



# 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 May 5, 2022 Minutes

- 5:35pm I. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Members – Lisette Belanger, *Chair***  
Roxanne Baker, Lisette Belanger, *Chair*, Jennifer Gaulin, Corda Kinzie,  
Tommy Minch, *Vice Chair*, Paula Matlins, Terry Morrell, Anna Perna, Mike Pulsifer,  
Liz Seal, Sandra Wood  
Board Excused: Jason Bubier, Amber Oakes  
Public: Sitara, Ron, Kevin Bohlin, Claire Jeffers, Melinda Stamp
- 5:37pm II. **Adjustments to the agenda**  
“I move to approve the May 5, 2022 agenda without changes.”  
Corda Kinzie **motioned**. Tommy Minch **seconded**.  
**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**
- 5:39pm III. **Motion to approve April 7, 2022 board minutes**  
“I move to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 board meeting without changes.”  
Roxanne Baker **motioned**. Sandra Wood **seconded**.  
**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**
- 5:43pm IV. **Public Comments**  
Sitara Sheikh shared her thoughts on the new MECDHH/GBSD strategic plan with a desire to see more about transitioning services in place for older students.
- 5:47pm V. **Executive Director’s Report**, Karen Hopkins, *Executive Director*
- The MECDHH/GBSD strategic plan was presented at the 2022 CEASD meeting (Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf)
  - Reviewed some of the changes put in place with the update of Chapter 304
    - Can establish more site-based programs
    - Tuition now lives with the sending schools for a savings of about \$98,000 which is equivalent to one position with the included benefits
    - Special education position and BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) support is needed to serve Deaf Plus\* children
    - Clarity around the services we provide need to be included in the IEP or 504 plan
  - Kindergarten readiness bill update
    - We are developing a package to deliver to families with formal information
    - Allow families to have the opportunity to decide what is right for their child, what they can expect from their children
    - Staff training
  - Family Learning Day, June 18th, on Mackworth Island
  - A high school student is going to Youth Leadership Camp this summer in Oregon
  - Five middle school students shared presentations and stories during a Hands & Voices conference

\*Clarification: Deaf Plus persons prefer to be acknowledged as Deaf with Disabilities



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## Board of Directors Meeting May 5, 2022 Minutes

### New Business

#### 6:29pm VI **Motion to Approve the 2022-23 Academic-year Calendar**

“I move to approve the 2022-23 Academic-year Calendar without changes.”

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

**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

#### 6:30pm VII. **Committee Reports**

- Policy: Mike Pulsifer reporting, nothing to report
- Strategic Planning: Anna Perna reporting, met last night & discussed two things
  1. How can we monitor the Strategic plan to make sure we are meeting timelines and deadlines and work is being completed and on track.
  2. How to keep students, families and community continually involved
- Human Resources & Finance: Terry Morrell reporting, met and discussed some staff issues. To offset our frequent executive session, bring to our committee first and if needed, bring to the full board. This is following policy
- Facilities: Lisette Belanger, tomorrow’s meeting with representatives from the state to discuss the Master plan will have a lot to do with Facilities
- Board Development: Anna Perna reporting, the committee has talked about the board retreat. Possibly outside of Portland, maybe Bangor. A survey with dates will be emailed to the board.
- Member Recruitment & Retention: Ann Perna reporting, the documents for the nomination of Claire Jeffers as parent of d/hh child has been sent to the state.
- Legislative Action: Roxanne Baker reporting, nothing to report
- Bylaws: Tommy Minch reporting, nothing to report

#### 6:53pm VIII. **Nomination of Board Officers for 2022-2023**, term begins August 1, 2022

“I move to accept the nomination of Lisette Belanger for board chair effective August 1, 2022”

Roxanne Baker **motioned**. Anna Perna **seconded**.

**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

“I move to accept the nomination of Tommy Minch for board vice chair effective August 1, 2022”

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

**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**

#### 6:57pm IX. **Staff Resignation**

“I move to accept the resignation of Kevin Bohlin, *Lead Teacher*, High School without changes.”

Liz Seal **motioned**. Corda Kinzie **seconded**.

**7 In favor. 1 Opposed. 3 Abstained.**



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## Board of Directors Meeting

May 5, 2022

Minutes

### 7:00pm X. **Staff Resignation**

“I move to accept the resignation of Emily Thompson, *Teacher of the Deaf*, Preschool without changes.”

Liz Seal **motioned**. Tommy Minch **seconded**.

**9 In favor. 0 Opposed. 2 Abstained.**

### 7:05pm XI. **Announcements**

- May 7th, ASL Immersion Weekend at USM to raise money for students, multiple organizations participating
- June 11th, clothing swap, bake sale, plant sale at MECDHH/GBSD
- May 7th, MeAD general meeting and social, MECDHH/GBSD cafeteria
- May 21st, play about the life Dr. Ruth at the Penobscot Theater in Bangor with interpreters

### 7:15pm XII. **Adjournment**

“I move to adjourn to **Thursday, June 2, 2022.**”

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

**11 In favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstained.**