



**NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM**

**Board of Directors Minutes
February 03,2021**

PRESENT:	Beverly:	Dr. Charochak
	Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
	Hamilton Wenham:	Ms. Banios
	Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
	Lynnfield:	Ms. Vogel
	Manchester-Essex	Ms. Beaudoin
	Marblehead:	Dr. John Buckley
	Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
	North Reading:	Dr. Daly
	Peabody:	Dr. Vadala
	Pentucket:	Dr. Bartholomew
	Reading:	Dr. Doherty
	Salem:	Dr. Zrike
	Swampscott:	Ms. Angelakis
	Triton:	Mr. Forget
	Tri-Town:	Dr. Morrison
NEC:	F. Rosenberg	G. Bergevin
	Ms. Mahoney	K. Mahoney, NEC Treasurer
ABSENT:	Danvers:	Dr. Dana
	Lynn:	Dr. Tutwiler
	Nahant:	Dr. Pierantozzi
	Rockport:	Mr. Liebow

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 8:02 and stated that the Open Meeting of the NEC Board of Directors was being 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. Dr. Morrison asked that Kathy Mahoney conduct a roll call to record attendance as well as to vote on the Consent Agenda. Roll call was done with 11 members present.
- II. **Remarks from the Public - none**
- III. **Roll Call Attendance and Approval of Consent Agenda**
MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Morrison to accept the consent agenda. Roll call was done with 11 members to approve December 02, 2020 BOD Minutes, February Appointments as presented.
VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously
- IV. **Executive Director Report February 2021**

COVID Updates: Ms. Rosenberg reported since December we have had 20 new positive cases of staff or students (12 of these did not require anyone else to quarantine as the individual had not been in the building during their contagious period) We have had many more people needing to quarantine due to close contacts, and a significant increase in staff anxiety. This has impacted staffing, but we have been able to manage and maintain our schedule with all students in school 4 or 5 days per week. Covid Testing. We have signed up to participate in the Pooled Testing sponsored by DESE. Our preliminary plan is to offer this to staff only, and not include students at this time. We are working on our implementation plan

Construction: All students have moved back into their classrooms at 112 Sohier Road and have resumed the hybrid schedules that were in place. All construction is complete with the exception of a few items that will be finished during the February vacation period. While we are still waiting final numbers from the Insurance Company, most costs will be covered. Details are presented with the financial report.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Work: Ms. Rosenberg was pleased to report that despite the challenges of the pandemic we have continued with our equity and diversity work.

Our EL Coordinator/Teacher is now full time, and has been meeting directly with students in –person or via zoom and doing consultation and training with staff via Zoom. She has also helped teams focus on the importance of translating for parents, even when the student is not officially an EL.

Our Diversity Task Force has been very active, with a core group of staff members participating from all programs. The task force has been running two monthly drop-in groups, held on Zoom and facilitated by Task Force members. These are completely voluntary, and held during “planning time.” One is called “Diversity Drop-In Group” and is billed as a “safe space to share thoughts, feelings, and experiences ” and the other is “Brave Conversations” which is a more structured group, with discussion based on a short article or podcast. In addition, we were able to reschedule the six workshops originally planned for our PD Day in March 2020. The workshops were on Friday afternoons on Zoom All staff members were required to attend at least one workshop, but many took advantage of the opportunity to attend more. We had some excellent presenters from MPY and IDEAS and topics addressed issues such as Cultural Proficiency, Anti-Racism, and Support for Transgender Students. Feedback from our staff was mostly positive, with many expressing interest in “next steps.” I am working with the Task Force and my Leadership Team to determine next steps, and how to link this work to our overall curriculum planning and strategic planning.

Grants and New Initiatives -We have received some financial relief through state and private grants to offset Covid related expenses, and to provide Mental Health Services to districts. We are looking at the best models for continuing and/or expanding Connections wraparound programming, and Mental Health Consultation. I would urge you to consider using the recently announced \$10,000 of supplemental state funding for mental health to purchase services from us in this area. We will continue to look for grant funding to offset costs so that we can offer these services for reduced rates. Michelle Lipinski and I have submitted a substantial bid for a DPH/BSAS grant to expand afterschool and summer programming for teenagers with substance use disorders.

If we receive it, services would begin this spring and extend through 2022. The programming would serve RHS students as well as a limited number of students from member districts/ PASS districts in need of these supports

Ms. Rosenberg asked if any board members who would like to stay after meeting for informal discussions on how NEC could be helpful in providing mental health services to districts.

Dr. Morrison asked about any “punch list” items that still need to be repaired. Ms. Rosenberg responded that a few small things would be completed over February vacation. Ms. Rosenberg’s full report will be included with the minutes

NOTE: Five additional board members joined the meeting: Dr. Charochak , Ms. Banios, Dr. Buckey, Dr. Harvey and Dr. Daly making 16 members in attendance for this portion of the meeting

V. Finance Report: Brian Forget , Glenn Bergevin and Kevin Mahoney

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Mahoney reviewed the November and December 2020 reports. There were no questions.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Bartholomew to approve the November 2020 and December 2020 Treasurer's Reports as presented. A roll call was done with 16 members present.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Bartholomew and seconded by Mr. Forget to approve the warrants as presented. A roll call was done with 16 members present.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Budget YTD and Proposed Revised Budget :

Mr. Forget reminded the Board that Mr. Bergevin would be giving a summary, but that the Finance Committee had reviewed all materials. He reviewed the decisions made last spring to approve a deficit budget with the expectation that approximately one million dollars would be moved from reserves to balance the operating budget. He stated that we were roughly on track with this plan.

Mr. Bergevin reviewed the revised projections and the Draft Revised FY2021 Budget. The budget is now projected to have a negative \$1,360,000 of revenues less expenses. In order to meet the DESE requirement of showing a balanced budget this shortfall has been adjusted to zero via a withdrawal from NEC's cumulative surplus. This revised budget shows a negative balance that is \$303,000 greater than the original Board Approved budget. The decrease is a result of reducing the anticipated DESE grant for Recovery High School, adjusting the enrollment projection, updating payroll, and resetting several expense lines. Details are attached.

Mr. Lummis asked if Northshore Education had access to any of the additional state funding that was given out before year end. Ms. Rosenberg noted that the first round of funding went only to public schools, and that NEC chose not to ask districts for any student-specific pass-through dollars. In this latest round of Grants, DESE did \$15,000 for Special Ed Covid-related expenses and we anticipate receiving some additional funds.

Update on Flood/Water Damage and Construction Expenses The water damage at 112 Sohier has been remediated and the building repaired so that all students are back in their classrooms Mr. Bergevin reviewed work sheet for the current state of insurance reimbursement. There are a few items that remain to be settled. The \$96,000 (estimated) that NEC will absorb will be capitalized. Assuming that the \$96,000 is funded from the capital fund, it will not impact the calculation of earned surplus. This amount includes a deductible, some unfunded expenses, and approximately \$45,000 of upgrades to the ductwork that we have agreed to have done while contractors were "in the walls."

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Lummis to approve the revised budget with the understanding that funds would be moved from surplus to cover operating expenses. The actual dollar amount will be approved by the board in June 2021. Roll call was done with 16 members present.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Angelakis and seconded by Mr. Forget to approve the utilization of Capital Funds to cover any construction related expenses not covered by insurance. Not to exceed the amount of \$120,000. Roll call was done with 16 members present.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

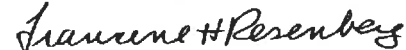
VI. Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Blake and seconded by Dr. Vadala to adjourn from the meeting at 8:50 am . Roll call was done with 13 members present.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously.



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director