

# the Ecology Learning Center

## Board Agenda

March 25, 2026

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

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

**Guests:** Beth Alma

### **Mission Moment: Grace Wardner, Humanities**

3rd year faculty at ELC. On Wednesday mornings, they have academic support time for the students. Today they did their first live stream lottery. 2 10th graders, new to ELC this year, have expressed anxiety about being in the classroom. They asked for help today during academic time, and there was laughter, work, and creativity. Grace shared that she enjoyed providing a space within the ELC structure for those students to thrive.

Today was the last Wellness Wednesday course, and Grace has been teaching canoeing. They got to do white water today; some students experienced this for the first time. No canoes turned over, everyone was safe and had a good time, despite some students starting the class thinking that they would not enjoy it.

### **Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes: [2/11/26 Board Meeting Minutes](#)
- Executive Director's Report ( [3.25.26 Board Meeting Director's Report](#) )
- February [Treasury Report](#)

**Motion to accept the consent agenda by Randy Fox, seconded by Lauren Giroux; Unanimous, one abstention.**

### **Policy Review:**

- [w Ecology Learning Center\\_Safety Policy & Procedure Manual\\_Abuse Prevention.docx](#)
- Discussed the reason for the new policy, which addresses the requirements of the insurance company.
- There are no additional training requirements for this policy that the faculty have not already completed.
- Discussion about adding a zero tolerance addendum in the future. This will be discussed at a future Governance Committee meeting.
- Reviewed school volunteers and how that applies to this policy
- Question regarding criminal background checks- these are completed on all faculty and volunteers.

**Motion to accept the abuse prevention policy by Randy Fox, seconded by Margaret Micolichuk; Unanimous,**

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

- The annual fundraising goal has been met
- All 4 metrics for this month are acceptable
- The Onion grant has been submitted

- Budget season has begun FY27 Draft budget is in the process
  - Significant changes
    - State subsidy will increase next year based on enrollment
    - The per-student amount has increased by about 1.2%
    - The teacher compensation pay scale will increase. The key difference is that the step increases will occur annually, not every other year.
    - The finance committee supports this pay scale change
    - Next month FY27 budget will be presented at the Board Meeting
- Max Hardware just donated \$3,000 as a business sponsor to the Cliff
- Upcoming deltas to the budget
  - Sprinkler system payments spaced out through June
  - The projection is that there will be a small dip in revenue, but not anything that would offset the current progress.
- Gratitude is expressed to Beth Alma for her aid on the finance committee and for bringing the new treasurer up to speed, as well as her extensive work on payroll calculations.
- Discussion about the increasing cost of electricity, aging heat pump costs, and solar farm share.
  - Description of solar farm model (subscription, payments to own)
  - Facilities will look into the solar farm model for future discussion

**Motion to vote Chris Lewis removed from Signator of ELC and Lauren Giroux added as Treasurer and Signator of ELC, with all rights and privileges thereto appertaining, by Randy Fox, seconded by Jennifer Albee; Unanimous**

- **Cliff update:**
  - Alec would like to take on the responsibilities of the Cliff manager next school year after the departure of the current Cliff Manager, Matthew.
  - Alec shared what inspired him to consider taking on this responsibility and shared some of his ideas that would include improved marketing and increased engagement with the community, as well as engaging the students more in the operations of the Cliff.

### Annual ED Eval Process:

- [w Director Evaluation Process 2024 REVISED.docx](#)
- Reviewed the dates of the process and areas for improvement in the process this year
- It was discussed that there is an adjustment made to the process that would assign “who” is responsible for doing the evaluation, as it is time-consuming for the entire board to conduct and complete. Discussed creating an ED evaluation committee of at least 3
- Reminder that all board members attend a Charter commission training this school year. There is one about ED evaluation on April 7th. If you cannot attend at 10 am that day, please watch the recording.

Topic: PD Session: School Leader Evaluation, BoardOnTrack

Time: Apr 7, 2026 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/82600225680>

Meeting ID: 826 0022 5680

- Discussion of the change in the board member training from the Charter Commission this year has made it difficult for board members to meet the requirement.

### **Executive Director Update:**

- A lottery was conducted for future student enrollment, and a waitlist has been created.
  - An unintended outcome has been the letters of commitment for returning students being returned much quicker than in years past.
- Maple Run is one week from today. The students need sponsors.
  - Students have been educated on the budget and fundraising needed for outdoor programs.
- ELC students won the Maple Cupcake Bake Off this week
- Trimester II Report Cards/Google Drive Overview, Continued
  - Reviewed AYT2 data and analysis report
  - Through this process, the board was also provided continued Google Drive overview.
    - Reminder that when accessing anything on Google Drive, even when doing so from a link in your email, you need to be logged into your ELC Chrome account, not just your ELC email account. If you are not, you will be prompted to request access to the document.
  - Request that an annual report be prepared that follows the class cohorts through their time at ELC.
  - Request for a possible spreadsheet to show grades over the life of ELC in each subject. Although the data may not be comparable due to the change in faculty.
  - Possibly consider absences in the trimester in correlation with grade averages. Or even just considering student days in that trimester, which would take into account holidays, vacations, and sick days.

**Motion to adjourn by Tia Poulin, seconded by Randy Fox; Unanimous**

**Adjourned: 7:19 pm**