



**Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Governor Baxter School for the Deaf  
School Board Meeting, Falmouth, Maine  
February 7, 2019**

**Board Present:** Anna Perna, Terry Morrell, Michelle Ames, Roxanne Baker, Robin Foster, Alister Hannah

**Board Remote:** Amber Oakes

**Administration:** OJ Logue, Karen Hopkins, Rebecca Falbo

**Staff:** Kevin Bohlin, Matt Welch, Drew Freme (Consultant)

**Guests:** Lisette Belanger, Mike Pulsifer, Sammy Hargis

**Interpreters:** Julia Schafer, Margaret Haberman

**I. CALL TO ORDER** Anna Perna called the meeting to order at 5:42.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

– Introductions:

- Mike Pulsifer, retired superintendent, board nominee
- Lisette Belanger, board nominee
- Sammy Hargis, GBSD teacher for 33 years, actor, storyteller, board nominee
- Two interpreter interns, Abigail and Nicole

– Motion to change the date of May's board meeting from May 2nd to Thursday, May 9th

**Approval to move May's meeting to May 9** Terry Morrell motioned, Roxanne Baker seconded.

**6 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained**

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** None

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS** None

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – January 7, 2019

**Approval of January 7, 2019 minutes** Roxanne Baker motioned, Terry Morrell seconded.

**6 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained**

**VI. BUDGET PRESENTATION** Drew Freme (Consultant)

- Financially in fairly decent shape
- Revenues up slightly, expenses down slightly
- To move forward with the plan put forth by the Executive Director and the leadership team, you will need an increase in state funding
- Recommendations:
  - Restructure financial statements for more clarity (technology issue, not staff issue), possibly have a Tyler consultant come in
  - Track lease income the same way grant revenue is tracked, separate out in a clear way
  - Legally you can do more with lease income, put back into facilities on campus
  - Continue to be conservative
  - Fight for a new budget
  - Tell the story of GBSD clearly, you're an asset to the state

**VII. BOARD RETREAT** Anna Perna led a discussion on the future board retreat

- October, off season, good deals
- Friday into Saturday
- Start researching locations
- Develop an agenda for the retreat



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**VIII. BOARD NOMINEE UPDATE**

- Lisette Balanger, nomination documents sent to Augusta
- Michael Pulsifer, nomination documents sent to Augusta
- Terry nominates Sammy Hargis
- Michelle knows of 3 good recruits but needs contact information
- Karen noted that there are 4 boards looking for parent members at this time. Our advantage is that MECDHH offers a stipend as well as mileage reimbursement.

**IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- New position filled; Kristen Shorey, Special Education Specialist, created by combining a NEC grant and monies from the local entitlement fund. Multiple needs outside of the Portland area, she will be the go-to person. Some of what she will do is to address the needs of the deaf/blind population. Will address moving this to a permanent position in the fall.
- Update on maintenance of campus buildings
- Interview with Lee Goldberg of WCSH on Friday, February 8th
- Waiting on the Kindergarten Readiness bill (in January meeting packet), feel strongly it will pass
- Director of Operations/Human Resources position update: we have a candidate that has been offered the position. This candidate will be given until February 15th to make a final decision. Very appreciative of support staff that has stepped up in a big way while we search for the best person for the job.
- Optimistic about the budget. We will share our presentation at March's meeting. Tells a lot about what we do, where we are going, and what we need to get it done. MADSEC, MSMA and unions have offered to lobby on our behalf.
- We are serving more than 800 kids statewide.
- Expansion to more regional programs, the need is there
- Hope for an evaluation center on island
- People don't realize that many of our services are free under Chapter 304. This chapter will require a review as enacted.
- Cleaning up the website, ongoing process

**X. ADJOURNMENT 6:53PM**

**Adjournment approval** Terry Morrell motioned, Robin Foster seconded.

**6 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained**