

Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
The Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

School Board Meeting

April 5, 2018

MINUTES

Board Present: Michelle Ames, Terry Morrell, Jason White, Robin Foster, Roxanne Baker, Emma Foster, John Shattuck, Samantha Hebert

Administration: Traci Drake, Karen Hopkins, O.J. Logue

Absent/Excused: Amber Oakes, Anna Perna

I. Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

II. Announcements

- No announcements

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

- No adjustments to the Agenda

IV. Public Comments:

- No public comments

V. Approval of March BOD Meeting Minutes

- **CORRECTION:** Under Section X, April Committee Meetings, first bulleted item says: "Committees are open to anyone who choose to be present at a meeting and the vote will count." Jason noted that committee members who are not board members are members without vote.

Motion to approve March Meeting Minutes with changes, by John Shattuck. Seconded by Robin Foster. Vote: All in favor, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstained.

VI. Policies

- Policy committee works on new, or adjusts previous, policies
- The Board reads and reviews policies three times
- Third time through the policies are finalized and become policies for the school
- OJ sends policies out for review

Motion to approve 4 policies for first reading; Affirmative Action policy, School Board Member Conflict of Interest policy, Purchasing and Contract Policy, Records Retention policy, by Terry Morrell, Samantha Hebert seconded. Vote: All in Favor, 0 Opposed.

VII. Traci Drake's Presentation

Presented power point on the following departments and provided financial overview of each:

- Business Office
- Instructional Technology Department
- Operations

VIII. Karen Hopkins' Presentation

Power Point presentation on birth to five years programming

- Early Childhood and Family Services provide statewide services for deaf and hard of hearing children throughout the State of Maine for children ages birth to three. Work closely with CDS through a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU).
- HRSA grant provides immediate assistance at time of birth when child identified with hearing loss. Provides funding for Guide by Your Side that provides trained parents and deaf and hard of hearing adults to assist other parents. This grant also provides professional development and quality improvement activities statewide. There is a strong focus of family engagement throughout the system.
- Pre-school program offers inclusive classrooms in which hearing children are educated along with deaf and hard of hearing children, all are introduced to American Sign Language. Accredited by NAEYC. Pre-school program offers inclusive classrooms in which hearing children are educated along with deaf and hard of hearing children, all are introduced to American Sign Language. Accredited by NAEYC.

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IX. Executive Director's Report

OJ reminded board members that report from self and Karen is enclosed in packet. A few highlights.

- Maine was well represented at the Early Detection Hearing Identification conference in Denver. Dr Amy Szarkowski, renowned psychologist, talked about luminary leaders and she mentioned five individuals and she mentioned Karen as one of the five, and that was a wonderful tribute to Karen and the work being done in Maine.
- Barbara Keefe's son recently died. He was only 40 years old. He was a husband and father of two daughters.
- LD 1756 passed in the Senate with more than 2/3rd votes. House has not yet taken action on bill.
- Maine Community College expressed interest in leasing space from MECDHH. They have visited twice and will make final decision by early June. At the time of board meeting that they will remain at SMCC campus for time being.
- Rebecca Falbo was interviewed by committee for the position of Director of Deaf Education and Mainstream Programming. She comes to us from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (Jacksonville, FL). Extensive experience in administration from Vermont and Florida. Nomination of Rebecca will be presented in upcoming meeting. If offered position she plans to arrive on May 31st.
- Board was informed of ongoing meetings with Karen and OJ with Department of Education, Portland Public Schools and the Morrison Center to address the needs of students whose educational needs exceeds deafness. It is hoped that a pilot program will take place next fall with an additional staff member.
- Exploring the possibility of additional funding to pursue regionalization in other parts of the State.
- Deadline for RFP for student housing will occur on April 30th.
- Garnet has left her position as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. With limited pool of applicant will seek a temp to hire candidate through Pro Search.
- OJ has spoken to local Rotary Club and Love Maine Radio with Dr. Lisa Belisle. Trying to arrange coverage with Pat Callaghan (Channel 6)

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Executive Director to hire Rebecca Falbo by John Shattuck and seconded by Terry Morell. Vote: All in Favor. 0 Opposed.

X. Board Self-Assessment

- Jason reminded the board that an assessment tool was put in your packets, please answer the questions and email them to him so we can develop the calendar at our annual meeting in June.
- Next month, board nominations will occur.
Motion for to move into Executive Session by Jason White, Vote: All in Favor, 0 Opposed. Adjournment at 8:05PM. Vote: All in Favor, 0 Opposed.