



**Special Remote Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Thursday April 9, 2026**

<b>Present:</b>	Beverly:	Dr. Cushing
	Danvers:	Mr. Bauer
	Hamilton Wenham:	Mr. Tracy
	Lynn:	Ms. Cohen
	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
<b>NEC:</b>	F. Rosenberg	L. Fleming
	KF. Mahoney	
	B. Carrapichano	NEC/AFT president
	M. Lipinski	Recovery High School, Principal
<b>Absent:</b>	Gloucester:	Mr. Lummis
	Ipswich:	Dr. Blake
	Manchester-Essex	Ms. Beaudoin
	Nahant:	Mr. Liebow
	Salem:	Ms. Carbone

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Forget called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and 13 members were present. Mr. Forget then read the following statement: This Open Meeting of the NEC Board of Directors is being conducted remotely in accordance with Governor Healey’s extension of the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law.

Dr. Harvey and Dr. Cushing joined the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

- 2. Presentation on Proposed Lease for Recovery High School:** Ms. Rosenberg presented a PowerPoint providing background information on the proposed lease. Mr. Fleming reviewed the budget, comparing the Recovery High School (RHS) budget as approved with the proposed budget including the new lease. He noted that while the lease would result in a slight increase in program costs, the program is still projected to break even. Mr. Fleming

also reviewed anticipated expenses, including rent, buildout, utilities, and additional staffing needs, specifically custodial and nursing services. He clarified that moving costs will be covered through philanthropic funding and that the presented budget does not include additional philanthropic contributions or a likely additional \$150,000 from DESE.

**Discussion :** The Board discussed the proposed lease for the new RHS program at Cummings Center (Northshore Phoenix High School). Dr. Morrison inquired about occupancy costs, and Mr. Forget clarified that approximately \$310,000 in costs at 112 Sohier Road would remain, increasing overall operations but expected to be offset by increased KOG enrollment. The proposed KOG budget includes three additional students. Ms. Rosenberg noted that enrollment is currently 38 students, with an ideal range of 35–40, and that the budget is conservatively based on 30 students. She stressed that the goal has been to assure that RHS breaks even and does not add to the special education deficit. She added that the new space could support enrollment growth up to approximately 50 students, though additional staffing may be required in enrollment increases.

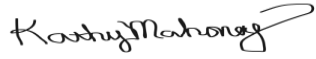
Ms. Lipinski reported that 8 students are expected to graduate and that a waitlist has been established for the fall. The Board discussed program expansion opportunities, including afterschool and evening use of the space and increased outreach to districts, which has contributed to recent enrollment growth. Mr. Fleming reviewed the lease, noting a five-year termination clause with responsibility for build-out costs and no concerns from legal counsel. Retrofit costs will be spread over the 10 years of the lease. Board members discussed the importance of planning for potential build-out costs, maintaining reserves, and the possibility of prepaying build-out costs with philanthropic funds.

Concerns were raised regarding entering into a new lease amid district financial pressures and staffing reductions in other programs; however, KOG enrollment remains stable. Succession planning was also discussed, with Ms. Lipinski indicating her intention to remain for one additional year. The timing of the lease was noted as a factor, and Mr. Fleming noted that the offer would not remain available indefinitely, and that if we didn't sign now, we need to start the process over. Ms. Rosenberg recommended proceeding with the lease, citing the continued need for the program and the thorough process that the board has gone through.

A motion was made by Mr. Bauer and seconded by Mr. Robidoux to approve the lease. Dr. Morrison made a friendly amendment that the lease be approved with the condition that management present a plan for KOG expansion to the Board by June. Board members emphasized the importance of continued outreach and communication while acknowledging both fiscal challenges and the value of the program.

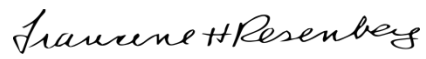
3. **MOTION:** Mr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robidoux, to authorize Larry Fleming to sign the lease with Cummings Properties as presented, with the friendly amendment that Ms. Rosenberg provide a clear plan for KOG expansion to the Board by June.  
**VOTE:** A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 15 members in favor.

Ms. Rosenberg thanked the Board for their support.  
Dr. Morrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 a.m.



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



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