



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2025

Present:	Beverly: Gloucester: Hamilton Wenham: Ipswich: Lynnfield: Masconomet: Peabody: Pentucket: Reading: Rockport: Salem: Tri-Town: Triton:	Dr. Charochak Mr. Lummis Mr. Tracy Dr. Blake Mr. Geary Dr. Harvey Dr. Vadala Dr. Bartholomew Dr. Milaschewski Dr. Branco Dr. Zrike Dr. Morrison Mr. Forget
NEC:	F. Rosenberg K. Mahoney	KF. Mahoney Ms. Thebaud- AFT Vice President
ABSENT:	Danvers: Lynn: Manchester Essex: Marblehead: Nahant: North Reading: Swampscott:	Mr. Bauer Dr. Alvarez Ms. Beaudoin Mr. Robidoux Mr. Liebow Dr. Daly Ms. Angelakis

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Harvey called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:04 AM
2. **Approval of Consent Agenda**
Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Brian Blake and seconded by Mr. Eric Tracy to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the April board meeting minutes, May appointments, and warrants.
Vote: The motion was moved unanimously
3. **Executive Directors Report** - Ms. Rosenberg welcomed union Vice President Ketty Thebaud. She then shared the Executive Director's Report which is available in the board folder. Ms. Rosenberg's updates included progress on ongoing goals, involvement in regional activities,

upcoming SEEM/NEC training on deaf education, graduation dates, regional transportation invoicing, DESE audit approval, and proposed Board meeting dates for next year.

4. **Finance Committee Report**- Mr. Fleming had prepared and included the census documents in the Board folder (Mr. Fleming's was absent due to his attendance at the MASBO conference)

Treasurer Report: Mr. Mahoney presented the Treasurer's Reports for both March and April 2025. He noted that the end-of-month cash on hand remains healthy, with approximately one month's worth of expenses available, which aligns with financial stability goals. He reported that revenue is tracking closely with figures from the prior year, indicating consistent performance. Overall, he confirmed that the organization's financials are tracking close to expectations, and it is anticipated that the Consortium will finish the fiscal year in a good position and on budget.

There were no board questions regarding the reports

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Forget and seconded by Dr. Vadala to approve the March and April 2025 Treasurers report as presented.

Vote: The Motion was moved unanimously

5. **RHS Committee Report** – Ms. Rosenberg explained the RHS Committee was established following board vote in April. The committee decided to put out an RFP to conduct a study related to regional needs and the financial viability of RHS. The study is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000, with funding potentially provided by the Friends of NEC. The committee considered this a worthwhile investment. Two proposals were received and considered: One was from Dr. Emily Hennessy from the MGH Recovery Research Institute, and one from The Rennie Center for Education Policy. The committee felt that both proposals were excellent, but that the Rennie Center had a slight edge due to their experience with public schools.

Dr. Morrison agreed that the committee felt that the Rennie Center demonstrated a better grasp of the scope and intent of the project. The committee is asking the board to take a formal vote to authorize moving forward with the selected proposal.

Dr. Milaschewski joined the meeting at 8:30 am

Dr. Branco asked when the study information would be ready for review.

Ms. Rosenberg noted the first step involves meeting with key stakeholders to begin gathering input and framing the direction of the study and that the Rennie Center would be prepared to present their findings in the fall.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Vadala and seconded by Dr. Bartholomew to allow Ms. Rosenberg to sign contract with Rennie Center for the Study of Recovery High School.

Vote: The Motion was moved unanimously

6. **Continuing Business Update:**

HVAC Project Update: Efforts are ongoing to stabilize temperature settings. It generally takes 1 to 2 months to fully calibrate the system.

Regional Transportation Project: Mr. Fleming is waiting on final signatures from remaining board members, with the hope that these will be collected this morning to move the project forward. He will send invoices shortly to participating districts and arrange an informational meeting in June.

7. **New Business:**

ED and Treasurer Evaluations: Dr. Harvey will be reaching out to board members over the summer to facilitate the evaluation process for Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Mahoney (Board Treasurer)

Summer PD for Principals on Inclusive Practices: Ms. Rosenberg shared a proposal for a professional development opportunity for elementary school principals on “leading an inclusive school.” The goal would be to create a safe and supportive space where principals could speak candidly about their challenges, particularly related to the inclusion of students with special needs and behavioral or mental health challenges, and helping staff develop the mindsets, skills, and structures to support all learners. The idea was met with enthusiasm, and several members gave feedback. Suggestions included structuring the development as a high-functioning professional learning community (PLC) where participants would not only feel safe sharing struggles but would also be motivated to bring successful strategies and expertise to share with others, while gaining ideas and support from their peers.

New Program Initiatives: Ms. Rosenberg shared details from a recent conversation with Dr. Morrison and Matt LaCava, from Tri-Town, about the idea of establishing a self-contained language based classroom for grades students in grades 4–6 in Topsfield. This program would be run by Tri-Town in collaboration with NEC, and would allow students to remain in a less restrictive setting but receive intensive supports. This would potentially help avoid referrals to an out of district private school. NEC would help market the program to other member districts so that a cohort could be established. If successful, this could potentially serve as a “model” for the creation of other satellite programs in the region. There was discussion about the positive aspects of such a program, how this would align with the collaborative’s mission and with recent SESAC discussions. There was also some discussion of potential concerns to keep in mind.

Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Lummis left meeting at 9:06 am

8. **MOTION:** At 9:07 a motion was made by Dr. Forget and seconded by Mr. Blake to adjourn from public meeting and enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Roll call was done. 13 voted to enter executive session and then to adjourn out of executive session

VOTE: The motion was approved



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director