



NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Board of Directors Minutes
March 01, 2023

PRESENT:	Beverly:	Dr. Charochak
	Danvers:	Ms. Wermers
	Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
	Hamilton Wenham:	Mr. Tracy
	Lynn:	Ms. Ruggiero
	Lynnfield:	Ms. Vogel
	Manchester-Essex:	Ms. Beaudoin
	Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
	North Reading:	Dr. Daly
	Peabody:	Dr. Vadala
	Pentucket:	Dr. Bartholomew
	Reading:	Dr. Milaschewski
	Rockport:	Dr. Branco
	Swampscott:	Ms. Angelakis
	Triton:	Mr. Forget
	Tri-Town:	Dr. Morrison
NEC:	F. Rosenberg	G. Bergevin
	K. Mahoney	K. Mahoney
Guests:	Mr. Zeigler	AFT local 4293 President
ABSENT:	Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
	Marblehead:	Dr. Buckey
	Nahant:	Dr. Pierantozzi
	Salem:	Dr. Zrike

- I. **Call to Order:** Ms. Angelakis called the meeting to order at 8:04 am 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 Mr. Forget and seconded Dr. Lummis to accept the consent agenda which included the Feb 2023 BOD Minutes, March 2023 Appointments, warrants as presented. Roll call was done. 12 voted to approve consent agenda.
VOTE: The motion was approved

Ms. Wermers, Mr. Tracy, Ms. Ruggiero joined the meeting at 8:07

III. Report from Joint Meeting of Facilities/Capital Planning and Finance Committees:

Ms. Rosenberg reported on the Capital Planning and Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday, February 27. Committee members met the HVAC team; (OPM) Owners Project Manager Mr. Suresh Bhatia, Project Manager Mr. Ron Votto, Mechanical Engineer Mr. Bill Scanlon and Design Manager, Mr. Brian Bourgeois and reviewed their recommendations with the board.

Dr. Harvey explained they are looking at an all-electric system and are about fifty percent through the way of the design process. We should have final cost by the end of the month. He stated that the team explained they have a 6-12-month lead time on equipment, and that construction would likely not be until the summer of 2024. Therefore, the full cost of construction won't hit the budget until FY2025.

Mr. Bergevin has meet with bank to explore financing options. The indicated time line from the Project Manager anticipates that construction on the HVAC project won't start until late FY2024 to early FY2025. The full project cost is estimated to be about \$6,000,000, which would require financing. M&T Bank has indicated that they would be willing to finance 80% of that or approximately \$4,800,000. They used today's rate of 6% which would add about \$319,000 to the annual budget. Financing will need to be assured before the construction begins.

Ms. Rosenberg will continue to explore additional grant and Mass Save options and work with MOEC to advocate for direct relief through DESE/Legislature.
No questions from the board

Ms. Beudoin joined the meeting at 8:30 am

IV. Finance Report: Mr. Bergevin & Mr. Mahoney

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Mahoney reviewed the January 2023 Treasurer's Report. Year to date, overall positive, net change in cash position of \$150, 424.17. This position remains consistent with sufficient funds on hand to meet net cash requirement.
There were no questions from the board

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded Dr. Daly to accept January 2023 Treasurer's Reports as presented. Roll call was done. 16 voted to approve.

VOTE: The motion was approved

First reading of Proposed Budget for FY24 and associated tuition rates. Mr. Bergevin reviewed the first pass of FY2024 Budget which shows a positive bottom line of \$235,000. This number was achieved with a 5% tuition increase across all programs. The census used is essentially the same as FY2023. It includes an anticipated, but not yet confirmed, Recovery High School grant from DPH. The most significant cost changes are in the payroll and benefit lines. As a result of union contract negotiations, the anticipated payroll increases by about 4.6%. Medical insurance costs are not yet finalized (anticipated to be known by the 2nd budget vote) The broker has estimated a 5 to 10% increase.

Mr. Bergevin explained that based on feedback from the committee, he also looked at an alternative that raises tuition by 4 % for members and 7% for non-members, which would yield a similar bottom line.

Supplies are projected to increase based on current activity with the level of census. This is offset by anticipated savings in telephone expense due to a new contract and outside staff services savings.

Ms. Rosenberg asked for board input. Mr. Forget supported the idea of increasing the rate for non-member districts, since member districts have carried additional costs over the past few years. He felt that this option allowed us to remain competitive but supported member districts. Ms. Angelakis, Dr. Bartholomew and Mr. Lummis supported this approach. Mr. Lummis stated the importance of continuing to make sure that member districts were prioritized when programs are fully enrolled.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Bartholomew and seconded Dr. Morrison to approve the first vote on the proposed FY2024 Budget w/option B (4%/ 7%) as presented. Roll call was done. 16 voted to approve.

VOTE: The motion was approved

V. **Executive Director's Report:** Ms. Rosenberg's full report will be included with the minutes.

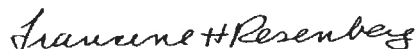
VI. **Adjournment:**

Motion: A motion was made at 8:51 am by Dr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Tracy to adjourn from meeting. Roll call was done with 16 members present.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously.



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director

Executive Director's Report

March 2023

February was a short month, so this will be a brief report.

Goal 1: Continue to Strengthen Quality of Programs and Services

We are so proud that 15 of our Kevin O'Grady School students have received Student Achievement Awards from DESE for Exceeding Expectations or Progressing on the 2022 MCAS-Alt. Each student received a certificate of excellence and a gift card for a "special treat." Preparing the MCAS-Alt portfolios is a huge amount of work, and I am so proud of our students, and their dedicated teachers who made sure that their achievements were well documented!

In our Therapeutic Programs, we have continued to dedicate a lot of energy to providing trauma-informed learning environments and embracing restorative justice practices, with the hope of reducing the need for punitive responses, time-outs, restraints, and suspensions. Northshore Academy Upper School is proud to report that for the first half of this school year, there were 21 suspensions, as compared with 38 last year.

All of our programs continue to find ways to enrich students' experiences and incorporate their strengths. KOG is participating in a music residency through Young Audiences, RHS students will once again be performing with Express Yourself, TVA and NSA students are participating in intramural basketball, and NSA is continuing to host weekend LAN parties with staff support provided through grant funding. The week before vacation, NSAL held a wonderful (and adorable) series of "Kindness Week" activities!

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

It has been a busy month for our Facilities team.

On February 4th a sprinkler head burst due to cold water, causing a flood at 112 Sohier Road. Our team, with the help of ServPro, did an excellent job of responding promptly, mitigating the damage, and doing all of the necessary drying and cleaning. We had to close KOG for three days, but were back in full swing by Thursday.

In addition, there was an unexpected need to replace booster pumps at 112 Sohier Road, and we are in the process of replacing fire alarm panels. Despite all of this, a lot of painting and preventive maintenance took place during vacation week! And, renovation work, funded by our landlord, is about to begin at 126 Sohier Road.

As the Board will hear in more detail, we are continuing to proceed with the Design Phase of the HVAC project, and are exploring financing options. This will be a huge project over the next two years.

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

Our leadership continues to take every opportunity to contribute to the broader conversations affecting our students. I continue to be actively involved with MOEC, advocating on behalf of Collaboratives and special education in general, and our job-alike groups are very active!