



**NORTHSHORE
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 04, 2024**

Present:	Beverly:	Dr. Charochak
	Hamilton Wenham:	Mr. Tracy
	Lynnfield:	Mr. Geary
	Manchester-Essex:	Ms. Beaudoin
	Marblehead:	Mr. Robidoux
	Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
	Nahant:	Mr. Liebow
	North Reading:	Dr. Daly
	Peabody:	Dr. Vadala
	Reading:	Dr. Milaschewski
	Rockport:	Dr. Branco
	Salem:	Dr. Zrike
	Swampscott:	Ms. Angelakis
	Tri-Town:	Dr. Morrison
NEC:	F. Rosenberg	KF. Mahoney
	L. Fleming	K. Mahoney
	J. Zeigler	AFT Local President
Guests:	Samuel Rippin	Business Manager, Peabody
Absent:	Danvers:	Mr. Bauer
	Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
	Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
	Lynn	Dr. Alvarez
	Pentucket:	Dr. Bartholomew
	Triton:	Mr. Forget

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and read the following statement: This Open Meeting of the NEC Board of Directors is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Healey’s extension of the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025
2. **Approval of Consent Agenda**
MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Morrison and seconded Dr. Charochak to approve the Oct 23, 2024 BOD Minutes, November 13,2024 Finance Committee Minutes, October warrants and December 2024 Appointments. Roll call was done. 12 voted to approve the consent agenda.
VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

3. **Executive Director's Report/ Presentation of the FY24 Annual Report:** Ms. Rosenberg welcomed and thanked the board members for attending, acknowledging the challenges faced by Beverly, Gloucester, and Marblehead during recent school strikes. She read a Facebook post from a former student, who credited educators with shaping her life and described them as "real-life superheroes," emphasizing the profound impact and purpose of their work.

Ms. Rosenberg shared the FY2024 Annual Report and reminded Board Members that the Annual Report gives a snapshot of Northshore Education Consortium all in one place, as outlined by DESE, and that board members are required to bring this report to school committees. Once the report is approved, we will be sending board members electronic as well hard copies to share with your school committees.

Dr. Morrison thanked Ms. Rosenberg for her presentation, noting that the report offers valuable insights for districts and helps inform the broader community about NEC's identity and impact.

Ms. Beaudoin and Dr. Vadala joined the meeting at 8:15 am

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Angelakis and seconded by Mr. Robidoux to approve the FY2024 Annual Report. Roll call was done. 14 voted to approve.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously

4. **Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Mahoney reviewed the Treasurer Reports for October 31, 2024. Interest rates have declined, affecting interest income, which lags behind FY25 budget projections. However, total revenue is on target, at 31% of last year's performance. The capital project impacts cash flow, but no red flags are noted. October's deficit resulted from three payroll cycles, as anticipated. Current cash position is tighter than desired but expected due to billing and revenue timing.

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Daly and seconded by Dr. Vadala to accept October 2024 Treasurers reports as presented. Roll call was done with 14 votes.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

5. **Financial Update:** Mr. Fleming reported that the HVAC project is about 68% complete, with favorable change orders keeping it on track to finish on time and on budget. Communication on the project has been smooth, and he is pleased with the progress so far and majority to be completed by February.

Mr. Fleming gave a FY25 Budget Snapshot (as of 12/3/2024):

Revenue: Approved: \$33,151,230; Forecast: \$33,000,000

Expenses: Approved: \$33,065,468 Forecast: \$33,200,000

Excess/Deficiency: Approved: \$85,762 (surplus) Forecast: -\$200,000 (deficit) less than what our budget called for.

Key Variances: Revenue: Lower enrollment threatens further deficit. Expenses: Deferred HVAC costs from FY24 raised occupancy expenses. Deficit Includes: \$500,000 bank covenant to rebuild surplus. Controlled Costs: Salaries, taxes, and program expenses are on or under budget.

Next Step: Revised budget to be voted on 2/5/2025

Presentation of Capital Plan and Capital Budget: Five-year capital budget spreadsheet was shared.

Ms. Angelakis commented it's nice to see this all laid out. Helpful to plan and helpful for the board to see. Appreciation to Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Fleming for being open to suggestions and feedback.

