:

Dr. Browne sent the board a copy of the annual report for review. The one item the report did not include was the financial measures. This will be finalized in November at the MCSC business meeting.

High-level takeaways from SY2025-26:

Strengths:

- Graduation – a 100% four-year graduation rate for the fifth consecutive year
- College readiness – Accuplacer results continue to exceed Framework expectations
- Improved reading proficiency, with grade 10 now outperforming the state
- Student attendance – chronic absenteeism remains low at 7.51%
- School climate – all four Panorama surveys exceeded expectations, with the student survey improving from Meeting
- Strong student persistence, enrollment demand, reporting, and financial management
- An active, engaged governing board that met monthly

Areas of Focus:

- Math proficiency across all tested grades
- Proficiency of male students and students with IEPs
- Reading growth, particularly among female and economically disadvantaged students

i-Ready Assessment Report:

- i-Ready is a criterion-referenced assessment of math and reading that we administer to grades 7-11, virtually, three times during the school year, fall, winter, and spring.
- i-Ready measures students' growth/stretch-growth to grade-level proficiency.
- i-Ready data will propel MEVA toward successful outcomes.

Dr. Browne said that this assessment is a criterion referenced assessment. i-Ready measures student's growth and it provides a road map for student proficiency.

Dr. O'Grady, Curriculum Coordinator, presented that fall '26 i-Ready assessment results. She reported that i-Ready was a diagnostic assessment that is criterion referenced. This is for grades 7-11. MEVA had great participation on the i-Ready math and reading. This allowed for MEVA to make assumptions based on the data. As we assess students three times per year, year over year, we will be able to see trends.

Erin asked how much do we think the student's effort affected the percentages? Dr. O. Grady said that it is tough to measure. However, we can look at testing duration and students that may be flagged as rapid guessing. We communicated to students that we wanted to see their best work, but there will always be a small portion that may not care. Dr. O'Grady stated approximately less than 10% of students are rapid guessing or lacking effort. It was hard to know for sure.

Donna stated that she initially had concerns about the fall outcomes, but after the presentation she felt more confident.

Core Course Students and Staff Report:

- Fall 2026: Median student to teacher ratio is 13:1 (Mean student to teacher ratio is 16:1).
- This is the second year that MEVA has enrolled approximately 500 students.
- The student to teacher ratio is consistent with the prior year.

Dr. Browne committed to updating the report ahead of budgeting in the spring.

Oct. 1st, 2026, Enrollment Counts:

Approximately 103 SE students that count for 10/1.
55% economically disadvantaged

Overall Enrollment:

Total EPS funding will be for 497 and 2 EUT tuitions

<i>Grade Level</i>	New	Returning	Grand Total
7	27		27
8	28	17	45
9	30	39	69
10	56	44	100
11	49	90	139
12	35	84	119
Grand Total	225	274	499

Draft Strategic Goals/Priorities:

Donna reminded the board about the goals for MEVA and the board wanted to make some changes to make the goals more measurable. Dr. Browne had worked on it and sent a draft to the board. Donna read the goals to the board via the shared slide.

Tina mentioned she liked the revisions, does this mean we would need to meet each goal? Dr. Browne stated, yes. The Annual Monitoring Report provides detailed information on what MEVA meets or exceeds.

Cherieann said that she knew that the board has had a lot of input along the way. Were there other groups that were consulted, parents, teaching staff? Has anyone weighed in on the goals?

Dr. Browne reported that she shared the goals/priorities with the faculty at a Professional Learning (PL) meeting. These goals were taken from the strategic plan. If the board was okay

with the adjustments, then Dr. Browne will adjust the narrative in the strategic plan. Once this was drafted then she can push it out to faculty for review.

Donna stated we needed to decide if the board is okay with moving this to the faculty for feedback. The board will vote on this later when things are finalized. Our goal was always to meet or exceed goals.

Donna asked the board if they are ok with moving this to the next step, sharing it with other stakeholders for review & feedback. In favor – All.

- **GOAL 1: ACHIEVE OUR MISSION AND VISION as measured by the Maine Charter School Commission's annual monitoring performance measure.**
- **GOAL 2: MEET/EXCEED OUR CHARTER CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MEASURES as measured by the Maine Charter School Commission's annual monitoring process.**
- **GOAL 3: GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE COLLEGE AND/OR CAREER READY as measured by the Accuplacer math and reading Maine Charter School Commission's annual monitoring performance measure.**
- **GOAL 4: DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE AND SUPPORT TO OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES as measured by the spring Panorama School Climate Survey Maine Charter School Commission's annual monitoring performance measures.**

Student Representative.

Emersyn shared details about MEVA's peer tutoring program.

Donna was appreciative about being informed about the tutoring program.

Governance.

Policies.

- A. Second Reading: AD Educational Philosophy/Mission.
- B. Second Reading: ADA School System Goals/Objectives.
- C. Second Reading: ADAA Ethical and Responsible Behavior Commitment.
- D. Second Reading: ADF Commitment to Learning Results.
- E. Second Reading: BBA Board Power and Responsibilities.

Tina motioned to group the second readings, A-E, for a single vote. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Tina motioned to approve the policies A-E. Susan seconded. All in favor, so moved.

Governing Board Training Update.

Donna asked Stephanie how the board was doing with the assigned training. Stephanie committed to sending another update this week about progress. She had sent a reminder email last week to members who had outstanding training. Scott said he had tried to finish the training, but the last module did not open. Stephanie stated she will provide troubleshooting support this week.

Scott also looked for some clarification on other email notifications on additional trainings on whether they were optional or not. Donna stated that yes, the other Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) board trainings were optional.

Public Discussion.

Dr. Browne shared some sad news with the board. Norm Higgins had passed away at the end of September. He served as the chair on the MCSC board for quite a few years. In his honor, MEVA donated the planting of a tree.

Dr. Browne further mentioned that she is optimistic about MEVA's usage of i-Ready and that it will result in improved outcomes. Many students came to MEVA academically disadvantaged, and the i-Ready tool provides a clear statement on where they are and where they need to be.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Emery and Dr. Melinda Browne
Secretary pro tempore