



NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Board of Directors Minutes
May 19, 2021

PRESENT:	Beverly:	Dr. Charochak
	Danvers:	Dr. Dana
	Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
	Lynn:	Dr. Tutwiler
	Lynnfield:	Ms. Vogel
	Manchester-Essex	Ms. Beaudoin
	Marblehead:	Dr. John Buckey
	Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
	North Reading:	Dr. Daly
	Peabody:	Dr. Vadala
	Pentucket:	Dr. Bartholomew
	Reading:	Dr. Doherty
	Rockport:	Mr. Liebow
	Salem:	Dr. Zrike
	Triton:	Mr. Forget
	Tri-Town:	Dr. Morrison
NEC:	F. Rosenberg	G. Bergevin
	Ms. Mahoney	K. Mahoney, NEC Treasurer
		Ms. Ford, AFT President
Guest:	Ms. Sladen	Executive Director, Children's Friend & Family Services
ABSENT:	Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
	Hamilton Wenham:	Ms. Banios
	Nahant:	Dr. Pierantozzi
	Swampscott:	Ms. Angelakis

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 8:03 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 12 members present.

- II. **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 12 members to approve April 2021 BOD Minutes, May 19, 2021 Appointments as presented.
VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously
Ms. Beaudoin, Dr. Buckey, Dr. Harvey and Dr. Vadala joined the meeting after this vote

III. Remarks from the Public - none

IV. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Report May 2021

The past month has been a time of joy and sorrow for the NEC community. As shared in April, one of our students passed away unexpectedly from complications due to Covid-19, pneumonia and underlying medical conditions. Stever had attended the Kevin O'Grady School since 2015, and had strong ties in the Salem and Peabody communities. Stever will be greatly missed by his classroom staff and the whole KOG community.

On a more positive note, we had a smooth transition back to full time in-person learning, and are planning for a variety of year-end activities. Our graduation ceremonies will be smaller and briefer than usual, we will have 12 students graduating from Soar/Embark, 11 students graduating from Recovery High School, 21 graduates from Northshore Academy and 9 from Topsfield Vocational. NEC has had several unexpected retirement announcements in the past few weeks. Ken Letzring will be leaving Northshore Academy at the end of August. Ken has been the Principal of NSA for twenty years, and has built the program into the outstanding therapeutic school that it is today. He has been a strong source of support our leadership team, and his presence will be missed. We are in the process of interviewing, and have several strong candidates.

In addition, our long-time board member Dr. John Doherty is retiring and this will be our last meeting with him. Ms. Rosenberg reflected on her first year at NEC, publicly thanking Dr. Doherty for his leadership and support, while dealing with a difficult medical diagnosis and complex union negotiations his willingness to stay on as board chair for an additional year during some very difficult times. Dr. Doherty we are forever thankful and you will be missed on this board.

Ellen Ford our AFT Local President has joined us this morning, will also be retiring in June. Ms. Rosenberg thanked for her years as union president. On behalf of the board we want to thank you for your commitment to NEC and doing what is best for children and wish you well.

Strategic Planning, encouraging my team to think beyond this year of crisis. Where we want to be five years from now. These conversations will continue through the summer and will inform the strategic planning process.

Given the number of districts interested in continuing or expanding their contracts with our Connections program, we will be hiring an additional outreach social worker. Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about how our Connections outreach team can support your district.

Thanks to the efforts of Michelle Lipinski, we have finally received a large, multi-year, DPH grant, which will enable us to expand summer and after-school programming for Recovery High School students, as well as to students from your districts who need recovery supports. As we work through the details, we will be sharing more information, starting with our PASS Program partner districts.

Dr. Morrison on behalf of the board wish to thank and congratulate Dr. Doherty and Ms. Ford on their retirement. Echo to what Ms. Rosenberg said about both members. These meetings we come together and work together so well and this is due to relationships built before us. Past down from the people here before us, veteran staff have set the tone for the next generation and Dr. Doherty was a big part of this board and level of commitment, we are grateful for all of your work with NEC.

Ms. Rosenberg's full report is attached.

Budget has already been approved this morning discussion will just be budget updates

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

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Mahoney reviewed the Treasurer's Reports for March and April. There were no questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Dana to approve the March/April 2021 warrants as presented. Roll call was done with 15 members

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

FY 2022 Budget Overview: Mr. Bergevin noted that Finance committee agreed not to meet prior to this meeting as there have been no significant changes since the last meeting. We are projecting a negative of 1.3 million which means that at the fall board meeting we will need a formal vote to move money from cumulative surplus in order to balance the budget. The negative 1.3 million is a little more than the 1.1 million that the Board had approved in the revised budget. Census has rebounded but not to the number initially projected. There were no questions from the Board.

Proposal to establish and OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) trust: Mr. Bergevin raised the recommendation to establish an OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) trust. He explained that this is for benefits other than pensions that employers provide to retired workers. They can include life and health insurance. Regulations say we do not have to have a trust, although it is strongly recommended by DESE. Ms. Rosenberg added that at this time she recommends that the Board vote to proceed in setting up the trust. Although it is unlikely that at some point in the future NEC were dissolved, money in the trust would be protected. In addition, in future years, if we had a surplus, we could put additional money into the trust. Ms. Beaudoin stated that she fully supports this recommendation. She said that they have established a trust in Manchester/Essex and offered her business manager to help.

Dr. Doherty said that SEEM Collaborative has set up OPEB trust and suggested that we contact Ms. Lawson for help with process. Mr. Forget said that it would be a positive move in the right direction and that the key is to "establish the trust" even if very little money went into it initially.

VI. New Business-

Dr. Morrison thanked Ms. Rosenberg for her great leadership through this extraordinary difficult school year and thanked her for everything she has done for NEC. He told the board that he had met with Ms. Rosenberg to review her self-evaluation and goals, and that he would be communicating with board members to solicit feedback in order to complete her evaluation.

Ms. Rosenberg asked members to check proposed meeting dates for conflicts and please get back to Ms. Mahoney with any suggested changes. There was some discussion of whether to continue to do some meetings via Zoom if that is allowed under Public Meeting law.

Ms. Rosenberg thanked Dr. Morrison as he has agreed to continue as board chair for a second year.

VII. Guest Speaker: Stephanie Sladen, Executive Director of Children's Friend and Family Services /JRI

Ms. Sladen pointed out that May is mental health month. She explained that CFFS/JRI already works with many member districts and that she is eager to partner with districts on behalf of children and families. The main office is located in Salem, with satellite offices in Lynn, Gloucester and Lawrence. Ms. Sladen commentd on the problems that existed in the mental health system prior to the pandemic and how this past year has taken a toll. She referenced an increase of depression, anxiety

from the isolation, panic disorders, eating disorders and highest number of suicides, more than any other year working on the north shore.

Ms. Sladen then spoke of ways that schools and her agency can collaborate and think creatively to meet needs. She emphasized that getting help does not have to equal long term therapy. She highlighted a pilot program that is starting with grant funding, training staff to train teenagers to provide peer support using "Teen Mental Health First Aid". She provided information on this program and invited districts to consider partnering on this initiative.

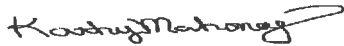
Dr. Zrike and Mr. Liebow left the meeting

VIII. Adjournment:

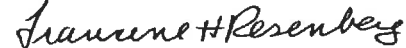
Ms. Rosenberg thanked board members for their help and support, and wished them a good summer.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Morrison to adjourn from the meeting at 8:46 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