

# the Ecology Learning Center

## Board Agenda

**August 12, 2026**

5:30 pm- 7:30 pm

**In attendance:** Josh Kercksmar, Tia Poulin, Leza Packard, Randy Fox, Lauren Giroux, Margaret Micolichuk, Beth Arnold, Jen Albee, Malcolm Campbell

**Guest:** Ray Hummer (potential board member)

**Mission Moment:** Victoria Barnes, Art Teacher shared that her contribution to the school is through her mentorship of craft. She feels that over the past couple of years her contributions have grown. She has led the creation of murals in the school and the community. Her goals this year is to collaborate with other community agencies like the library and Farnsworth. Also expanding her skills in ceramics and is excited about adding to the ceramics courses this year at the school. Her classes currently consist of mixed level students. She enjoys teaching artistic behavior which involves engaging students prior to learning to discover what artistic activities they already enjoy. When asked by the board what she tells students when they ask “why do I need to do art”. Victoria explained that she encourages the students to slow down, not rely on instant gratification as most activities they engage in do. She explains this will help them in other areas of their life.

### Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: [6/27/2026 Board Meeting Minutes](#)
- Executive Director's Report  8.12.26 Board Meeting Director's Report
- Governance Committee  5.11.2026 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
- [July Treasury Report](#)

Motion to accept the consent agenda by Randy Fox, seconded by Malcom Campbell ; Unanimous

### Bridge Signatory Change:

- Following the email vote last month to add Esther to the account as signatories. The Finance Committee feels that there should be only two people. The proposed change is to remove Beth Arnold from the approved signatories

Motion to remove Beth Alma from the Bridge Program accounts Randy Fox, seconded by Jen Albee; Unanimous.

### ED ReportReport:

- Panorama survey results for the Board to review.
  - When the filters are added of rural, poverty level, etc. in comparison to other schools in this category, ELC is mostly in the 90th percentile.
  - Teachers' scores regarding Coaching & Professional Development are lower than what Leza feels are acceptable.
  - Leza is attending a Leadership Development Program. One of her goals is to improve staff development.

- Discussed the Charter Commission's annual review. One of the highlights of the review was the panorama survey, engagement and climate specifically.
- Employee Update:
  - Low turnover over all
  - Losing 3 faculty: Spec. Ed, Nutrition Director, Operations Director

### **Financial Strategies & Discussion:**

- FY26 audit is still in progress
  - One open action item being addressed
- July reports, all acceptable
- Filling the budget gap: Finance is tracking income streams this year as they did last year. In an effort to keep the board abreast of the performance, each monthly report will show progress on the “aspirational budget gap”
  - \$133,000 is the Gap for FY27
    - This is broken down by funding streams with what is projected for that line item.
    - \$605 gap filled in month one of FY27
    - This will also help highlight which streams are performing the best so we can focus attention on expanding those in the future.
- The fundraiser exceeded its goal this past month.

### **Fundraising:**

- Discussed results of the CQ report
  - Does the report help identify next steps; no
  - Do we need a Development staff; maybe; do we have the money; no
  - Fundraiser training has occurred for the board in the past. Was it helpful; no
  - Would spending time creating a development plan be helpful; possibly
    - Board could then approve spending needed to make this happen
    - All board members would need to become really good at development
      - Discussed individuals skills, abilities, and willingness
    - Proposed a fundraising committee to develop the “Plan”
    - Experience on other Boards has proven that hiring a consultant for Development is not useful
    - Create a Development Committee
  - Maine Association for Non Profit membership- \$700, this would allow us to post the open position but they also offer tailored training on topics that the organization needs.
  - A Capitol Campaign component may help bring the goals to scale.
  - Explore endowments
    - Too much/many can affect non-profit status

**Motion to initiate a Development and Fundraising Committee with a focus on sustainability that GC will develop a charter if approved by: Randy Fox, seconded by Malcolm Campbell; 7 in favor, 1 abstention.**

**Discussion: Should it be an ad-hoc committee? Can it meet bi monthly? Who is willing to be on the committee? Chair of the committee? Board capacity issues identified. Involve parents? Could there be co-chairs. Can't it just be a working group?**

Further discussion about the board's uncertainty about creating another committee with the current capacity of the board and the long term need of this committee.

Per Roberta's Rules- Definition of Committee vs Working Group

**Motion to amend the previous motion to reflect it as a working group by Randy Fox, seconded by Tia Poulin; 7 in favor, 1 abstention**

**Motion to adjourn by Randy Fox, seconded by Margaret Micolicheck; Unanimous  
Adjourned: 7:25**