

**MINUTES
MOEC Executive Board Meeting
Bi-County Collaborative
September 21, 2009**

In attendance: Robin Ahigian, Catherine Cooper, Midge Frieswyk, Bob Gass, Maureen Gaughan, Beth Gonyea, Susan Cuoco Hassan, David Heimbecker, Glenn Koocher, Saeyun Lee, Christine Lynch, Middleton McGoodwin, Anne McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Patty Oakley, Henry Perrin, Susan Rees, Joan Schuman, Tom Scott, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Steve Theall, Dorsey Yearley, Lise Zeig

The meeting began at 10:08 a.m.

Welcome to Invited Guests

Susan Cuoco Hassan welcomed the invited guests: Robin Ahigian and Lise Zeig, DESE; Saeyun Lee, EOE; Christine Lynch, Commissioner's Office; Tom Scott, MASS; Glenn Koocher, MASC

Steve Theall provided the context for this work: no one Collaborative can provide everything a school district needs, but Collaboratives can work together regionally to provide those services.

South Region Initiative Presentation

Joanne Haley Sullivan and Middie McGoodwin presented the work of the South Regional Collaborative Organization, a collaboration of 20 superintendents and nine Collaborative directors. The SCRO works to improve the education of the 210,000 students its services by fostering collaboration, consolidation, and coordination.

Discussion and Commentary

Several Collaborative directors shared that similar organizations are being formed in the other MOEC regions.

District School Assistance Centers Robin Ahigian and Lise Zeig, DESE

Robin and Lise described the six DSACs. The state has been divided into six regions consistent with the Readiness Center regions; there is one DSAC in each regions. Each DSAC will have a director, a support facilitator, a data specialist, and content specialists. Each DSAC will be located in one of the organizations housing a Readiness Center, but the DSAC will be separate from the Readiness Center.

Executive Director Report and Legislative Update

Steve Theall gave an update on the two bills in the state legislature concerning MOEC: the bill to clarify a Collaborative's ability to hire and fire staff and the bill to grant professional teacher status to licensed Collaborative staff.

MOEC FY 10 Grant Award: Special Education Transportation

Steve Theall announced that MOEC has received a \$100,000 grant from DESE to be used to further special education transportation initiatives. MOEC will issue an invitation for proposals.

Membership Meeting Attendance Fees

The Board discussed the attendance fees for MOEC membership meetings and believes it is reasonable to charge a fee.

Member Dues Reduction Request

A motion was made and seconded to maintain the current structure and method of calculation of MOEC annual dues for FY 10 and to recommend that the Executive Director work with individual districts to structure how payments are made if necessary. The decision was unanimous: 7-0-0.

Special Education Task Force Report

Steve Theall shared a draft copy of the Special Education Transportation Task Force Report. The plan is to have 250 copies printed to be distributed to legislators and policy makers.

MOEC Annual Report

Steve Theall updated the Board on the status of the MOEC Annual Report 2009. He commented on the continued need to find ways to gather consistent data from all Collaboratives so that the data represented in the report is accurate.

AESA Call to Action Legislative Agenda

Steve Theall asked Joan Schuman to report on their trip to Washington. They were able to meet with representatives from Senator Kerry's and Senator Kennedy's offices. Joan Schuman also met with Representatives Olver, Neal and Tierney. Joan commented on a recently passed bill that included appropriations for early childhood education and encouraged Collaboratives to follow the work of the Massachusetts EEC for potential opportunities for programs or professional development.

Agenda for October Meeting

Steve Theall reviewed the proposed agenda for the Oct. 19 meeting. The morning will focus on regional and national issues. The afternoon will focus on issues specific to MOEC.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Murphy reviewed the current status of the operating budget. He reported that dues are paid, and that there is currently sufficient income to cover anticipated expenses.

EPIMS

Steve Theall asked for five additional Collaboratives to volunteer to participate in EPIMS reporting for this year. The five Collaboratives that participated last year reported that the process was not difficult. Steve reported that he believes that ESE will expect five additional Collaboratives to report every year until all Collaboratives are included.

June 8, 2009 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dorsey Yearley and Caroline Sabin