



# THE MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

THE GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

One Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105

## Board of Directors Meeting March 4, 2021 Minutes

**Board Present:** Lisette Belanger, *Chair*, Mike Pulsifer, *Vice Chair*, Michelle Ames, Roxanne Baker, Robin Foster, Jennifer Gaulin, Corda Kinzie, Paula Matlins, Tommy Minch, Terry Morrell, Amber Oakes, Anna Perna

**Student Representatives:** Sherry Foster

**Administration:** Karen Hopkins, Cathy Murphy, Kaitlyn Millen

**Staff:** Kevin Bohlin, Kristin Shorey, Steva Feir-Scarpelli

**Public:** Bryer, Shane Feldman, *Innivee Strategies*, Presenter

**Interpreters:** Marissa Zastrow, Julia Schafer, Chandler Guptil (interpreter intern)

- 5:00pm I. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Members – Lisette Belanger, Chair**
- 5:06pm II. **Adjustments to the Agenda**  
“I move to approve the agenda without changes.”  
Michelle Ames **motioned**. Anna Perna **seconded**.  
11 **In favor**. 0 **Opposed**. 1 **Abstained**. Jennifer Gaulin
- 5:07pm III **Public Comments** none
- 5:08pm IV. **Motion to approve February 4, 2021 minutes**  
“I move to approve the minutes of February 4, 2021 without changes.”  
Roxanne Baker **motioned**. Amber Oakes **seconded**.  
11 **In favor**. 0 **Opposed**. 1 **Abstained**. Jennifer Gaulin, not present at February meeting.
- 5:09pm V. **Committee Reports**
- **Policy** Mike Pulsifer reporting: you have on the agenda a policy for a first reading, changes to be made for more accuracy.
  - **Strategic Planning** Michelle Ames reporting: we had a meeting where Karen Hopkins shared a number of proposals to help us work on our strategic plan. There will be a presentation tonight.
  - **Human Resources & Finance** Terry Morrell reporting: nothing to report.
  - **Facilities** Lisette Belanger reporting: nothing to report.
  - **Board Development** Michelle Ames reporting: nothing to report.
  - **Member Recruitment & Retention** Anna Perna reporting: 3 new nominations, Jaime Guerette of Aroostook to fill Parent of a deaf/hh child seat; Liz Seal, Parent of a deaf/hh child seat; Sandra Wood, General public with experience in education seat. All application materials have been submitted to Boards and Commissions, waiting governor’s approval
  - **Legislative Action** Robin Foster/Roxanne Baker reporting: nothing to report.
  - **Bylaws** Terry Morrell reporting: nothing to report.



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### 5:15pm VI. **Policy Reading**

#### **1st Reading**

**BHC** – School Board Communication with Staff

“I motion to accept the first reading of policy **BHC** without changes.”

Robin Foster **motioned**. Roxanne Baker **seconded**.

**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

### 5:22pm VII. **Budget Update** Catherine Murphy, *Director of Operations and Human Resources*

- MECDDHH/GBSD flat funded for FY 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
- Maine Saves; pre-tax savings option to be implemented for staff pending legislative approval

### 5:38pm VIII. **Strategic Plan presentation**, Shane Feldman, *InniVee Strategies*

I move to allow Karen Hopkins to sign a contract between MECDDH/GBSD and *InniVee Strategies* to develop a strategic plan funded by the HRSA grant.

Mike Pulsifer **motioned**. Paula Matlins **seconded**.

**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

### 6:13pm IX. **Executive Director’s Report**

- East End Community School students and staff utilizing MECDDHH/GBSD Conference Room as classroom for more face-to-face learning
- Teachers are now a priority for the vaccine
- EHDI Conference
  - Karen Hopkins, Darlene Freeman, Katherine Duncan and Dixie Herweh presented on the work the HRSA grant team is doing throughout the state to improve services for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The new grant name is "Earliest Interactions" and stresses the importance of positive interactions for families and children throughout their journey
  - Katherine Duncan presented her work with statewide audiologists and the HRSA grant team to create materials for families and to collaborate on pediatric audiology practices
- Web committee is working closely with web developer iBec Creative, excited to rollout an accessible new site within the next couple of months

### 6:35 pm X. **Motion to Exit Public Meeting and Enter Executive Session to discuss an employee’s request for leave.**

“I move to exit the public meeting and enter Executive Session as per article MRS 405-6A at **6:35** to discuss an employee’s request for leave”

Tommy Minch **motioned**. Terry Morrell **seconded**.

**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**



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Board of Directors Meeting

March 4, 2021

Minutes

6:40pm XI. **Motion to Exit Executive Session and Enter the Public Meeting**

“I move to exit Executive Session and enter the public meeting [**state time**].”

Anna Perna **motioned**. Amber Oakes **seconded**.

**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

6:40pm XII. **Motion to Approve an employee’s request for leave**

“I move to approve an employee’s request for leave without changes.”

Tommy Minch **motioned**. Jennifer Gaulin **seconded**.

**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

6:41pm XIII. **New Business** none

6:42pm XIV. **Announcements** none

6:44pm XV. **Adjournment**

“I move that we adjourn to **Thursday, April 1, 2021.**”

Tommy Minch **motioned**. Terry Morrell **seconded**.

**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**