

**MINUTES  
January 11, 2009**

**General Membership Meeting  
The Education Collaborative  
1112 High Street  
Dedham, MA 02027**

In attendance: Robin Ahigian, Patric Barbieri, Cecelia Buckley, Larry Carroll, Jacki Clark, Catherine Cooper, Cathy Cummins, John Farrington, John Fletcher, Lynda Foisy, Bob Gass, Maureen Gaughan, Donna Goodell, Marty Hanley, Susan Cuoco Hassan, David Heimbecker, Paul Hilton, Cathy Lawson, John Mara, Anne McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Hank Perrin, Jim Picone, Susan Rees, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Nancy Sullivan, Steve Theall, Teresa Watts, Anita Woods, Dorsey Yearley

The meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

Susan Cuoco Hassan welcomed everyone and announced that Katherine Craven will speak at the MOEC Executive Board meeting on Monday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Lynda Foisy, Associate Commissioner DESE, DESE Initiatives and Priorities**

Ms. Foisy described the DESE's plan to address Level 4 schools. The list of Level 4 schools will be published by February, and those schools' districts will be eligible to apply for Title 1, Section G money. An advisory group will evaluate district proposals, and Ms. Foisy suggested that several Collaborative directors join the advisory committee.

Ms. Foisy suggested that Collaboratives become pre-qualified vendors with DESE so that they can provide professional development through the DSACs.

Directors voiced four concerns to Ms. Foisy:

- o Collaboratives were not asked to sign the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding.
- o Collaboratives do not have access to the DESE district data warehouse.
- o Collaboratives may lose their classroom space in Level 4 schools.
- o Collaboratives are hindered from helping overwhelmed districts apply for Race to the Top money because they are not LEAs.

**Where and how do Educational Collaboratives fit in the DESE vision?**

The directors described the struggles they face:

- o Because of the frequent turnaround of the superintendents on their Boards, Collaborative directors struggle to educate Boards on what Collaboratives do.
- o Districts expect Collaboratives to share in their budget difficulties.

- o Collaboratives are trying to be all things to all people.
- o Districts fear that Collaboratives will gain too much control of SPED and grant dollars.
- o Board members sometimes vote in their districts' best interest, not in the Collaborative's best interest.
- o Districts are now looking for Collaborative help in keeping a student in a school rather than requesting new Collaborative programs.
- o Districts want Collaboratives to build their capacity but the Collaborative does not have the funding to hire the additional staff.

The directors listed actions Collaboratives can take to remain a part of DESE initiatives:

- o **Develop an elevator speech** MOEC should develop an elevator speech so that a superintendent, no longer where he or she travels in Massachusetts, will hear the same description of what a Collaborative does
- o **Establish links on MASS and MASC websites**
- o **Become pre-qualified vendors with DESE**
- o **Show superintendents how many of their SPED dollars are going to private schools**
- o **Within Collaborative Regional Organization, determine who has what expertise**
- o **Use the website and Annual Report to educate**
- o **Gain assistance in member Board education** MOEC or outside people (such as bankers and auditors) can educate Collaborative Boards about necessary Collaborative practices such as fund balances and about a Board member's need to vote in the Collaborative's best interest
- o **Request that DESE educate districts about Collaboratives and include information about Collaboratives in the superintendent licensure program**
- o **Provide professional development for Level 4 districts in the Transformation Models**
- o **Develop essential conditions and base level services by region**
- o **Develop capacity to provide consult service and technical assistance to member districts**

### **MOEC Annual Services and Savings Survey 2009-2010**

The directors clarified the wording of the MOEC Annual Services and Savings Survey 2009-2010. The survey will go out to all members by February 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Sabin