



NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Board of Directors Minutes
June 17, 2020
8:00 a.m.

This Open Meeting of the NEC Board of Directors was conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth related to the outbreak of the COVID19 Virus. The Meeting was recorded.

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

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Dana called the meeting to order at 8:03. She stated that this was an *Open Meeting of the NEC Board of Directors being conducted remotely on June 17, 2020 consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth related to the outbreak of the COVID19 Virus.*

Dr. Dana asked Kathy Mahoney to call the roll in order to record who was in attendance as well as to vote on the Consent Agenda.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Morrison and seconded by Ms. Trembley to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with 14 members present.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously and the May 20 Minutes were approved.

III. Finance Report and Approval of Budget: Mr. Forget stated on behalf of the Finance Committee that we will be asking the board to approve a budget that relies on using our rainy-day fund/ cash reserves to support a deficit budget that allows us to hold tuition rates flat. He stated that now is the time to reap the benefit of good fiscal management.

- **Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Mahoney presented the Treasurer's report. Interest income has been impacted due to decline in interest rates. He was glad to report that cash flow has been good as districts have been paying bills despite the fiscal crisis. We received the final payment of the Recovery HS grant in May. Warrants issued at bottom of the report show net change of \$661,000 dollars. Mr. Mahoney opened it up to any questions from the board. There were no questions.
- **Projection for FY20**-Mr. Bergevin gave a brief update to the FY2020 projection which shows negative \$76,0000 dollars (similar to last month's report). He advised the Board that once the audit is complete, the Board will need to approve the final number and vote to transfer money from the cumulative surplus to cover the deficit.
- **Presentation of Budget for FY2021** (see attached) Mr. Bergevin stated that, as in years past, our budget aligns with our strategic goals, but has been adjusted to deal with the current COVID19 crisis. He stated that our first goal is always to provide quality programming, but pointed out that our progress toward our second goal of financial stability, now gives us a cushion to handle the proposed million-dollar deficit. The budget deficit is made up of three main components: a) the decision to hold tuitions flat in order to support districts in a difficult year, b) the decision to honor the Collective Bargaining Agreement that is in its second year, and c) unknowns due to COVID19 and school closures.

Ms. Rosenberg added several points:

- a) Although summer and fall enrollment is unclear, and it is possible that some parents will not want to send children to in-person instruction, she believes that our enrollment will be steady as there will continue to be students who need our services whether live or remote. She stated that a number of referrals have come in during the period of remote learning.
- b) We applied for \$100,000 DESE grant for mental health consultation, training, and wraparound services which, if we receive it, will enable us to provide additional services without charging member districts.
- c) We will use private donations where we can to cover any gaps. The Coolidge Family Foundation has agreed that we can use \$17,000 from their multi-year gift for COVID related items such as specialty masks and air filtration systems.

Ms. Rosenberg then stated that it's the first-time administration has asked the board to

approve a deficit budget and thanked the Finance Committee for their guidance and support during this time.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Ms. Tremblay to vote and approve the revised budget and tuition rates for FY2021. Roll call was taken. All were in favor with 14 members voting.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

Mr. Forget left the meeting at 8:27.

IV. Capital Project Update: Glenn Bergevin Mr.
Bergevin reported that the new HVAC system in West Peabody is in the final phase of installation.

V. Executive Director's Report- Ms. Rosenberg (Full report attached)

Ms. Rosenberg gave a brief report highlighting the following:

- Virtual graduations were very successful.
- End of year parades are scheduled for several schools.
- SPED Directors and Team Chairs have appreciated our weekly meetings during school closure. We are also considering starting a job-alike for school psychologists to come together on a regional basis,
- Planning for modified summer program.
- Amended Collaborative Agreement has been submitted to commissioner's office, for final approval.
- Several important conversations have taken place over the past few weeks on issues of anti-racism. We were pleased to have 60 employees participate in an optional forum hosted by the Diversity Task Force. Several employees are considering summer activities, such as book discussions, to keep the conversation going.

VI. Other Business:

- **Board Leadership Roles**
 - Dr. Dana stated that she was happy to report that Dr. Scott Morrison has agreed to be the Chairperson for Board FY2021.
 - Dr. Blake offered to take Dr. Morrison's place as Chair for Policy Committee.
 - Ms. Rosenberg will ask Dr. Harvey if he would be willing to chair the Facilities/Capital Planning Committee.
- **Recognition and Appreciation for Retiring and Interim Superintendents**
 - Ms. Rosenberg thanked retiring superintendents Jane Tremblay and Richard Safier for their years of service.
 - Ms. Rosenberg thanked interim superintendents Kathleen Smith, William McAlduff, Julie Kukenberger, and Marc Kerble for their active participation this year.
 - Dr. Morrison, on behalf of the board, thanked Dr. Dana for her service as board chair over the past two years, and as chair to Finance Committee for many years.

VII. Adjournment:

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Blake and seconded by Ms. Tremblay to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 am

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

June 17, 2020

Graduations and End of Year Events:

"Remote" graduations took place over the last few weeks, and went very well considering the many emotions around not being able to celebrate in the usual way. Staff did a great job at giving each graduating student an opportunity for individual recognition and photos...and then each program put together wonderful videos for graduates to share with families and friends. In addition, there were yard signs, goody bags, viewing parties, and parades! KOG and NSAL are having end of the year parades on Friday. We are incredibly proud of our graduating students, as well as our students who are "aging out" and moving on from our programs!

SPED Directors and Job-Alike Group:

The Special Education Directors group has been meeting weekly during the closure, which is helping your directors stay connected and receive support from one another. Ten to twelve districts participate consistently. In addition, we have continued to run virtual meetings for team chairpeople and out of district coordinators. We are looking at adding one for school psychologists who are eager for collegial support as they struggle to do their jobs with integrity during this remote learning period.

Planning for ESY and Fall Re-Opening:

We have communicated our plans for ESY to districts, parents, and staff....with the understanding that all plans are subject to change based on public health guidance, and our ability to have all health and safety components in place prior to beginning any in-person service delivery.

Roughly, the plan is as follows:

Every student enrolled in ESY will have an Individual Summer Learning Plan. If they are enrolled we will plan to bill full tuition (but we will not bill for any 1:1 aides).

All programming will be fully remote through July 23rd and will include both independent resources and individual or group lessons/therapies via remote technology. We will consider some home-visiting or home-services based on individual circumstances. We also be able to schedule individual meetings or referral tours on site.

After July 23rd, most of our schools are planning for some days of on-site, small group instruction. This will look different for each program based on student needs and staffing patterns. For most programs, this will involve "A" and "B" groups who are scheduled for specific days of on-site programming between July 27th and August 14th. Most students will each have between 4 and 12 days of on-site programming. We will encourage parents to transport if they can, and will work with districts to set up transportation for those who require it. If parents "opt out" of in-school programming, we will continue to provide remote learning.

Articles of Agreement:

I have submitted the revised Articles with twelve signatures to DESE for final approval.

Thank you all for your support throughout this most unusual year!

