



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025

Present:

Beverly:	Dr. Cushing
Hamilton Wenham:	Mr. Tracy
Lynnfield:	Mr. Geary
Marblehead:	Mr. Robidoux
Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
North Reading:	Dr. Daly
Peabody:	Dr. Vadala
Pentucket:	Dr. Bartholomew
Reading:	Dr. Milaschewski
Rockport:	Dr. Branco
Swampscott:	Mr. Calichman
Tri-Town:	Dr. Morrison
Triton:	Mr. Forget

NEC:

F. Rosenberg	L. Fleming
K. Mahoney	KF. Mahoney
B. Carrapichano	AFT president
M. Lipinski	RHS Principal

Guests:

D. Schaffner, CPA	Fritz DeGuglielmo, LLC
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ABSENT:

Danvers:	Mr. Bauer
Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
Lynn:	Ms. Cohen
Manchester Essex:	Ms. Beaudoin
Nahant:	Mr. Liebow
Salem:	Dr. Zrike

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.
2. **Approval of Consent Agenda**
Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Vadala and seconded by Dr. Morrison to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the September BOD Minutes, Oct Finance Committee meeting minutes, October 2025 appointments, and warrants.
Vote: The motion was moved unanimously
3. **Executive Directors Report** - Ms. Rosenberg provided a brief report on September and October activities, and noted that the full report is available in the board folder.

Ms. Rosenberg presented her FY26 goals to the full Board inviting feedback on both the content of the goals and the structure of reporting. Mr. Robidoux commended the format. Dr. Morrison agreed the format was appropriate, and Dr. Branco noted that while the goals were comprehensive, it's important to recognize that not all can be achieved at once.

Ms. Rosenberg also shared the MOEC recommendation for graduation requirements for students with disabilities, prompting a lengthy discussion among Board members about how their districts are addressing the issue.

4. **Treasurers Report:** Mr. Mahoney presented the August and September Treasurer's Reports, noting that August reflected typical early fiscal year activity, with summer tuition funds used to sustain cash flow and a net change of \$1.3 million. By September, the cash position had improved to approximately \$1.7 million as billing and revenues increased. He explained that while the October report is still being finalized, cash flow will be temporarily strained due to three payroll periods and the start of the new transportation contract. To manage this, he and Mr. Fleming authorized the use of the line of credit—something NEC has not needed to do before but had anticipated due to the capital project's impact on reserves.

Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Fleming outlined repayment scenarios over the next five to six months, emphasizing that this is a short-term cash flow issue, not a revenue concern, but rather a timing issue. They confirmed a plan is in place to repay the line by the end of March.

Mr. Fleming noted that any interest accrued on the line of credit will be covered through the transportation budget. Mr. Fleming and Mr. Mahoney agreed cash flow will improve long-term, and reminded the board that the transportation contract will yield a 1.5% payment to NEC, but that there was a timing issue with making the monthly payment to Nick's Transportation prior to billing the districts.

Dr. Morrison suggested that an update on the line of credit and repayment plan be provided to the full board at the December meeting.

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

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

5. **Presentation of the FY25 Audited Financial Statements and UFR:**

Mr. Schaffner reported that the FY25 audit process went smoothly, marking the third consecutive year working with Mr. Fleming's team, with all materials submitted on time. Mr. Shaffner presented a summary of the year's financial activity. He confirmed there were no findings, management concerns, or internal control issues.

The audit reflected stable financial operations, with the general fund surplus reported at just under 8% of general fund expenditures. Mr. Schaffner noted the long-term goal is to move closer to the 25% cumulative surplus allowed and to position the Consortium so that borrowing from the line of credit is no longer necessary.

Mr. Schaffner also reviewed the UFR submission, required due to the DPH grant for RHS, and confirmed it will be filed by November 15 with no issues anticipated.

After the financial review, there was considerable discussion about NEC's line of credit and the best process for rebuilding cash reserves.

Mr. Schaffner, Ms. Rosenberg, and Mr. Fleming addressed questions, noting that while the capital project is progressing, cash reserves are low. Several board members emphasized the need to keep the board informed.

Ms. Rosenberg thanked Mr. Schaffner for his work and his support of NEC

Following the audit and UFR summary, Dr. Harvey highlighted actions requiring board approval:

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Bartholomew and seconded by Mr. Tracy to accept the FY25 Audited Financial Statements presented.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Branco and seconded by Dr. Bartholomew to accept the FY25 UFR as presented.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Dr. Bartholomew to recognize the use of \$974,093 of cumulative general fund surplus to cover the FY25 general fund deficit.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Bartholomew and seconded by Dr. Daly to recognize the cumulative general fund balance of \$2,480,837 as of June 30, 2025.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

Mr. Schaffner left the meeting at 8:38 am.

6. **Update on Recovery High School Planning:** Ms. Rosenberg provided an update on Recovery High School (RHS) planning, noting that a small working group, including Dr. Vadala and a representative from Rockport, had met to develop a one-page action plan. She explained that the initiative carries financial risk and requires regional commitment, and requested an official Board vote on the plan. She also shared news of a new grant opportunity through the Opioid Recovery Partnership, which could support the project. Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Lipinski have been researching models and rebranding options to strengthen the program's future and expand the continuum of services.

Ms. Lipinski reported on her efforts to research other program models and visit other programs. The proposed name of "Northshore Phoenix Academy" was shared. Ms. Rosenberg shared a proposal from JGPR for rebranding and marketing. She also discussed a proposed process and timeline for redefining the program, securing new space, and seeking DPH and local support. Dr. Vadala, Dr. Branco, and other board members indicated support for this time line and process.

Dr. Morrison suggested interviewing several professional branding firms, such as "Black Coffee," to support rebranding efforts, before hiring JGPR.

Following discussion, Dr. Harvey called for a Board vote to move forward with the RHS action plan. Specifically, Ms. Rosenberg wanted board support to proceed with an RFP for a new lease.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Vadala and seconded by Dr. Branco to draft an RFP to explore options for affordable space for Recovery High School and to move the process forward.

Vote: The motion was moved unanimously

7. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made Dr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Tracy. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m. with all members in favor.



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director