



NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Board of Directors Minutes
May 18, 2022

PRESENT:	Beverly:	Dr. Charochak
	Danvers:	Mr. Taverna
	Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
	Hamilton Wenham:	Mr. Tracy
	Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
	Lynn:	Dr. Tutwiler
	Lynnfield:	Ms. Vogel
	Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
	North Reading:	Dr. Daly
	Pentucket:	Dr. Bartholomew
	Reading:	Dr. Milaschewski
	Rockport:	Mr. Leibow
	Salem:	Dr. Zrike
	Swampscott:	Ms. Angelakis
	Triton:	Mr. Forget
	Tri-Town:	Dr. Morrison
NEC:	F. Rosenberg	G. Bergevin
	K. Mahoney, NEC Treasurer	K. Mahoney
	M. Bourgault, Facilities	J. Ziegler – NEC AFT President
ABSENT:	Manchester-Essex:	Ms. Beaudoin
	Marblehead:	Dr. Buckey
	Nahant:	Dr. Pierantozzi
	Peabody:	Dr. Vadala

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

- II. **Approval of Consent Agenda**
MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Forget to accept the consent agenda. Roll call was done with 12 members present to approve the consent agenda including April 2022 BOD Minutes and May 2022 Appointments and warrants as presented. 12 voted to approve the consent agenda.
VOTE: The motion was approved

Dr. Charochak, Mr. Lummis, Dr. Blake and Dr. Harvey joined the meeting

- III. Recognition of Retiring Superintendents** - Ms. Rosenberg thanked Dr. Lisa Dana and Mr. Robert Liebow for the many years of Board Support, Participation, Leadership and Dedication. Dr. Morrison and members thanked retirees for making a big difference where it mattered for so many years.
- IV. Executive Director's Report:** Fran Rosenberg gave a year-end report (attached) Mr. Lummis made a statement on behalf of Gloucester Public Schools thanking NEC Staff for their continual support. He expressed particular appreciation for the Connections Program.
- V. Finance Report:** Glenn Bergevin, Kevin Mahoney
Mr. Mahoney reviewed the March and April 2022 Treasurer's Report (attached). Our average daily balance remains consistent with sufficient funds on hand to meet cash requirement. There were no questions.

Mr. Bergevin reported on FY2022 year-end projection. Budget was originally set at negative \$116,000 but census and payroll projection has been updated since then with a net effect of a projected positive bottom line of around \$11,000. The positive number is before the additional member assessment that was approved at the April board meeting. Once the audit is finalized, the board can vote to formally transfer the full amount of the surplus funds to the capital fund

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Ms. Angelakis to accept March and April 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll call was done with 16 members present.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously

Mr. Tracy left the meeting 8:50 am

- VI. Continuing Business**
Update on Vaccine Policy Implementation- Ms. Rosenberg stated that we are 99% in compliance with board approved policy and that she is not recommending disciplinary action for the small number of non-compliant employees. After consultation with legal counsel, Ms. Rosenberg recommends that the policy committee meet over the summer to review the policy. Board members expressed agreement with this approach.
- VII. New Business:**
Ms. Rosenberg reported that we are working on scheduling initial dates for collective bargaining.

Process for Executive Director Evaluation- Dr. Morrison, Mr. Forget and Ms. Angelakis agreed to help with process over the summer. Ms. Rosenberg will send them her self-assessment.

Board Leadership for FY23- Ms. Angelakis accepted board chair position for one year.

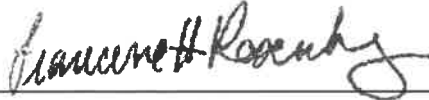
VIII. **Executive Session:** Grievance was withdrawn by AFT so no executive session was required.

IX. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Blake and seconded by Mr. Forget to adjourn meeting at 9:03 am. Roll call was done with 13 members present.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

May 2022

General Update

I am very pleased to report that despite the many challenges of this year, we are heading toward the end of the year in a stable position both programmatically and financially. Thanks to the diligent efforts of program staff to admit more students in the second half of the year, our budget will be close to break-even, and with the support of the board, we will begin to replenish our capital reserves.

We are looking forward to several graduation ceremonies in the coming weeks with a total of 46 students graduating from our three high schools. As one of these students said "Two years ago, I didn't have any hope. And now I will be attending the college of my dreams." All high school graduations are special occasions, but for our students who have overcome so many additional barriers, they are often truly miraculous!!

Progress Toward Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Continue to Strengthen Quality of Programs and Services

I have started to solicit input from key stakeholders, to update our strategic plan. 19 people responded to my recent survey (primarily special education administrators and out-of-district coordinators). Respondents spoke to the quality of programming, positive outcomes for students, and trust that had developed in NEC staff. They also expressed appreciation for cost-effective in-district services, and the support that staff receive through consultation and job-alike groups. When asked about areas of improvement, respondents wanted increased capacity for supporting students with significant behavioral issues. Some addressed specific quality improvement ideas for particular programs. Several addressed additional services that NEC might develop to reduce districts having the need for other private contracts (i.e. AAC evaluations, tutoring).

I have been meeting regularly with the staff at Topsfield Vocational Academy, so that I am prepared to orient the incoming principal and use this transition as an opportunity to address some areas in need of improvement in terms of positive behavioral supports, documentation, and communication with districts.

At Northshore Academy Lower School, a new reading curriculum has been ordered, and a great deal of work is being done to enhance early literacy instruction for our youngest learners. We have also worked to expand SLP and EL services at this site.

In his first year at Northshore Academy Upper School, Dave Mercier has done an impressive job at helping teams use data more effectively, and to integrate SEL and DEI goals into every aspect of curriculum and instruction.

Our Soar and Embark programs have continued to expand to meet the needs of transition aged youth. In response to demand from districts, we have sought approval from DESE to increase the size of the programs.

Our DESE mid-cycle review will take place in the fall, so we have begun the self-study process and will be submitting documentation over the summer.

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

Work continues on the implementation of our new Tyler Technologies/ Infinite Visions platform, which will improve the way we manage our financial and HR systems.

As mentioned above, and at last month's meeting, I am pleased that we are "getting back to baseline" financially and in the process of planning for our future capital needs.

We will be beginning negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. Despite a late start, I am hopeful that this will be a positive process. It will likely require that an additional board meeting be scheduled over the summer.

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. Five districts have already contracted for next year. We have had more requests for Youth Mental Health First Aid training. And, we are providing clinical supervision to counseling staff in four districts.

I continue to serve on the Youth At Risk Conference committee. The conference will take place on May 25th at Endicott College. After being remote for two years, we are thrilled that over 500 participants have registered from a wide variety of school districts and community mental health agencies. NEC will be well represented with staff presenting workshops on our DEI work and on youth in recovery from substance use. In addition, our KOG students are making all of the centerpieces, and art work from several of our programs will be displayed.

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. We recently met with Commissioner Riley and Associate Commissioner Regina Robinson to share information about our Connections Program, as a potentially replicable "best practice" to address mental health needs of students. Regional job-alike groups for special education administrators, special education team chair-people, and school psychologists continue to be well attended.

On May 26th, students and staff from RHS will be performing at the Boch Center Wang Theater as part of Express Yourself. This is always a wonderful event featuring youth with mental health challenges from a variety of programs and schools across MA.

Finally, we invite you participate in our Walk and Roll fundraiser on June 4th. KOG students will walk and roll around the building and track, to raise money for a memorial garden. We are specifically hoping to create an outdoor memorial to Miles Martha, a beloved KOG teacher who passed away in December.