



NORTHSHORE  
EDUCATION  
CONSORTIUM

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 1, 2026**

**Present:**

Beverly:	Dr. Cushing
Danvers:	Mr. Bauer
Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
Hamilton Wenham:	Mr. Tracy
Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
Lynn:	Ms. Cohen
Manchester Essex:	Ms. Beaudoin
Marblehead:	Mr. Robidoux
Masconomet:	Dr. Harvey
Nahant:	Mr. Liebow
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	NEC/AFT president
B. Santo	E. Aldrich, Tech Director
M. Lipinski	Recovery High School, Principal
N. Celli	NEC HR Director

**Absent:**

Beverly:	Dr. Cushing
Lynnfield:	Mr. Geary
Salem:	Ms. Carbone

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. **Approval of Consent Agenda**  
**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Morrison and seconded by Dr. Bartholomew to approve the Consent Agenda, which included March Board Meeting Minutes, March Finance Committee minutes, April 2026 appointments, and warrants.  
**VOTE:** The motion was moved unanimously

3. **Executive Director Report:** Ms. Rosenberg welcomed the 17 Board members in attendance and wished everyone a happy spring, Easter, and Passover. Ms. Rosenberg acknowledged a challenging month while highlighting the continued strength of NEC programs. She provided an update on the recent DESE review, noting overall positive feedback. The full report will be shared when it is received. She also shared updates on regional transportation collaboration, workforce development efforts, and the paraprofessional-to-teacher pipeline. Additionally, she highlighted student success through grant-funded initiatives, along with ongoing curriculum, training, and program improvements.

During discussion, Mr. Ben Lummis asked about the new regulations on “time-out rooms.” Ms. Rosenberg explained that there is widespread confusion and frustration on the new regulations due to a lack of clear guidance from the state. She noted that all programs will likely need to update their student discipline policies and practices regarding the use of time-out and what is now called “seclusion.” She stated that she remains at the table, through MOEC, in advocating for better guidance from DESE. Board members expressed a desire to stay proactive and prepared as additional guidance becomes available.

The full Executive Director’s Report is included in the Board folder.

4. **Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Mahoney presented the February 2026 Treasurer’s Report, noting tuition collections at 67.5% and overall collections at approximately 70%, exceeding last year’s pace. He shared that the April billing plan will include invoicing transportation costs in advance to improve cash flow, and districts have the option to prepay with end-of-month reconciliation. Mr. Mahoney reported that \$100,000 was paid toward the line of credit last week, bringing the balance to approximately \$400,000, with a goal of paying it down by the end of the school year. He noted that April is a three-payroll month and expressed hope that NEC will not need to rely on the line of credit, though it remains available if needed. He also expressed confidence that existing cash and anticipated revenue will be sufficient to meet financial obligations.

No further questions were raised.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Bartholomew and seconded by Dr. Morrison to approve the February 2026 Treasurer Report.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**Second Reading of Proposed Budget for FY2027 with Proposed Tuition Rates:** Mr. Fleming presented the second reading of the proposed FY27 budget and tuition rates, noting no significant changes since the initial review. Ms. Rosenberg reviewed the comprehensive budget packet, which includes the mission, core values, tuition rates, narrative, and detailed program and financial breakdowns.

Board members engaged in discussion on several areas of the budget. Questions were raised regarding projected health insurance increases, estimated at 15% but possibly closer to 12%. Districts commented that their quotes ranged from 8–23%. Concerns were also expressed about enrollment projections, particularly at the Upper and Lower Academy. Districts expressed concern about the financial impact on member districts. Additional feedback included requests for clearer line-by-line variance information by program.

Ms. Rosenberg acknowledged these concerns, noting ongoing efforts to adjust capacity and control costs without decreasing the flexibility to respond to district needs. She emphasized the continued demand for NEC programs and the limited alternatives available for high-need students.

Dr. Harvey requested a motion to approve the FY2027 budget and proposed tuition rates

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Lummis and seconded by Mr. Forget to approve the FY2027 budget and proposed tuition rates (second and final reading).

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously, with all 17 members in favor.

Ms. Rosenberg expressed her gratitude for the Board's support, thanking members for their efforts in helping others understand the budget and for approving the proposed tuition rates.

5. **Policy Committee Update:** Dr. Blake and Ms. Rosenberg reported that no changes were made following the first reading of the updated Wellness Policy last month. The updated Wellness Policy was presented for a second reading

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Morrison and seconded by Dr. Vadala to approve updated Wellness Policy (2nd reading)

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously

6. **Recovery High School Update:** Ms. Rosenberg shared plans to rebrand the program as Northshore Phoenix High School, reflecting a renewed vision and updated model, with a planned fall reopening. The program will also undergo a redesign to better meet student needs over the next five years.

The RFP process for a new location closed, with Cummings Properties as the sole respondent. A proposed 10 year lease was discussed, which would include the costs of build-out. The space would support expanded programming, including classrooms, offices, and multipurpose areas.

Discussion focused on financial sustainability, uncertainty around state funding, and ongoing efforts to secure private and grant funding. Board members expressed strong support for the program and its need, but requested additional detail regarding lease terms, costs, and projections before moving forward.

The Board agreed to hold a Zoom meeting dedicated solely to this topic to allow for further review. A vote to authorize Mr. Fleming to execute a lease agreement with Cummings Properties will be considered at that time, pending presentation of full lease terms and supporting details.

7. **Other Business and Updates:** Ms. Rosenberg announced that new Board leadership will be needed for FY27 due to Dr. Harvey's upcoming retirement as Board Chair. She noted that this will be discussed further at the May meeting and encouraged members with Board experience to consider the role. She also expressed hope that Mr. Forget will continue serving as Finance Chair and thanked members for their willingness to take on leadership roles, acknowledging the demands of Board service.

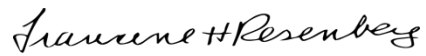
8. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Blake and seconded by Dr. Vadala to adjourn from the meeting at 9:31 am.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.



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***Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director***



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***Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director***