



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

School Board Meeting Agenda April 4, 2019

Board Present: Anna Perna, Michelle Ames, Terry Morrell, Amber Oakes, Alister Hannah

Board Absent: Robin Foster, Roxanne Baker

Administration: OJ Logue, Karen Hopkins, Cathy Murphy

Staff: Matt Welch

Guests: Lisette Belanger, Stephanie Marshall (zoom)

Interpreters: Julia Schafer, Marisa Zastrow

I. CALL TO ORDER Anna Perna called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Michelle Ames: last week Deaf Rights Group visited the Portland International Jetport facilitated by the airport organization. Very successful. VIP tour of the airport. Ability to receive flight information/changes via text. Fantastic feature. TSA area, for HH, hard to hear announcements through the PA and they are working on them. Lisette: fascinating how they capture de-icing chemicals and recycle them. Portland is the first airport to do that.
- Matthew Welch: Junior NAD Blind volleyball game on May 1st from 3-6pm in the GBSD gym.
- Alister Hannah: Accepted to college in Texas. It will be his first time on a plane.
- May meeting moved to May 9, 2019 to accommodate OJ's trip to Austin, Texas

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 7, 2019

Approval of March 7, 2019 minutes Michelle Ames motioned, Amber Oakes seconded.

5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained

VI. COMMITTEE CONFIRMATIONS

- The list of committee vacancies was circulated for members to pick the committee(s) of their choice

VII. BUDGET PRESENTATION Cathy Murphy, Director of Operations

VIII. STRATEGIC PLAN (3-year plan)

A second draft was presented for board approval. Terry Morrell motioned to approve the Strategic Plan after instances of MECDHH be updated to read MECDHH/GBSD, Michelle Ames seconded.

5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained

IX. RETREAT UPDATE

- Friday evening dinner and Saturday adjourning at 5PM.
- Anna asked the board for agenda items for the retreat and proposed the following:
 - Our financial commitment
 - Learning more in depth about our responsibilities and learning about public law like 304
 - Training with Steve Bailey from MMSA, this is a part of required training (OJ)
 - Have an instructor who is deaf as opposed to an interpreter (Michelle)
 - Anna will wait for other ideas and recommendations before finalizing the date at the next board meeting



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X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- *CLYNK bags* for fundraising, to benefit the Percival P. Baxter Foundation
- *MOU meeting* with Portland Public School. Formalized agreement with Portland. Support for our students. ASL instruction — we agreed to 2 classes per semester.
- *Appropriations hearing* April 3rd, ten minutes to present. Vote was 12-0 in our favor. We had the support of superintendent groups, special education directors, MADSEC, letters of support to legislators. Tremendous support. An incredible victory. Now we wait until final appropriation.
- *K-Readiness* bill hearing April 10th. We have a lot of momentum in our favor, a lot of strength. If you want to present you are asked to bring 20 copies of your presentation
- *New hires*. We have hired three exceptional candidates. Kirstan Banfield, PSO consultant, comes to us from Maryland. Erin Hansen, ECFS in Falmouth, is from Windham. Kimberly Loeng, ECFS in Brewer, is from San Francisco.
- One more big announcement:
 - Karen Hopkins, Director of Statewide Education and Family Services, has been invited to accompany renowned researcher at the Institute of Cognitive Science, Colorado University in Boulder, Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, on an all-expenses paid trip to China. Ms. Yoshinaga-Itano works with infants and children who are Deaf or hard of hearing to produce evidence-based outcomes. She has asked Karen to join her in China and teach about MECDHH/GBSD's early intervention program so China can replicate what we're doing here in Maine.

XII. ADJOURNMENT 6:46PM

Amber Oakes motioned. Terry Morrell seconded.

5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained