



THE MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
One Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105

Board of Directors Meeting December 4, 2025 Minutes

5:30pm I. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Members**

Present: Tommy Minch, *Chair*, Anna Perna, *Vice Chair*, Roxanne Baker, Lisette Belanger, Jason Bubier, Beth Campbell, Claire Jeffers, Barbara Millios, Janet May, Mike Pulsifer, Dawna Thorpe, Sandra Wood

Also present in person: Steve Connolly, Dean Flanagan, Cathy Lushman, David Hillier, Emily Blachly, Amy Richardson, Grace Cooney, Evah Hellewell

Also present on Zoom: Kim Matthews-Hermans, Lori Levesque, Melanie Bowlus, Taylor Markie, Christy LoCicero

5:33pm II. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

Agenda approved without changes

Lisett **motioned**; Barbara **seconded**
12 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained

5:34pm III. **Motion to Approve the November 6, 2025 Board Minutes**

Minutes approved with the following change: add Bobby Falinsby and Linda Falinsby to the list of those present.

Lisette **motioned**; Sandra **seconded**
12 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained

5:36pm IV. **Public Comments**

None

5:38pm V. **Executive Director's Report** Steve Connolly, *Executive Director*

- Recent visit to Brewer Community School - Steve was impressed with the integrated support students received in mainstream classrooms and specialized Deaf Education services, including ASL instruction and bilingual learning.
- Kim Matthews-Hermans, Cathy Lushman, and Steve recently had a chance to brainstorm with some DOE special education representatives about Chapter 646.
- Lori Levesque and Steve presented about MECDDH/GBSD to a USM Special Education class, hoping to recruit new employees.
- Steve had a great experience attending the Deaf Film Festival for the first time.

5:50pm VI. **Facilities Report** Dean Flanagan, *Director of Operations*

- The audit report remains delayed, but coordination with auditors and the state comptroller's office is underway, with progress expected within two weeks.
- In Greenlaw Hall, an OT swing has been successfully installed with proper structural support.
- A FEMA reimbursement request has been submitted and appears promising pending minor invoice details.
- Gateway updates include correcting a sign error, removing an obstructing fence to reveal the ASL "welcome" sign, and addressing landscaping, erosion, and grass growth in the spring.
- Winter safety measures are in place, including sanding, salting, and keeping gates open during snow events.
- Hydroseeded areas, especially near the gate, will be rechecked in the spring due to late installation.



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- The architect is finalizing a formal punch list after a site walk confirming major components, and additional training on gate operations is planned to ensure proper programming.
- Finances are in good shape, with lower gas prices reducing transportation costs despite changes in van routes and expanded services, including Waterville students and the new Lewiston center.
- Students are able to participate in basketball as logistics are finalized.
- The final state contract for OIT facility rental is still pending completion, and a final payment from DRM following their August departure is also being finalized.

6:04pm VII. **Southern Region Coordinator** Melanie Bowlus, *Southern Region Coordinator*

New Business

6:44pm VIII. **Staff Nomination**

Sydney Walker for the position of *Early Childhood Special Education Teacher*, effective December 8, 2025.

Sandra **motioned**; Dawna **seconded**
12 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

6:46pm IX. **Recent Hires**

Marena Thompson, Educational Technician

Marena is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology, previously worked as an intern at MECDHH/GBSD, and has worked as a media specialist in the Maine Department of Labor.

Kayleah Chebultz, Educational Technician

Kayleah has held positions at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, Maryland School for the Deaf, and, most recently, was an Elementary Classroom Assistant at The Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, MA.

6:47pm X. **Announcements**

- Northern Maine Deaf Club holiday celebration/dinner on 12/13 in Dixmont
- MeAD film premiere of 911/988 on 12/5 at Lewiston MRC from 6-8pm
- MeAD holiday party/annual meeting 12/6 from 10am-2pm
- MRAD election of officers right after MeAD meeting
- USM ASL Club is hosting ASL night at Maine Mariners game on 12/6
- Maine Hands & Voices Signing Santa event 12/6 from 1-3pm in MECDHH gym
- First home game of GBSD basketball team will be 12/9 at 4:00
- Board retreat will be held April 10-11 in northern Maine. More info soon
- Roxanne recommends watching the movie, "Masking: Deaf Education"
- January board meeting will be held on the 8th, beginning with a workshop on strategic plan updates at 4:30pm

6:58pm XI. **Adjournment**

Roxanne **motioned**; Lisette **seconded**
12 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**