

**MINUTES**  
**MOEC General Membership Meeting**  
**Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative**  
**October 19, 2009**

**In Attendance:**

Robin Ahigian, Beverly Beno, Anna Bishop, Jacki Clark, Catherine Cooper, Cathy Cummins, Bob Gass, Susan Cuoco Hassan, John Fletcher, Maureen Gaughan, Paul Hilton, John Mara, Annie McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Hank Perrin, Susan Rees, Joan Schuman, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Steve Theall, Dorsey Yearley

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Theall at 1:05PM

**I. Update from the DESE**

Robin Ahigian reported about the review process for the Title IID Data Specialist Grants. She also reminded the membership about the meetings to launch the DSACs and encouraged Collaborative directors to attend their regional meetings.

**II. MOEC Annual Report: Successes and Challenges**

Steve Theall presented the newly published MOEC Annual report, with an acknowledgement to Caroline Sabin and HEC staff for doing the work to make it happen. He asked for feedback particularly about possible additions to the report to give more background information about the services and impact that Collaboratives provide.

Steve reported that he met with Barbara L'Italien about her bill to make Circuit Breaker funding more favorable to Collaboratives.

Steve reported that MOEC had received a \$100,000 one-time grant from DESE to support Collaborative efforts in providing special education transportation. The money will be distributed in two rounds as small grants to provide consultation to support to new Collaborative transportation efforts. Providing data about the effectiveness of the service will be an important consideration in the awards of the grants.

**III. MOEC Annual Survey**

Steve Theall asked for feedback about the annual survey and suggested that the survey could happen in two parts. After some discussion, there was agreement that the salary portion of the survey would be done immediately and the program survey would be done at the beginning of March for April return. Steve asked for feedback about questions and/or data that would yield more and better information to inform policy makers about the role of Collaboratives.

#### **IV. MTRS Statutory and Regulatory Changes**

Steve Theall shared the MTRS presentation from the MASS meeting and encouraged directors to be aware of the changes in the retirement laws.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report**

Richard Murphy reported that the operating budget is on target to cover annual expenses. He requested that any additional AESA memberships be paid to AESA directly rather than MOEC.

#### **VI. Other Issues**

Steve Theall asked for feedback about the morning regional meeting, given the fact that the general membership meetings occur only three times a year and attendance at this meeting seemed to be low. He was encouraged to ask Directors who did not attend about whether the regional agenda was not of interest to them or if there were other factors that limited their ability to attend.

Steve reported to the group about the dedication of the Michael Savage Education Center at South Shore Collaborative.

Joan Schuman asked directors for information about Collaborative involvement in the Readiness Centers and commented on the potential of the DSACs to compete with Collaborative professional development and other school services.

Bob Gass raised the issue of monitoring legislation that was perceived as having "no cost." Steve Theall responded that Julie Cox felt that very few bills would get reported out of committee, and that he felt that legislators were now considering MOEC as an agency to consult around the impact of pending legislation, so our voice was being heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05.

Respectfully submitted by Dorsey Yearley