



# NORTHSHORE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

## Board of Directors Minutes October 27, 2021

|                 |  |                  |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Beverly:                                   | Dr. Charochak    |
|                 | Danvers:                                   | Dr. Dana         |
|                 | Ipswich:                                   | Dr. Blake        |
|                 | Lynn:                                      | Dr. Tutwiler     |
|                 | Lynnfield:                                 | Ms. Vogel        |
|                 | Manchester-Essex:                          | Ms. Beaudoin     |
|                 | Masconomet:                                | Dr. Harvey       |
|                 | Nahant:                                    | Dr. Pierantozzi  |
|                 | North Reading:                             | Dr. Daly         |
|                 | Peabody:                                   | Dr. Vadala       |
|                 | Pentucket:                                 | Dr. Bartholomew  |
|                 | Rockport:                                  | Mr. Liebow       |
|                 | Salem:                                     | Dr. Zrike        |
|                 | Triton:                                    | Mr. Forget       |
|                 | Tri-Town:                                  | Dr. Morrison     |
| <b>NEC:</b>     | F. Rosenberg                               | G. Bergevin      |
|                 | K. Mahoney, NEC Treasurer                  | J. Ziegler, AFT  |
| <b>Guests</b>   | Daniel E. Schaffner, Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC |                  |
|                 | Paulajo Gaines, Department of Education    |                  |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>  | Gloucester:                                | Mr. Lummis       |
|                 | Hamilton Wenham:                           | Mr. Tracy        |
|                 | Marblehead:                                | Dr. Buckey       |
|                 | Reading:                                   | Dr. Milaschewski |
|                 | Swampscott:                                | Ms. Angelakis    |

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 8:04 and read the following statement: "Open Meeting of the NEC Board of Directors is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, and the provisions extended by Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 signed by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The Meeting is being recorded. Members of the Public who would like access can join the Zoom Meeting. The matters listed below are those reasonably anticipated by the Chairperson that may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law."

Ms. Rosenberg welcomed Ms. Paulajo Gaines from the Department of Education. Ms. Rosenberg stated before we approve the consent agenda which includes new hires that Dr. Dana had disclosed her relationship to new hire Bryant Dana (son) at our SOAR/Embark program

**II. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Morrison to accept the consent agenda. Roll call was done with 15 members present to approve the consent agenda including Sept 2021 BOD Minutes, October 2021 Appointments and warrants as presented. 14 voted to approve consent agenda. Dr. Dana abstained.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved

**III. Finance Report:** Ms. Rosenberg gave overview of FY22 Year to Date (Mr. Bergevin was delayed) stating that September was slightly behind budget due to lower than anticipated enrollment at NSAU and NSAL, but that referrals were coming in. No questions.

**IV. Presentation of the FY21 Audited Financial Statements:** Mr. Schaffner presented draft versions of the Financial Statements and UFR as well as a Summary of Financial Activity which summarized the key pages of the reports and offered explanations of technical accounting terms and explanations of the variances from prior years. Mr. Schaffner reported that despite COVID, flood damage related expenses and the anticipated deficit of 1.1 million, it was a smooth and clean audit, and that there were no major findings to report on for the year. He emphasized that Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Bergevin had kept the Board fully informed of finances throughout the year, and that the deficit was anticipated.

Mr. Schaffner reviewed the four necessary motions. No questions from board.

**MOTION:** The following motions were made Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Dana:

1. To approve the 2021 Audited Financial Statement,
2. To approve the 2021 Uniform Financial Report (UFR)
3. To approve the amount of cumulative surplus as \$4,146,814
4. To approve the use of \$1,098,481 from FY20 surplus to cover the FY21 deficit.

**VOTE:** A Roll Call vote was done with 14 members still in attendance. The four motions were approved unanimously

**V. Executive Director's Report –** Ms. Rosenberg presented her report. No questions (full report to be included with minutes)

**VI. New and Continuing Business**

ED Evaluation – Mr. Morrison summarized Ms. Rosenberg's evaluation and thanked her for all of her hard work and leadership. Ms. Rosenberg thanked Board for their support on behalf of our shared students.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Motion:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Forget and seconded by Ms. Charochak at 8:57 a.m. Roll call was done with 13 members present

**VOTE:** The motion was moved unanimously



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Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



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Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director



## **Executive Director's Report**

**October 2021**

### **General Update**

Like most districts, we have had a challenging fall, as we deal with ongoing Covid-19 issues, a high level of student acuity, and workforce morale and hiring issues. I am proud that our Leadership Team has remained steady and focused, and that overall, things appear to be stabilizing.

### **Progress Toward Strategic Goals**

#### **Goal 1: Continue to Strengthen Quality of Programs and Services**

Our October PD day was very successful. We brought together educators from all of our therapeutic programs to talk about curriculum and pedagogy, utilizing some of the DESE OPTIC tools to focus on ways to improve student engagement for diverse learners. Educators from our KOG, and Transition programs had parallel trainings, and all of our Counselors and Social Workers came together for a training on the use of DBT techniques in a school setting.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, employees will be able to choose from 5 workshops offered by MPY on topics related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our leadership team has embraced our first effort to do a "shared read" focused on racism. We have had several meaningful discussions, using the book *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, knowing that we cannot help our staff and students move forward in having "brave conversations" unless we are willing to do so ourselves.

Our DEI Committee continues to do great work leading monthly "drop-in groups" on zoom and publishing a monthly newsletter.

A new cohort of 20 educators has started the Lesley University certificate program on Trauma and Learning, and we continue to use grant funding to receive consultation from ThinkKids on the implementation of collaborative problem solving approaches.

There has been much enthusiasm about the return to community-based vocational activities, and the ability to take seasonal field trips!

#### **Goal 2: Maintain Financial and Leadership Stability for Long-Range Sustainability; Strengthen Supporting Infrastructure**

Our business office, technology and HR teams have been working diligently to prepare for the implementation of the Infinite Visions platform, which will vastly improve the way we manage our financial systems as well as give employees a "real time" HR portal. We look forward to eliminating the use of paper forms!!

While enrollment in a couple of programs remains behind target, we are receiving many referrals. We have been fortunate to receive several philanthropic gifts to supplement our budget, including a recent gift from The Salem Police Superior Officer's and Patrolman's Association of iPads (fully loaded with specialized software) for 13 students at the KOG school who require assistive technology for communication.

**Goal 3: Expand capacity to meet regional needs and advocacy for students with special educational, mental health, and substance use needs.**

Our Connections and Consultation services continue to expand to meet the needs of districts. We are providing wraparound supports in several new districts, as well as clinical supervision and consultation.

I continue to be actively involved with MOEC and at the table for state-wide conversations about student mental health, recovery high schools, and the role that Collaboratives can play in supporting regional initiatives.

Finally, I invite you all to save the date for our ***Festivus 5K for Autism*** road race, which will be “live” again this year on December 12<sup>th</sup> in Salem! This race was started 10 years ago by the Johnson family and a group of parents in Salem. It became an NEC event when Trevor Johnson became a student at Northshore Academy. Trevor is now a successful college student, and Cindy Johnson, his proud Mom, is the President of the Friends of NEC Board! The race has raised thousands of dollars to support our students! Many of our employees, students, and families are planning to run or walk (wheelchairs and strollers are welcome!)...and we’d love to have you join us!!