



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

Board Present: Anna Perna, Michelle Ames, Roxanne Baker, Robin Foster, Amber Oakes

Board Absent: Terry Morrell

Administration: OJ Logue, Karen Hopkins, Rebecca Falbo, Cathy Murphy

Staff: Kevin Bohlin, Drew Freme (Consultant)

Guests: Lisette Belanger, Jennifer Kesaris

Interpreters: Julia Schafer, Marisa Zastrow

I. CALL TO ORDER Anna Perna called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introductions
 - o Interpreter interns; Molly, Mary Helen, Anna
 - o Jennifer Kesaris, board nominee and parent of one Deaf student and two HOH students. One in outreach, one at EECS and one in pre-K.
- On March 22, 9am-1pm at the Portland International Jetport, a Deaf Rights group will lead tours highlighting airport improvements that better assist Deaf/HOH customers

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA Switch agenda number seven (VII.) and number eight (VIII.).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 7, 2019

Approval of February 7, 2019 minutes Roxanne Baker motioned, Amber Oakes seconded.

5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained

VI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS Cathy Murphy

Cathy Murphy comes to us from the Camden/Rockport school district.

Cathy gave a presentation of her short-term goals as essentials for laying the groundwork needed to pursue the goals of the Strategic Plan:

- Gain a really comprehensive understanding of all the revenue and expenses associated with MECDHH
- Comprehensive understanding of all policies and procedures relating to finances, human resources and facilities
- Understand the differences between regular SAU operations and reporting requirements compared with those for MECDHH
- Develop long-term goals
- Learn ASL

A few points of where we're at in the budget to date:

- Current cash balance \$854,000 will get us through the next month until we get the quarterly payment from the state
- Often run short on cash waiting for quarterly payment, have to hold onto a bigger invoice now and again
- Year-to-date for revenues stand at the end of the month at almost \$7 million, compared to our budget of \$9.5 million
- That means we have about 30% of revenues remaining to be collected
- This is exactly where Cathy would expect us to be at this point in the year
- MECDHH/GBSD has about 47% of our budget remaining to expend, however historically, a lot of expenses are incurred in June
- Being flat-funded, we may not have the discretionary spending in June that we had in past years



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VII. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There are multiple sub-committees without members. Anna asked were asked to study the list of committees and be prepared to commit to one at the next meeting. It was agreed that committee meetings would best be held on days outside of the board meeting days.

VIII. STRATEGIC PLAN, First Draft

The most recent draft was presented with the request that board members email their suggestions by Friday, March 22nd. The goal is for a final draft to be presented at the May meeting. Directors met with their departments for input, the plan was also presented to Deaf Council members and the leadership team has been working for months on the plan. The board needs to take ownership as well.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The leadership team will go to Augusta tomorrow, Friday, March 8th, to meet with Pender Makin, her deputy commissioner, Dan Chuhta, Ann Belanger, Director of Special Services, and Joanne Allen, Deputy of Finance. Drew (Freme) created a terrific PowerPoint presentation that tells who we are, where we are going and what we need to get there.
- Interview by Lee Goldberg of Channel 6, WCSH, was viewed by the board and is posted on our website
- Confident the Kindergarten Readiness Bill will be before the legislature soon.
- Moving forward with proposed redevelopment/demolition of building B. The RFQ must be consistent with Governor Baxter's will as to the use of any buildings on the island. A lot of politics involved but we will keep working on it. A similar proposal was drawn up 26 years ago so it's not a new idea but a good one. Potential for Carter Hall to also be redeveloped because of mold issues.
- Board nominee update. Three board nominee applications have been sent to Augusta. The coordinator of Boards and Commissions, Melissa O'Neal has been apprised of the urgency to have these nominations move through as swiftly as possible. Rebecca mentioned a potential student rep for next year. Would be great to have a parent of a student living in the dorm on the board.

X. ADJOURNMENT 6:56PM