



# 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 September 2, 2021 Minutes

- 5:30pm I. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Members – Lisette Belanger, *Chair***  
Michelle Ames, Roxanne Baker, Lisette Belanger, Robin Foster, Jennifer Gaulin, Corda Kinzie, Paula Matlins, Terry Morrell, Amber Oakes, Anna Perna, Mike Pulsifer, Liz Seal  
**Student Board Representative:** Sherry Foster  
**Board Excused:** Jaime Guerrette, Tommy Minch (Tommy joined late), Sandra Wood  
**Directors:** Karen Hopkins, Cathy Murphy, Kaitlyn Millen, Natalie Austin  
**Interpreters:** Cid Pollard, Julia Schafer  
MECDHH/GBSD staff and members of the public were also present.
- 5:40pm II. **Motion to approve August 5, 2021 board minutes**  
“I move to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021 board meeting with the change of adding Kevin Bohlin as present at the meeting.”  
Jennifer Gaulin **motioned**. Roxanne Baker **seconded**.  
**9 In favor. 0 Opposed. 3 Abstained.**
- 5:43pm III. **Motion to approve August 19, 2021 board minutes**  
“I move to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 board meeting without changes.”  
Jennifer Gaulin **motioned**. Paula Matlins **seconded**.  
**9 In favor. 0 Opposed. 3 Abstained.**
- 5:46pm IV. **Adjustments to the Agenda**  
“I move to approve the September 2, 2021 agenda without changes.”  
Roxanne Baker **motioned**. Jennifer Gaulin **seconds**.  
**10 In favor. 0 Opposed. 1 Abstained.**
- 5:55pm V. **Portland Public Schools**  
Xavier Botana, *Superintendent, Portland Public Schools*  
Stephen Stilphen, *Director of Facilities Planning, Portland Public Schools*  
Rebecca Maiorano, *Teacher, Presumpscot School, Portland Public Schools*  
Representatives from Portland Public School presented a plan to utilize vacant MECDHH/GBSD classroom space for second grade students from Presumpscot school for the 2021-2022 school year.  
“I move to tentatively approve Portland Public Schools utilizing space at MECDHH/GBSD on Mackworth Island without changes.”  
Jennifer Gaulin **motioned**. Liz Seal **seconded**.  
**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**



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### 6:29pm V. **Public Comments**

Maura Nolan, teacher and interpreter, expressed concerns regarding Communications Facilitators getting paid without interpreting license.

Laura Peterson, parent of a MECDHH/GBSD kindergarten student, would love to see MECDHH/GBSD kids on the island.

Carrie Pierce, member of the Deaf community and an ASL teacher. Concerned about Communication Facilitator qualifications.

Byron Oakes, ASL interpreter. Concerned about Communication Facilitator qualifications, better they work with mentors in the community for training than with children.

### 6:36pm VI. **Budget Update** Catherine Murphy, *Director of Business Operations and HR*

“I move to approve the Maine Educational Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf 2021-2022 fiscal year budget of \$10,335,353 as presented in the eleven cost centers below.”

Roxanne Baker **motioned**. Terry Morrell **seconded**.

**Discussion:** clarification of Total Amount, motion repeated

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

Special Education	\$	7,399,283
Other Instruction	\$	61,145
Student/Staff Support	\$	105,088
System Administration	\$	974,845
School Administration	\$	-
Transportation	\$	600,000
Facilities Maintenance	\$	1,194,992
Debt Service	\$	-
Other Instruction	\$	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,335,353</b>

### 7:08pm VII. **Executive Director’s Report**

- Shortage of Ed Tech IIIs
- Restart Deaf Council meetings
- Review of Staff Committees
- New law requires new wording on IEPs: “deaf and hard of hearing” not “hearing impaired”



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### Minutes

- Marisa Zastrow, MECDDHH/GBSD *Interpreter Coordinator* and Kevin Bohlin, *MS/HS Coordinator*, presented a temporary solution for addressing the interpreter shortage across the state

#### 8:00pm VIII. Committee Reports

- **Policy** Mike Pulsifer reporting: nothing to report
- **Strategic Planning** Michelle Ames reporting: nothing to report
- **Human Resources & Finance** Terry Morrell reporting: we met on August 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the budget
- **Facilities** Lisette Belanger reporting: nothing to report
- **Board Development** Michelle Ames reporting: nothing to report
- **Member Recruitment & Retention** Anna Perna: nothing to report
- **Legislative Action** Amber Oakes reporting: The outcome from our meeting on language facilitators:
  1. Support future endeavors by holding a town hall hybrid meeting for the northern Maine community members to accommodate all voices that would like to be heard for discussion on this issue
  2. Hold a board meeting in Northern Maine to make its presence more known, we do have a regional school up there
  3. More transparent conversations about intentions so the community is in the loop
- **Bylaws** Terry Morrell reporting: planning to meet soon

#### New Business

##### 8:10pm IX. Approval of changes to the MECDDHH/GBSD Accounting Handbook

“I move to approve the changes to the MECDDHH/GBSD Accounting Handbook.”

Mike Pulsifer **motioned**. Jennifer Gaulin **seconded**.

**13 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

##### 8:10pm X. Approval of Corporate Resolution for BP Investment account

“I move to approve Karen Hopkins, *Executive Director*, as a person authorized to approve the set-up of a direct deposit account for receipt of income resulting from this investment, and is authorized to sign, initial, accept or execute all documents in connection with this transaction.”

Jennifer Gaulin **motioned**. Corda Kinzie **seconded**.

**13 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

##### 8:15pm XI. Approval of MaineStart 457B

“I move to approve MECDDHH/GBSD’s participation in the MainePers 457B MaineStart plan without changes.”

Jennifer Gaulin **motioned**. Amber Oakes **seconded**.

**13 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**



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- 6:45pm XII. **Staff Nomination** Marsha Ames, *Teacher of the Deaf*, Mackworth Island Preschool  
“I move to accept the nomination of Marsha Ames for the position of *Teacher of the Deaf* at the Mackworth Island Preschool, effective August 23, 2021 without changes.”  
Roxanne Baker **motioned**. Liz Seal **seconded**.  
**13 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**
- 8:16 pm XIII. **Motion to Exit Public Meeting and Enter Executive Session**  
“I move to exit the public meeting and enter Executive Session to discuss union negotiations as per article MRS 405-6A at **8:16**.”  
Jennifer Gaulin **motioned**. Terry Morrell **seconded**.  
**12 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**
- 8:49pm XIV. **Motion to Exit Executive Session and Enter the Public Meeting**  
“I move to exit Executive Session and enter the public meeting at **8:49**.”  
Corda Kinzie **motioned. seconded.** (no second taken)  
**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**
- 8:50pm XV. **Announcements**
- Michelle Ames is resigning from the board because her daughter is now a Teacher of the Deaf at MECDHH/GBSD
  - September 16th, Deaf Tea Awards via Zoom, MECDHH/GBSD graduate Emily Foster is the Key Note Speaker
  - September 19th-25th, Deaf Culture Week (MaineDCF.com)
  - September 25th, Deaf Culture Festival will be held outside on Mackworth Island near the MECDHH/GBSD picnic area
- 9:01pm XVI. **Adjournment**  
“I move that we adjourn to **Thursday, October 7, 2021**.”  
Amber Oakes **motioned**. Corda Kinzie **seconded**.  
**9 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**