



**MINUTES  
May 17, 2010**

**Annual Meeting  
North River Conference Center  
525 Beech Street  
Rockland, MA 02370**

In attendance: Bev Beno, Jacki Clark, Catherine Cooper, Cathy Cummins, Colleen Dolan, John Farrington, John Fletcher, Bob Gass, Donna Goodell, Marty Hanley, Susan Cuoco Hassan, David Heimbecker, Paul Hilton, Cathy Lawson, John Mara, Anne McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Hank Perrin, Susan Rees, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Nancy Sullivan, Steve Theall, Teresa Watts, Dorsey Yearley

The meeting began at 9:45 a.m.

**Executive Director Report**

Steve Theall announced that Christine Lynch will be the DESE MOEC liaison.

Steve Theall described recent meetings with Representative Marty Walz, Representative David Linsky, and Peter Hollard, director of the Central Massachusetts DSAC.

Steve Theall summarized the Suburban Coalition Legislative Breakfast.

Steve Theall announced that the SPED Transportation Task Force continues to support SPED transportation networks and that the \$100,000 grant has produced six times that amount in savings for districts.

Steve Theall announced that Secretary Reville invited Mr. Theall to join MASS, MASBO, MAAPS, MARS, and ASE on a commission finding economies for school districts. MOEC, MASS, and MASBO will probably sponsor a conference in the fall highlighting best practices for efficiencies. Secretary Reville has agreed to be the keynote speaker. Mr. Theall hopes to get Michael Widmer and Noah Berger to speak as well.

Susan Rees and Steve Theall both were invited to participate in a DESE working group on same topic.

Steve Theall informed the membership that a WGEE report is being issued with MOEC as one of the authors.

## **Audit Report: Next Steps**

The MOEC Board met on April 30 and described several areas noted in the TEC audit that warrant greater clarification and analysis. The Board identified the following areas:

### **Fiduciary Responsibilities**

- Pricing Policies for Services
- Collaborative Purchasing Agreements
- Cash Reserves and Carry-over Balances
- Approved Expenses
- Accounting Standards for Internal Controls

### **Programmatic Responsibilities**

- Licensure
- Supervision/ Evaluation of Staff

The membership discussed next steps and recommended several changes in Collaborative recordkeeping.

Steve Theall informed the membership that Commissioner Chester has asked Christine Lynch to lead the effort to review the relationship between DESE and Collaboratives.

Susan Cuoco Hassan invited the membership to the June 14 MOEC Executive Board Meeting to continue the discussion. The discussion will begin at 10:30 a.m.

## **Strategic Directions for MOEC**

Susan Cuoco Hassan distributed the MOEC Strategic Plan 2005-2007 and asked the membership to review it. At the fall meeting, the membership will discuss whether the strategic priorities listed are still MOEC's strategic priorities.

## **Annual Report**

The membership debated the value and process of reporting data for the Annual Report. An informal vote indicated that there was enough interest to continue to collect data this summer, with the goal of publishing an Annual Report in January. Executive Directors will complete the MOEC Annual Services and Savings Survey 2009-2010 by September 1, 2010.

## **Legislative Update**

Steve Theall informed the membership on the progress of several legislative bills:

- The bill allowing groups to go across state lines for cooperative purchasing was included in the municipal aid bill. The municipal aid bill was approved by the Senate and is back in committee to work out differences between the House and Senate versions.
- H379, the bill giving Collaborative executive directors the authority to hire and fire, was reported out of committee favorably. It must pass in the House and then go to the Senate. The Speaker of the House asked for changes to the language.
- The bill granting professional status for Collaborative teachers was recommended for study and will not come up for a vote during this session. It is no longer paired with HB379.

Steve Theall informed the membership that a commission including MOEC has been established to look at cost-

efficiencies.

## **FY 11 Budget Presentation**

Richard Murphy presented the draft FY 11 budget.

The membership discussed the executive director's FY 11 salary. A motion was made and seconded to include the president's recommendation: to increase the executive director's salary by \$2,265, not to exceed an increase of 3% over FY 10. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to increase the legal fees line item by \$1,835. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to remove "Additional Revenue (from FY 10 grant)," and move \$5,000 to the 2011 net gain/loss line. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the FY 11 draft budget as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Election of Regional Representatives**

A motion was made and seconded to approve John Fletcher as the MOEC North Regional Representative. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Retiree Recognition**

Susan Cuoco Hassan recognized John Farrington's and Bob Gass's work as executive directors, thanked them for their service, and congratulated them on their retirements.

## **Other Issues**

Steve Theall asked the membership to review the draft 2010-2011 calendar and asked for meeting hosts.

Steve Theall recommended that all Collaboratives join AESA and consider attending the AESA meetings.

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Steve Theall explained that the Program Leader meeting replace the Special Education Director meetings and encouraged each Collaborative to send a representative to those meetings.

Bob Gass encouraged Collaborative directors to apply for the Recovery High School grants and to consider partnering with another Collaborative.

Several directors asked the membership about their Collaborative practices.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Sabin