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
August 6, 2026
Minutes

5:31pm I. **Workshop: Board Governance (continued from February meeting)** Eric Waddell, *MSMA Executive Director*

6:32pm II. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Members**

Present: Tommy Minch, Lanet Anthony, Roxanne Baker, Lisette Belanger, Jason Bubier, Beth Campbell, Claire Jeffers, Christy LoCicero-Mackey, Janet May, Mike Pulsifer, Dawna Thorpe, Nick Weightman, Sandra Wood

Excused: Anna Perna

Also present: Steve Connolly, Dean, Flanagin, Lori Levesque, Kim Spencer, David Hillier, Eric Waddell, Grace Cooney, Evah Hellewell

On Zoom: Taylor Markie, Melanie Bowlus

6:32pm III. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

Nick **motioned**; Dawna **seconded**
13 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

6:33pm IV. **Motion to Approve the July 21, 2026 Board Minutes**
Approved as written
Christy **motioned**; Sandra **seconded**
13 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

6:34pm V. **Motion to Approve the June 4, 2026 Board Minutes**
Approved as written
Dawna **motioned**; Beth **seconded**
12 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 1 **abstained**

6:35pm VI. **Public Comments**
None

6:36pm VII. **Executive Director's Report** Steve Connolly, *Executive Director*

- **360 Curriculum**: For students 14-22 with IEP transition goals; run with VR. Developed by Charity (ex-Gallaudet). 3-day program (July 22), 12 students, covering self-ID, portfolios, career interests, ADA rights, plus assessments and language mentor support.
- **ESY**: Wrapped up last Thursday.
- **Grants**: Submitted to Education Maine for recruitment, development, apprenticeships.
- **Leadership bootcamp** (early July): Difficult conversations, supervision, decision-making.
- **Leadership retreat** (late July): Refining Year 1 initiatives instead of adding new ones.
- **DLM training** (Matt Webster): DLM roles and staff collaboration.
- **MECDHH/Lewiston collaboration**: Communication and shared understanding session.

6:48pm VIII. **Facilities Report** Dean Flanagin, *Director of Operations*

- **Greenlaw**: New roof (wind risk otherwise) going in early September via G&E Roofing, ahead of schedule. Rest of building solid and dry.
- **Gateway**: Punch list - grass/plantings issues; architect/contractor engaged, Harriman meeting next week. Mulch helping plants survive dry spell; pavilion grass being irrigated.
- **Mansion Steps**: Top step re-repaired by Knowles Industrial with composite mix - now good. Cosmetic work on rest of building remains.
- **Preschool Playground**: Met contractor July 21st on site prep/layout (early stages); large tree limbs removed from courtyard.

FINAL

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- **Energy Audit**: RFQ process starting with BGS to vet vendor/engineer qualifications - aimed at energy/cost savings and better building comfort.

6:56pm IX. **Policy - Second Reading**

- BEDH/Public Participation at Board Meetings

Approved as written
Lisette **motioned**; Dawna **seconded**
13 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

New Business

7:09pm X. **Policy - First Reading**

- DWM/Privacy Policy

7:19pm XI. **Staff Nomination**
Christina Berghoff, *Teacher of the Deaf*, effective August 21, 2026.

Claire **motioned**; Sandra **seconded**
13 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

7:20pm XII. **New Hirings/Resignations/Retirements**

Steve Connolly announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2026.

7:40pm XIII. **Proposal to increase the *Website and Social Media Manager* Position From Part-time to Full-time and change the position title to *Digital Learning and Communications Specialist***

Board approved the increase in total hours per week, not the title change.
Nick **motioned**; Jason **seconded**
13 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

8:12pm XIV. **Announcements**

8:13pm XV. **Adjournment**
Adjourned to **Thursday, September 3, 2026** at **5:30.**"
Roxanne **motioned**; Christy **seconded**
13 **in favor**. 0 **opposed**. 0 **abstained**

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