Board of Directors Meeting
December 04, 2019
8:00 a.m.

PRESENT:
- Beverly: Dr. Charochak
- Danvers: Dr. Dana
- Gloucester: Dr. Safier
- Hamilton Wenham: Dr. Kukenberger
- Ipswich: Dr. Blake
- Lynn: Dr. Tutwiler
- Masconomet: Dr. Harvey
- North Reading: Mr. Bernard
- Reading: Dr. Doherty
- Rockport: Mr. Liebow
- Salem: Ms. Smith
- Triton: Mr. Forget
- Tri-Town: Dr. Morrison

NEC:
- F. Rosenberg G. Bergevin
- Ms. Mahoney M. Bourgault
- E. Aldrich Mr. Mahoney, NEC Treasurer

ABSENT:
- Lynnfield: Ms. Tremblay
- Marblehead: Mr. McAlduff
- Manchester-Essex: Ms. Beaudoin
- Nahant: Mr. Pierantozzi
- Peabody: Ms. Murtagh
- Swampscott: Ms. Angelakis

I. Call to Order: Dr. Dana called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Board observed a moment of silence for Superintendent Cara Murtagh. The Board of Directors sends love and support to our colleagues and friends in Peabody and the Peabody Public Schools as they mourn the loss of two extraordinary leaders over the past two weeks.

II. Remarks from the Public-none

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Safier and seconded by Ms. Smith to approve October 30, 2019 minutes and December appointments as presented.
   VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously
IV. **Finance Report**: Glenn Bergevin

Mr. Bergevin gave an update on the budget year to date. The original budget has a bottom line of $181,000. With the enrollment, payroll and anticipated expense adjustments the projected bottom line is $67,000. We are tracking this number closely. If enrollment does catch up, programs will need to look at expense reductions for the second half of the year.

The Recovery High Schools budget includes the DESE grant of $666,000, an increase of $171,000 over the budgeted amount. As of today, $100,000 has been set aside for budget relief. DESE has approved funds to be spent on payroll for additional clinical, educational and after school services. Payroll is projected to be more than budget due to the contract settlement and to increased staffing for increased enrollment principally at Topsfield Vocational Program.

**First reading of proposed Investment Policy**: Kevin Mahoney

Treasurer Kevin Mahoney reviewed a proposed General Funds and Long Term Funds Investment Policy.

Mr. Forget commented that this is a solid policy, many of our districts use a similar policy and it is a great way to manage their funds. In NEC’s situation, Mr. Mahoney would be the manager and the policy would be a protection for all as well a great outline to follow.

**MOTION**: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Safier to approve first reading on NEC Investment Policy on December 04, 2019 as presented.  
**VOTE**: The motion was moved unanimously

V. **Facilities Committee Report**: Glenn Bergevin

Mr. Bergevin gave a brief update on capital projects; we have begun the process of replacing the HVAC at Northshore Lower Academy although the process has taken much longer to get started than anticipated. As we move forward the Facilities Committee will need to meet to plan for future projects, particularly the much larger HVAC replacement for 112 Sohier Road.

VI. **Policy Committee Report**: Scott Morrison

Mr. Morrison and Ms. Rosenberg presented minor revisions to Security Camera Policy and Animal Policy.

There was no discussion about the Animal Policy.
Dr. Safier suggested some additional language for the Security Camera policy to address instances in which a parent or guardian asked to review footage. He offered to share his district’s policy with the committee. After a brief discussion, there was consensus to hold off on voting on this policy revision until such changes are made.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Blake and seconded by Dr. Harvey to approve first reading on the revised Animal Policy on December 04, 2019 as presented.

**VOTE:** The motion was moved unanimously

Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Morrison then presented three proposed changes to the Collaborative Agreement:

1. Adding Pentucket Regional School District as a member.
2. Amending language to create a "superintendent only" board.
3. Amending language regarding responsibilities of board members.

Board Members reviewed the proposed changes. There was general agreement about remaining a superintendent only board. Mr. Forget raised a concern that too many districts may choose to “opt out” of attending meetings and become non-voting members. He suggested that there be a limit on how long a district could be “non-voting” before losing membership status altogether. Dr. Doherty suggested that if “non-voting” status extended into a second year, the Board could discuss losing membership.

Ms. Rosenberg offered to work on some revised language and send it to the Policy Committee and Paulajo Gaines for feedback prior to the next Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Blake and seconded by Dr. Kukenberger to approve first read of the proposed changes to Collaborative Agreement, with the understanding that further changes would be made as discussed prior to the second reading.

**VOTE:** The motion was moved unanimously

**VII. New and Continuing Business - Fran Rosenberg**

Ms. Rosenberg reviewed the 2019 Annual Report, highlighting areas that had changed from previous reports. Ms. Rosenberg noted that sections regarding enrollment and cost effectiveness would be helpful for School Committee presentations. Board members pointed out some minor edits to charts and a few small typos, but had no substantive questions or concerns.

Ms. Rosenberg reminded the Board that the approved report would be posted on the website, submitted to DESE, and sent to all School Committees.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Bernard to approve the FY2019 Annual Report with the noted edits and corrections.

**VOTE:** The motion was moved unanimously
VIII. **Executive Director's Report:** Fran Rosenberg

Ms. Rosenberg provided an update on our DESE Coordinated Program Review which was held November 19 -22. She stated that the DESE reviewers indicated that their final report would say that we run exemplary programs, and that there would be only a few minor areas in which they would recommend improvement!

The Board congratulated Mr. Jon Bernard, Superintendent of North Reading Schools, on his mid-year retirement. Ms. Rosenberg and fellow board members expressed how they will miss him at the meetings, thanked him for his service, and wished him well. Mr. Bernard thanked everyone, said what a pleasure it has been being part of this board and wished much success in the years to come.

IX. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Harvey and seconded by Mr. Bernard to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 am

**VOTE:** The motion was moved unanimously

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Kathy Maloney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director

Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director