# Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Governor Baxter School for the Deaf School Board Meeting Falmouth, Maine September 8, 2016

**Board Present:** Diane St. Lawrence (Chair), Joan Toy (Vice Chair), Jason White, Don Miller, Debbie Camire, David Gaul, Roxanne Baker, Laurel Kelly, Michelle Ames, Samantha Hebert

Board Excused: Frances Frost, Fran Jacques, John Shattuck, Taylor Gagnon

Administration: David Sherry, John Jones, Angie Bruno, Traci Drake

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:17PM.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Disability Rights Maine will have a drive on September 27 to encourage people with disabilities to vote. It will be held at the Portland Public Library at noon. Michelle Ames will send an email with an attachment regarding this drive. The Deaf Culture Tea will be on September 15 from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Hall of Flags in Augusta. There will be a week of activities during the Deaf Culture week. On September 21 will be the tea with the Executive Director of MECDHH/GBSD. The Deaf Culture Festival will be September 24 from 9:00 to 4:00 on Mackworth Island. There will be museum tours given by Bill Nye. Kids Like Me will be there as well. Roxanne Baker, Michelle Ames and Terry Morrell met with Karen Hopkins to discuss the Lead-K Initiative to understand what it means, what it means to Maine and how to spread the word. Gallaudet has announced a new president, Roberta Cordano. Conversation Across the Nation will take place October 1. On September 23 will be the Hands & Voices Conference in Augusta. On the same night Karen Anderson, a national audiologist, will present at a conference.

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Joan Toy motioned that approval of the physician's contract be added to the agenda. Debbie Camire seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor 0 opposed

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Joanna Spano revamped the Public Participation brochure. Copies are on the bookshelf in the cafeteria.

### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 18, 2016

Joan Toy motioned to approve the minutes of August 18, 2016 as amended. Michelle Ames seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor 0 opposed

## VI. BUDGET UPDATE: An informative budget update was given. DINNER/BREAK

### VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:

- We had a strong new staff orientation with 13 new staff members present
- Two national presenters came the second day of staff development
- We have 32 students in preschool
- Our ed tech/nurse is leaving
- ECFS and PSO have hit the ground running as referrals continue to come in
- An update was given on how the Portland programs are doing
- A new maintenance staff member was hired
- An attorney was found to do pro bono work for us
- A radio antenna for the town of Falmouth police department will be installed on campus
- A Lead-K committee will be formed
- The physician contract was discussed

Other key points of the Executive Director's Updates were covered. A copy is enclosed in the Executive Director's office.

**VIII. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL PHYSICIAN CONTRACT:** Joan Toy motioned that the Executive Director offer a contract to the school physician, Dr. Kathleen McGarr. Debbie Camire seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor 0 opposed

**VIII. UPDATES ON MOUs:** Changes to the MOUs with Portland Public Schools and CDS were reviewed.

## **IX. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ATTEND THE MSMA FALL CONFERENCE Oct. 27-28:** Diane St. Lawrence will email board members to see if anyone is interested in attending the conference and will let Joanna know.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** A strategic planning committee meeting was held. There are a lot of issues stemming from the overview of the strategic planning work as of January 16, 2016. Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and topics that were felt most important were summarized. The issue involving the language philosophy will be completed and presented to the Board for approval. Other issues and a timeline from administrators were discussed. Michelle Ames will be Chair and David Gaul Co-Chair of the committee.

**XI. BOARD DEVELOPMENT:** A discussion took place about how to schedule all of the committee meetings. Joan Toy motioned to establish an ad hoc committee for the Executive Director search. Roxanne Baker seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor 0 opposed

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Don Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM. Michelle Ames seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor 0 opposed

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

Board Approved: October 6, 2016