



NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Board of Directors Minutes
March 04, 2020

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| PRESENT: | Beverly: | Dr. Charochak |
| | Danvers: | Dr. Dana |
| | Gloucester: | Dr. Safier |
| | Hamilton Wenham: | Dr. Kukenberger |
| | Ipswich: | Dr. Blake |
| | Lynn: | Dr. Tutwiler |
| | Lynnfield: | Ms. Tremblay |
| | Manchester-Essex: | Ms. Beaudoin |
| | Marblehead: | Mr. McAlduff |
| | Masconomet: | Dr. Harvey |
| | North Reading: | Dr. Daly |
| | Reading: | Dr. Doherty |
| | Salem: | Ms. Smith |
| | Swampscott: | Ms. Angelakis |
| | Triton: | Mr. Forget |
| | Tri-Town: | Dr. Morrison |
| NEC: | F. Rosenberg | G. Bergevin |
| | Ms. Mahoney | M. Bourgault |
| | E. Aldrich | K. Mahoney, NEC Treasurer |
| | E. Ford | |
| Guest: | Dr. Justin Bartholomew | Pentucket Regional Schools |
| ABSENT: | Nahant: | Mr. Pierantozzi |
| | Peabody: | Dr. Kerble |
| | Rockport: | Mr. Liebow |

- I. Call to Order:** Dr. Dana called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Dr. Dana welcomed Dr. Justin Bartholomew Superintendent of Pentucket Regional Schools .
- II. Remarks from the Public-** none
- III. Approval of Consent Agenda**
MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Angelakis and seconded by Ms. Tremblay to approve February 05, 2020 minutes and March 2020 appointments as presented.
VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously
- IV. Finance Report:** Glenn Bergevin & Brian Forget

Mr. Bergevin explained that the NEC budget is driven by student enrollment and the high level of specialized staffing necessary to meet the complex educational needs of our students. He reviewed the proposed budget in the context of NEC's strategic goals.

Mr. Forget talked about the need to adjust tuition rates in order to remain competitive. He supported the proposal to increase rates and stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed budget and supported it.

Mr. Bergevin reviewed key factors in the budget including the following:

- This is the second year of the collective bargaining agreement. Payroll increased are just under 4%.
- Health insurance rates are not yet known.
- Rent and mortgage obligations have been adjusted.
- Program costs have been held constant.
- Enrollment patterns are predicted to be similar to this year.
- There are some unknowns related to funding for Recovery High School. We budgeted the \$666,000 that was received this year, but that is not guaranteed.

Ms. Rosenberg stated that at the Finance Committee meeting, Dr. Smith had expressed concern about the lack of assurance regarding funding for Recovery High School, and the idea that the Board may want to express to DESE their grave concern about passing a budget without any clarity on the grant.

Ms. Rosenberg spoke about the recommendation, approved by the finance committee to increase tuition in 5 of the programs by a modest 2%, but to increase the rate for the Kevin O'Grady School by 5%. She expressed her belief that the management issues at the KOG School had been addressed, and that this increase was necessary to reflect the true costs of educating the most severely disabled youngsters. She stated that even with the 5% increase, the Kevin O'Grady school is still significantly less than other schools (i.e. Hopeful Journeys) serving similar populations. Board members were provided with data on comparative costs as well as with data on the number of KOG students from each district and the financial impact of this increase.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Safier asked do we have a plan B for Recovery High School. He expressed frustration that the NEC Board has supported this program for years despite inadequate funding. He supported the ideas of Ms. Rosenberg writing to Deputy Commissioner Cliff Chuang to express the concerns of the Board.

Ms. Smith agreed that there should be a letter or email stating that the NEC Board of Directors met this morning to approve the first pass of FY2021 budget and they would ask that DESE provide more timely information on the level of funding so that they can approve the budget and assure staff positions by the April 30th deadline.

Ms. Smith talked about the political support for the Recovery High School. Mr. Forget and Dr. Doherty agreed that a letter should be written. Dr. Safier and Dr. Doherty agreed to assist Ms. Rosenberg with this.

The Board then turned to a discussion of the Kevin O'Grady School rate increase. Dr. Charochak expressed concern about the impact on districts with the most KOG students. Ms. Rosenberg validated this concern and reviewed other options, expressing her belief that other options would risk program quality.

Dr. Doherty agreed that the long term goal was for KOG to have a balanced budget but wondered if it could be done more incrementally.

Several members asked clarifying questions about the KOG budget.

Ms. Rosenberg reviewed some of the history and repeated that she believed that longstanding issues had been addressed and that KOG was running well, and was seen as an exemplar for this population.

Mr. Forget expressed the belief of the Finance committee that there is no "perfect time" for an increase, and he would support making this correction now and then monitoring the data.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Safier to approve first Draft of FY2021 Budget and Tuition Rates on March 4, 2020

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

Treasurer's Report- Mr. Kevin Mahoney

Mr. Mahoney presented the Treasurer's report as of January 31, 2020. There were no questions or comments

Mr. Forget thanked Mr. Mahoney for putting this report together.

V. Facilities Committee Report: Glenn Bergevin, Richard Safier

Mr. Bergevin reported that the HVAC units at Northshore Academy Lower School were going in, and that there were no further updates.

VI. Policy Committee Report: Scott Morrison

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Morrison to approve second reading of Security Camera Policy on March 04, 2020

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

Ms. Rosenberg reviewed the proposed changes to the Collaborative Agreement and the process for approval.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. McAlduff and seconded by Dr. Daly to approve Revised Collaborative Agreement to be sent for School Committee Approval as presented including all edits discussed, and pending DESE approval.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

VII. Executive Director's Report- Ms. Rosenberg gave brief update (see attached) , including information on the upcoming Behavioral Health Conference scheduled for April 16 , 2020. She stated that many districts were sending teams but that spaces were still available

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Kukenberger and seconded by Dr. Harvey to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 am

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director