



MeANS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (approved 5/22/2020)

April 17, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Remote public meeting with call in number 605-313-5111 access code 214632#

Board members present on the call: Cheryl Bulmer, Stephanie Johnson, Cheryl Mercier, Tom Edwards, Scott Byrd, Sally Beaulieu, Troy Frost, David Cyr, Kimberly Patnode, Dana Doran

Staff members present: Matt Newberg and Donna Ferenc McGorty (Good Will-Hinckley).

Members of the Public present: Jesse Wechsler, Shannon Webber, Bob Kautz (Maine Charter Commission) and John Bird (Maine Charter Commission)

Cheryl Bulmer called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda:

No additions or adjustments were requested. Cheryl B. reminded everyone that she is required to take all votes by roll call vote according to the special legislation allowing these public meetings to be held remotely.

Public comment to the Agenda Items:

Bob Kautz from the charter commission commented that he is doing their part in observing charter school board meetings and he was pleased to be able to attend.

Cheryl B. introduced Shannon Webber from Farm Credit East who is a potential MeANS board member to be appointed by GWH. Shannon said a few words to tell people who she is and her background.

There was a motion by Cheryl M. to approve the minutes of the 3/20/20 board meeting. Second by Dave C. No comments or questions. The roll call vote was as follows:

Cheryl B. aye

Dana D. aye

Cheryl M. aye

David C aye

Sally B. aye

Scott B. aye

Troy F. aye

Stephanie J. aye

Kim P. aye

Tom E. aye

Motion was carried.

Presentation of the Remote learning plan:

Matt mentioned that there was another remote learning document which was in the format of a questionnaire that was also completed for the Charter Commission. That document did not need board approval and would be sent out after the board meeting for those who are interested in reading it.

Matt presented the Remote Learning plan (RLP) revised 4-13-20 which was emailed out in advance to the board. He said it was not a lot different than the plan which was put together on 3/17 when the belief was that remote learning would take place for 2 weeks. The 4/13 plan has the students and teachers following their regular morning schedule as that is when the academic classes are held. Electives and intensives are held in the afternoon when school was in session, they are signature programs. After the 3 morning academic classes the time from 10:44 to noon would be utilized with office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, Extended Advisory on Wednesday and Parent communication on Friday. Afternoons would be for lesson plans, staff meetings, communication with admin and Thursdays would be BARR. When it was announced a couple of weeks ago that we would continue remote learning until the end of the school year (which for us is July 31st) it was decided to change the remote platform from Google Hangout to Google Meet. This will be launched on 4/28/20 following April vacation. Teachers and parents have been informed. Susie Simmons a Google Certified Trainer conducted a gratuitous training session on 4/13 and has agreed to be available to help throughout the spring. Emmanuel has been creating some advisory curriculum focused on wellness. We have 10 or 12 families who do not have internet so their materials have been mailed to them with self-addressed stamped envelopes for them to return work. This is still a work in process as we are looking at other options such as hot spots.

Troy Frost asked if we were granting parents access. Matt said that yes, we were as part of this revision. We did not do it originally when we thought it was for only 2 weeks as we did not want to add the complexity. Troy also asked what the report card will look like. Matt said we still need to focus next on this question but he expects them to look very similar to what they got when learning in the building. There may be a little less content due to Intensives and Project blocks not being done. However, some of the teachers have created some electives such as the home improvement class Solomon is doing and a wellness one Ben is offering.

Matt stated that this has been a complex time with mixed messages. While we do feel that students need contact several parents have called with concerns about this remote learning being very overwhelming for them. This plan is an attempt to provide structure while maintaining flexibility. We are learning a lot. As you know this remote learning is contrary to what our school strives to be: Project based, hands on model with strong relationships.

Jesse Wechsler stated that this is a very important point and may be helpful to add a comment to it in future revisions of these documents. Matt stated that this is a remote learning plan and as we progress with it there are sure to be opportunities to make adjustments as needed. Matt shared that attendance is high and engagement has been there which teachers feel good about. However, he would share that in the last week the teachers have started to “hit the wall”. We need to find ways to bolster them up.

A motion was made by Tom E. to approve the remote learning plan as presented. Cheryl M. seconded.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Cheryl B.	aye
Dana D.	aye
Cheryl M.	aye
David C	aye
Sally B.	aye
Scott B.	aye
Troy F.	aye
Stephanie J.	aye
Kim P.	aye
Tom E.	aye

Motion was carried.

Additional updates from the Head of School:

Matt shared that the staff has been communicated to about the staffing plans for next year. It was tough news during an already hard time but everyone sees to understand.

Enrollment for the next school year is sluggish. We are the shortest in the Threshold program which currently has 30 enrolled with a budget of 80. The freshman class is short with 13 enrolled with a budget of 35. Years 10 and 12 have 25 and year 11 has 33. Lisa Sandy says that the majority of our enrollment in the past has been in June and July so we still have time.

The corrective action plan due to the Charter Commission on 4/30 is being put together. This plan relates to 18/19 reporting data on achievement gaps which was not provided. The NWEA testing was done through advisors which was not the best process and we had no one collecting the data. Matt feels this will be a simple fix.

Matt shared that there will be no spring NWEA or panorama surveys done. He asked Bob if he there might be revisions to the achievement requirements for this year. Bob Kautz stated that they will be looking at this.

Strategic planning:

Scott B. shared that the plan and timeline provided by email to the board was a revision of what had already been shared. He mentioned the zoom meeting held on 3/30 with some staff and board members. He said it went well and the staff is going to do some further work on the mission and values. We realize that a lot is going on and we need to step back a little but still want to keep the momentum going. There will be a meeting on May 4th with a smaller group. We have hired Dave Chase Consulting to assist us in this process as we have received some funding. Dave will lead us through the process with the intent to regroup at some point with GWH and bringing the plans to the board at our September meeting for approval. Cheryl B. shared that the Unity Foundation has agreed to allow us to utilize some of the funds granted to GWH/MeANS for the joint process. In addition, we have applied to the Charter Commission for some funds and are waiting for a response from that to determine how much we can utilize Dave Chase but we can at least get started with him. Scott B. asked for board member volunteers to participate in the May 4th meeting from 1pm to 3pm. The following people volunteered: Cheryl Mercier, Tom Edwards, Kim Patanode, Sally Beaulieu, Cheryl Bulmer and Stephanie Johnson. Scott B. will send out the invitations to these people and will be sharing the strategic planning google drive with the entire board

Board member webinars:

Cheryl B. reminded the board of the board member webinars that the Charter Commission has hired Angela Irwin from Airwin Educational Services to provide. The next webinar is 4/27 at 4pm. If anyone did not get the email to register please let Cheryl B. know and she will mail it out. Kim reminded everyone that the preference is for us to attend in person but if it is not possible there is a recording available.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2020. The financials will be reported for the 3rd Qtr. and a forecast for the year at that meeting.

Tom Edwards made a motion to adjourn; seconded by David Cyr. The roll call vote was as follows:

Cheryl B. aye

Dana D. aye

Cheryl M. aye

David C aye

Sally B. aye

Scott B. aye

Troy F. aye

Stephanie J. aye

Kim P. aye

Tom E. aye

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.