***April 13, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes Approved by Commission Vote on***

***May 11, 2021***

The Maine Charter School Commission held a regular Business Meeting via Zoom on

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

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| **Item Number** | **Agenda Item** |
| **1** | **Call to Order and Declare a Quorum** |
|  | The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Nichi Farnham, at 1:03pm and a quorum was declared.  Commission members present were: Nichi Farnham, John Bird *(joined at 1:09pm)*, Shelley Reed, Dr. Fern Desjardins, Wilson Hess and Jim Rier.  Also present were Jeremy Jones, Gina Post, Amy Allen and Jasmine Canwell. |
| **2** | **Reminders** |
| 2a | The meeting was recorded via Zoom. |
| 2b | Participants, aside from Commission members and staff, were asked to remain muted until public comments were heard. |
| 2c | Pursuant to Section G-1. 1 MRSE §403-A, voting was conducted via roll call. |
| 2d | Members of the public were asked to participate during public comment by using the “raise your hand” feature on Zoom or by commenting in the chat box at the specified time. |
| **3** | **Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda** |
|  | Add Item #7g – Nichi Farnham requested adding “Jeremy Jones 90-Day Reflection.” |
| **4** | **Requires Notification to and Acceptance by the Commission** |
| 4a | To Accept Notification of the following:   * Resignation of Amy Volk from the Maine Connections Academy Board * New ACADIA Academy Governing Board Member – Azenaide Pedro   A copy of Amy Volk’s letter of resignation and the completed Governing Board Information Sheet for Azenaide Pedro were distributed for review and discussion.  Since Amy Volk signed the original charter contract for Maine Connections Academy in 2013, she has been a valuable and respected member of the board. Over the years Amy worked tirelessly for the school and was a strong advocate for the students attending Maine Connections Academy. Although we respect Amy’s decision, it is with deep regret that we accept her letter of resignation. She will be missed, and we wish her all the best for her future endeavors.    **Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to accept Notification of the Governing Board Changes. |
| **5** | **Requires Approval by the Commission** |
| 5a | Minutes from the March 9, 2021 Business Meeting  No discussion.  **Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve as printed the Minutes from the March 9, 2021 Business Meeting. |
| 5b | FY21 Budget vs. Actual – April Report  A copy of the April report was distributed for review and discussion.  **Moved by Jim Rier; seconded by John Bird and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea;** **Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to accept the FY21 Budget vs. Actual – April Report. |
| 5c | To Consider and Approve Community Regional Charter School’s 2019-20 Annual Monitoring Report *(Previously Tabled)*  A copy of Community Regional Charter School’s 2019-20 Annual Monitoring Report was distributed for review and approval.  **Moved by Shelley Reed; seconded by John Bird and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea;** **Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve Community Regional Charter School’s 2019-20 Annual Monitoring Report. |
| 5d | To Consider and Approve Community Regional Charter School’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report *(Previously Tabled)*  A copy of Community Regional Charter School’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report was distributed for review and approval.  Motion by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed.  Jeremy Jones reported that Travis Works, Executive Director of Community Regional Charter School, has requested the following slight amendment to page three of the report:  *“It is suggested that the Board should continue to review grant spending plans as a part of their oversight spending; the grants announced after the opening of school were not included in the regular FY21 budget approval but were reviewed and voted on in September and November.”*  *After amendment, the following motion was adopted, “To Approve Community Regional Charter School’s Mid-Year Check-In Meeting Report as amended.*  **Moved by John Bird; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve the motion as amended written above. |
| 5e | To Consider and Approve MDOE Certified 4-Year Graduation Rates for Inclusion in Previously Approved Reports  A copy of the MDOE Certified 4-Year Graduation Rates was distributed for review and approval. This data will be included in the previously approved 2019-20 Annual Monitoring Reports for the following six schools: Baxter Academy, Harpswell Coastal Academy, Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, Maine Arts Academy, Maine Connections Academy, and Maine Virtual Academy.  **Moved by Nichi Farnham; seconded by Shelley Reed and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to approve MDOE Certified 4-Year Graduation Rates for Inclusion in Previously Approved Reports. |
| **6** | **Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report** |
|  | Enrollment Lottery Update  A copy of the “School Year 2021-2022 Waitlist Upon Lottery Completion” was distributed for review.  During the month of March 2021, enrollment lotteries were scheduled to be held for all 10 of Maine’s Public Charter Schools, as required by Title 20-A §2403 and Maine Department of Education Rule Chapter 140. If the number of applicants exceeded the number of enrollment capacity of a program, class, or grade level, a lottery was held.  The waitlist numbers presented indicate the number of students placed on a waitlist as a result of the enrollment lottery, if any. |
| **7** | **Executive Director/Commission Staff Report** |
|  | ***Jeremy’s Items:*** |
| 7a | Legislative Update   * Updates on LDs 380, 430, 604 and 705 * The following two legislative documents, LD 380 – “An ActTo Change the Statutory Cap on Virtual Public Charter School Enrollment" and LD 430 - "An Act To Provide for School Choice and Online Learning Opportunities in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" have been concluded. * LD 604 – "An Act To Promote Accountability in Maine's Charter Schools" sponsored by Representative Michael Brennan, is a bill currently being presented. A Public Hearing was held on April 7, 2021 and the work session has been scheduled for April 14, 2021. * A copy of LD 705 – “Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine's Public Schools” was distributed for review. There is no date yet set for the Public Hearing.   MCSC staff will continue to monitor legislative activity and will report to the Commission as needed. |
|  | ***School-Related Items:*** |
| 7b | Spring 2020 NWEA Map Data Update  Jeremy shared that Commission staff recently discovered that the two virtual public schools have been reporting and measuring NWEA growth data differently. It is important to note that Commission staff are working diligently to resolve this discrepancy in reporting. |
|  | ***Commission-Related Items:*** |
| 7c | Criteria for Expansion Discussion  Jeremy shared that Commission staff are initiating a proposal to be presented at a future Business Meeting establishing criteria for school expansion. |
| 7d | Update on Purchase of SIS  During the March Business Meeting the Commission voted to approve the purchase of a common unified student information system. At this time, Commission staff are working to finalize a contract with Infinite Campus. A succeeding subsidy vote will be revisited at a future business meeting. |
| 7e | Strategic Plan Discussion  Jeremy reported that Commission staff, including Joe Drago and Joe Mattos, have attended one strategic plan discussion. It is the goal of MCSC staff to present a draft of the strategic plan at the May business meeting with Commission approval at the June or July meeting. |
| 7f | Media Update  Jeremy shared that Rachael Ohm, Education Reporter for the Portland Press Herald, is compiling a story on charter school retrospective and may be in contact for comment. |
| 7g | Jeremy Jones 90-Day Reflection  Nichi Farnham provided a brief update on Jeremy Jones’ 90-Day Reflection. |
| **8** | **Announcements** |
| 8a | This month’s Birthdays  Jeremy shared that Joe Mattos celebrated a birthday last month. He also wished John Bird, who celebrated a birthday on April 3rd and anyone else with an April birthday, “Happy Birthday.” |
| 8b | Next Regular Business Meeting – May 11, 2021 *(Zoom)* |
| **9** | **Public Comment\*** |
|  | None |
| **10** | **Adjourn** |
|  | The meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm.  **Moved by John Bird; seconded by Dr. Fern Desjardins and voted by roll call as follows: John Bird – yea; Dr. Fern Desjardins – yea; Wilson Hess – yea; Shelley Reed – yea; Jim Rier – yea; Nichi Farnham – yea** to adjourn. |