



**Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Governor Baxter School for the Deaf  
School Board Meeting, Falmouth, Maine  
May 9, 2019**

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

**Board Absent:** Robin Foster

**Administration:** OJ Logue, Karen Hopkins, Cathy Murphy, Kevin Bohlin

**Staff:** Matt Welch

**Guests:** Lisette Belanger, Michael Pulsifer, Corda Ladd-Kinsey, Jane Hecker-Cain, Tracy Henderson

**Interpreters:** Julia Schafer, Margaret Haberman

**I. 5:32PM CALL TO ORDER** Anna Perna called the meeting to order.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Maine Association of the Deaf Conference (MEaD) this Friday through Sunday, May 10-12
- Student board representative Alister Hannah will start classes at South West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in Austin, Texas on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Introduction of student interpreters

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** *Request for a New Auditor* added after item VII  
**Approval of Adjustment to Agenda** Roxanne Baker motioned, Michelle Ames seconded.  
**5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS** None

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** April 4, 2019  
**Approval of April 4, 2019 minutes** Roxanne Baker motioned, Terry Morrell seconded  
**5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 1 Abstained.**

**VI. APPROVAL OF FY 19/20 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

- PPS has 183 staff days (when staff is physically working)
- We have 185 staff days at this time. We will stay with that number. 175 teaching days and 10 extra days for staff development is generous and this is in the teacher contract
- Staff wants to start on a Monday in August not on Thursday of the previous week. So we had to add 2 days somewhere
  1. PPS does not have school on October 11, it will be a MECDDHH/GBSD staff development day
  2. The second extra day will be added at the end of the school year as a staff development day

**Approval of FY 19/20 School calendar** Terry Morrell motioned, Michelle Ames seconded.  
**5 In favor: 0 Opposed: 0 Abstained**

**VII. BUDGET PRESENTATION** Cathy Murphy, *Director of Operations/Human Resources*

- Current cash balance is \$420,326 and this will go down toward the end of the quarter until we receive the next subsidy check from the state. Enough to pay bills and, most importantly, meet payroll.
- Revenues collected to date: \$8,462,000 with 10% remaining to be collected, 7.6 million of that is our state aid so we have around a million dollars to collect from other sources



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- Expenses: \$7,891,000 with 16% of our budget remaining to expend. This is where Cathy would expect us to be. If you look at just payroll we have about 15% remaining so the fact that we have 16% remaining is good.
- Every year the objective is to have revenues equal expenditures bringing the budget to zero
- Maybe we collect more revenues, or less expenses, than anticipated, leaving us with a *fund balance*
- Last year's audited financial statements show a positive of \$140,237, which is good, however in looking at our internal financial statement Cathy discovered we are carrying some negative balances
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, negative balance of \$186,000 from 7 or 8 years ago floated into districts to hire staff, purchase equipment etc. not sure why we are carrying this balance
- Food service balance of negative \$255,000, we have not had food service on the island for some time, not sure why this balance is still out there, Cathy and OJ will meet with state officials on this soon
- New auditors will ask us to combine the 2 balances leaving us with a negative \$300,000 balance which we will need to bring to zero over the next few years or ultimately bring it up to a positive fund balance
- We will wait for a confirmation from the auditors

**VIII. REQUEST FOR A NEW AUDITOR**

**Approval to retain a new auditor** Terry Morrell motioned, Michelle Ames seconded  
**5 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

**IX. K-12 PRESENTATION** Rebecca Falbo, *Director of Mainstream & Deaf Education Programs*

- Rebecca shared a series of photos.
- We have a new EECS student, a little boy, from an African country, he had no language and his parents texted through Goggle Translate to communicate with me. Currently he has the vocabulary of a two- or three-year old.
- Another student traveled from the Congo. Child has no language, no communication with the child. He just stuck right by their side as they made their way here. Trying to get an ASL class for the parents.
- Five of our students have artwork in city hall as part of a Portland Public School art show
- Our students recently visited Wells Preserve to study wildlife habitat, perform hands on research and learn language and vocabulary for estuaries.
- Three students are graduating this year, and one will attend college in the fall.

**X. FALL RETREAT UPDATE**

- October 25 and 26, 2019, more information to come

**Approval of fall retreat** Roxanne Baker motioned, Amber Oakes seconded  
**4 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**



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**XI. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

Roxanne Baker nominated **Anna Perna, Chair** Amber Oakes seconded  
**4 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

Michelle Ames Nominated **Amber Oakes, Vice Chair** Roxanne Baker seconded  
**4 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

**XII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT**

East End Community School

- On April 9th we were told to explore other districts for our K-5 students
- Explored 12 other districts with only three that we could really have a conversation with
- It became apparent that Portland parents would be severely impacted
- PPS unequipped to serve our students
- Attendance at PPS board meeting well attended by parents, students and staff
- We will keep the pressure on, they have not offered an option so hopeful that we'll stay at EECS

Approval of Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) position at Lyman Moore Middle School

- Three students in middle school this fall  
**Approval of TOD position at LMMS** Roxanne Baker motioned, Amber Oakes seconded  
**4 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

Resignations

- Kathryn Carmina, PSO/ECFS consultant; Casey Etter, Speech & Language Specialist (SLP); Amber Webb, TOD; Sarah Nonat, Occupational Therapist
- Not because of dissatisfaction, (exit interviews will be held) but personal reasons

Two staff changing positions

- Emily Blachly, TOD at PHS, moving to PSO/ASL Specialist
- Tani Vincent, ECFS consultant, moving to PSO Consultant

Update on LD 642 K-Readiness Bill

- Interest is strong
- Support of Education Committee
- Slow process, only 60% of bills have been heard

Appropriations

- Strong signals we are going to get the requested 1.8 million over the next 2 years
  - \$577,000/year toward seven new positions in Winslow/Waterville area and Brewer
  - \$200,000/year override for transportation, budget is over \$500,000, state gives us \$300,000
  - \$245,000/year two only, Cost of Living increase (COLA)

Request to change June meeting date

**Approval of June 20th for next board meeting** Roxanne Baker motioned, Anna Perna seconded  
**3 In favor. 1 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

Quick Updates

- Maine State Police expressed interest in occupying a small space on campus. Attorney General's office is working to find out if this fits with Percival Baxter's wishes. We be great for us to have their presence on island.
- We have worked out an agreement with the state and Disability Rights Maine to continuing work on their building to make it ADA compliant.

**XI. 7:50PM** Anna Perna adjourned meeting