



Maine Association of School Business Officials

<http://www.measbo.org/>

April 8, 2022
Minutes

VIA ZOOM

Link to the recorded meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5riWoRWxF9A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9WJ7gwFkw4>

8:45 Association Business

Welcome – Introductions

- Colin Walsh opened the meeting and requested all to introduce themselves using the chat feature in zoom.

President's Update - Colin Walsh

- Hope to meet in person next year.
- Request to members for feedback on ways MEASBO can provide support.
- Update on 501(c)3 status: Executive committee has been meeting with Chris Stevenson from Drummond Woodsum. Paperwork has been filed with regulation agencies. Once the applications have been approved, MEASBO can begin the hiring process for an executive director.
- Working with Vicki Wallack of MSMA to determine when she is available to give a legislative update to MEASBO. Hopefully in the next few weeks.
- Big thank you to Tyler Backus as today is his last day with Maine DOE. We wish him well and much success. Tyler played a large role in improving the communication between the DOE and MEASBO. He was always very helpful and he will be missed.

Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2022

- Motion to accept by Luci Milewski
- 2nd by Kelly Wentworth

- 88% in favor - 0% opposed - 12% abstain

Approval of Treasurer's Report

- Motion to accept by Kelly Wentworth
- 2nd by Luci Milewski
- 87% in favor - 0% opposed - 13% abstain



Committee Reports

- Legislative Committee
 - No report at this time. There will be a zoom meeting scheduled when Vicki Wallack is available to provide an update.
- Technology
 - Luci Milewski asked if anyone had suggestions for content on the MEASBO website. Please send suggestions to measbo@gmail.com.
- Tri-State
 - Tri-State annual conference will be held in New Hampshire at the Mountain View Grand Hotel on May 25-27, 2022.
 - Maine needs representatives to join the tri-state committee. Please email measbo@gmail.com if interested.

Other Association Business

- No other business.

9:00 **Business Manager Wellness** - Gwen Kinsey from Anthem will be providing a very valuable session on "Stress Management for High Burnout Professions"

-  Gwen E. Kinsey BIO.docx
-  Stress Management for High Burnout Professions MEABT.pptx

10:00 **Commissioner of Education – Pender Makin** Commissioner Makin will discuss the most recent developments impacting the Maine DOE and school business managers.

- Commissioner Makin thanked the business managers for the work that we do, especially during the last couple of years when there has been unprecedented amounts of federal money flooded into education. She understands the hardships placed on everyone due to understaffed offices and hopes we can all show ourselves some grace.

- Does not see a waiver on federal deadlines. As of now, the deadlines to spend the money will stay in effect.
- USED is increasing staffing for auditing of federal funds awarded to schools. The large amounts of money and quick turnaround for spending means high risk and vulnerabilities to fraud. Maine DOE will 'have our backs'. Don't be afraid to question findings.
- MEASBO members are having issues with DOE staff returning phone calls and emails in a timely manner and are wondering when DOE staff will be returning to the office. Commissioner Makin responded that the state believed 'working from home' made the departments more accessible and responsive. Same day response is necessary. If you are not getting a response, please cc Commissioner Makin in your email at pender.makin@maine.gov. She needs specifics in order to correct the issues.
- Maine DOE is hiring 3 invoice reviewers in order to speed up reimbursement processing. They are also looking into prioritizing requests rather than processing as first come, first serve.
- Commissioner Makin understands that Maine's education facilities are aging and there is a need for more construction funds and grants.
- Commissioner Makin took questions from the members.

10:30 **Break**

10:40 **State Director of Special Services** – Erin Frazier will provide an update on developments with special services as well as a concentration on CDS.

- LD in the pipeline that will transition special services for 3-5 year olds from CDS to public schools. Beginning in July 2024, the state will transition special services for 3-5 year olds from CDS to schools.
- The bill supports 100% of special education services and 100% of general education costs (for those children identified as needing special services) to be paid by the state.
 - The state plans to use a reimbursement model similar to State Agency reimbursements.
 - MEASBO members highlighted the fact that when the state says 100% of costs, it does not necessarily mean 100% of costs. For example, administrative costs are not reimbursable.
- Schools can reach out to CDS to get IEP information for children residing in their

district and find out who is currently providing services to the children.

- Schools should be creating a team to determine the resources you have and the resources you need.
- Grant money currently available for infrastructure to include licensing and outfitting facilities to meet the needs of 3-5 year olds. Money will go fast. Does not include new construction.
- Schools will not serve all 3-5 year olds, only those identified with IEPs as needing special education services.
- Questions can be emailed to erin.frazier@maine.gov.

11:20 Ask the Executive Committee

- No questions at this time.

11:30 Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:32.