Ms. Rosenberg emphasized the need for consistent capital funding. We need another funding mechanism aside from increasing tuition from the districts. If we don't set aside funds every year for capital needs, we will continue to fall behind.

Discussion of Long Range Planning for Buildings: Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Fleming presented a long-range review of NEC properties, including ownership, lease status, and program capacity.

Key points included:

- RHS Relocation: Need approval to issue an RFP for new RHS space for the 2026 school year to address affordability and free up space to expand the KOG program
- NSAU Property: Landlord is interested in selling. Although we are interested in purchasing, financial constraints prevent a down payment or taking on additional debt. A long-term lease remains secure.
- NSAL Property: Exploration of whether the Peabody space suits long-term needs.
- TVA Property: Owned by NEC and functioning well, with non-urgent capital needs.
- Enterprise Center (Salem): Leased at favorable rates and operationally effective.

Decisions and Actions: Agreement to issue an RFP for RHS to assess affordable options. Discussion on the opioid relief funding potentially supporting RHS relocation. Acknowledgment of workforce challenges for expansion of KOG, balancing staff availability with space needs. Overall, the consensus supports proceeding with the RFP to explore possibilities while considering workforce and space limitations.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Angelakis and seconded by Dr. Morrison to approve the posting of an RFP for the relocation of Recovery High School. Roll call was done with 14 votes.
VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Policy Committee Report:** Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Tracy presented an updated Title IX harassment policy. The policy was reviewed electronically, vetted by attorneys, and deemed standard and consistent. It is a straightforward update to the previous policy, brought forward for a first vote.

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Tracy to approve the 1st reading of the updated Title IX policy. Roll call was done with 14 votes.
VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

7. **Regional Transportation Project:** Mr. Fleming provided an update on the transportation project. Ms. Cavanaugh reported a 6% overall savings, with some variability. Additional data is needed, and an RFP for a single provider is planned for FY26. Four districts were absent from the meeting. A board vote is needed to proceed with the bid preparation. Dr. Branco requested a summary to share with school committees, emphasizing potential 5-6% savings in transportation costs.

Mr. Rippin expressed his optimism about the project, noting that some routes can be consolidated and more districts may join, increasing potential savings. He thanked participating districts, Ms. Cavanaugh and Mr. Fleming for their contributions.

Dr. Zrike left the meeting at 9:05 AM.

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Branco and seconded by Dr. Vadala to approve the RFP for the Regional Transportation Contract. Roll call was done with 13 votes.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

8. **New Business:** Ms. Rosenberg provided the following updates:

- 1) The Beverly City Council is voting on school signs in front of our Sohier Road buildings, an issue driven by some of our parents.
- 2) Two MOAs regarding resolved grievances are available in your folder for your reference. One related to the use of Peer Mentors at Soar and Embark. The other was about the use of contract services for unfilled positions.
- 3) The Union Contract process will start in January, and we are looking for three board members to be part of the bargaining team. If you're interested or available to help please inform Ms. Rosenberg. The goal is to have a positive process, with a combined contract for paraprofessionals and teachers.

Opioid Recovery Grant – Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Lipinski discussed a grant option that we could apply for and proposed a zero-barrier 40-day assessment program aimed at stabilizing students and returning them to their districts in better condition. The program could serve 12-15 students at a time, focusing on academic and long-term stabilization needs. If we received the grant, the program would be funded with \$500,000 over three years, and it would require districts to commit an annual fee. The program would share staffing costs, and the grant would partially fund transportation.

Districts were asked about Opioid relief money to allocate funding. Dr. Daly (North Reading), Dr. Charochak (Beverly), and Mr. Robidoux (Marblehead) will explore interest within their districts, while Swampscott stated they are working within own town relief funds so would not be interested in participating. Letters of commitment would be needed to move forward.

Dr. Valada left the meeting at 9:14 am

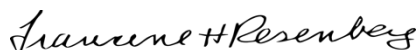
9. **Adjourn**

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Daly and seconded by Ms. Angelakis to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 am as presented. Roll call was done with 12 votes.

VOTE: The motion was moved unanimously



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director