

**DRAFT MINUTES
MOEC Executive Board Meeting
Merrimack Special Education Collaborative
December 13, 2010**

In attendance: Catherine Cooper, Cathy Cummins, Donna Goodell, John Goodrich, Susan Cuoco Hassan, Christine Lynch, Richard Murphy, Susan Rees, Joan Schuman, Steve Theall, Dorsey Yearley

The meeting began at 9:47 without a quorum and convened at 10:03 with a quorum

Strategic Planning Debrief, John Goodrich, MODR

John Goodrich took several suggestions on the pre-meeting questionnaire for the January 10 strategic planning meeting with the general membership. The questionnaire and some background documents will go to the general membership this week.

Approve Cathy Cummins as Central Regional Representative

Susan Cuoco Hassan explained that Beth Gonyea has to resign from the Board because of work commitments.

A motion was made and seconded that Cathy Cummins be approved as the Central regional representative. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0-0.

Audit Update, Donna Goodell

Donna Goodell summarized a meeting that she and John Fletcher had with the state auditor supervisors: Bob Bernstein and Ken Woodland. The tone of the meeting was collegial; the supervisors explained why Collaboratives are being audited and confirmed that MSEC has cooperated in their audit.

Executive Director Report

A motion was made and seconded:

The Executive Board of MOEC instructs its Executive Director to seek and secure a sponsor for the filing of its bill to provide Collaborative Executive Directors with hiring and firing authority similar to that available to school superintendents.

The motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

Steve Theall reported that the AESA Conference was a good experience and encouraged everyone to attend next year's conference at Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

Steve Theall reported that he is serving this week as MOEC's designee on a legislative commission on regionalization. Chris Lynch is representing the Commissioner of Education. Many other groups are

represented on the commission, including MASBO and MARS. Mr. Theall summarized MOEC's position on regionalization: MOEC holds no opinion about regionalization but believes that Collaboratives offer another option. The commission is chaired by Marty Walz and Robert O'Leary.

Steve Theall shared the Suburban Coalition position paper for 2010-2011, which calls for lowering the Circuit Breaker threshold for districts using Collaborative programs, thus giving districts an incentive to use Collaborative programs.

Steve Theall reviewed the new MSBA regulations. The regulations state that "any space allowed by the Authority in a school facility for use by a Collaborative shall remain in use for the Collaborative for the useful life of the facility." The regulations do not include a statement that the Collaborative director must sign off on the building plan.

Steve Theall distributed *A Promising Practices Guide to Improve Operational Efficiency and Achieve Cost Savings for Public School Districts*. This guide was distributed at the MASS/MASC November conference and mentions several Collaborative programs.

Steve Theall introduced the Special Education Transportation Task Force Report 2010. He explained that the Task Force will continue to meet in 2010-2011 but has no funding.

Readiness Centers

Directors who are on the boards of their regional Readiness Center described the planning and progress of those Readiness Centers. Joan Schuman suggested a future report from the regional representatives on all of the Readiness Centers.

Joan Schuman will ask Antonio Pagan to put Collaboratives on the website list of the Readiness Centers' peer organizations.

DESE Update, Christine Lynch, DESE

Christine Lynch reminded the group that some directors are meeting at 12:30 with Darlene Lynch and Dave LeBlanc to go over a rough draft of a Collaborative compliance review.

Christine Lynch stated that this year has been a busy year for regionalization: four new regions have been formed and one region has expanded.

Christine Lynch stated that the Inspector General wants to look at Collaboratives.

Regional Updates

Catherine Cooper reported that South region completed a regional needs survey but did not get the consensus they hoped to see. They also held a regional professional development day on Election Day; they have decided that next year they will offer professional development for low-incidence staff. They are hosting a speaker in March.

Susan Rees reported that the Greater Boston Collaboratives feel they could not function with 5% reserves. They have been sharing practices and are gathering programming data on what special education programs they offer and how those programs function.

Donna Goodell reported that the North region is offering a regional professional development program on transition planning; the same workshop will be offered several times, at different sites on different days. The region is considering offering a regional conference for low-incidence staff.

Joan Schuman reported that West has welcomed Karin Deyo, the new executive director of Southern Berkshire Educational Collaborative. In addition, the West met with the RESC in northwestern Connecticut about a joint technology initiative. Ms. Schuman reported that CES and LPVEC are doing joint bidding for cooperative purchasing but buying different things. This effort has saved time and lots of money, particularly for Franklin County. Ms. Schuman told the directors that Massachusetts can get directly involved with AEPA, the procurement group, instead of going through CREC in Connecticut and wondered if MOEC Collaboratives could maintain their own cooperative purchasing but help all MOEC Collaboratives at the same time.

Richard Murphy announced that the Central region has a brochure and a name: CMAC (Central Massachusetts Association of Collaboratives). CAPS and FLLAC are trying to share positions (transportation coordinator, for example) but have not yet been able to.

Children's League Update, Bob Gass

Bob Gass could not attend the meeting. Steve Theall called attention to the Children's League materials in the packet.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Murphy announced that MOEC's compilation is now a review because the grant revenue put MOEC above the compilation limit.

Steve Theall announced that he waived Southern Berkshire Educational Collaborative's dues.

Update on Technology Plans

Richard Murphy announced that he has received nine statements of assurances. John Mara and Richard Murphy will review them.

Approve minutes of November 1, 2010 Executive Board meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2010 Executive Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

Other Issues

Steve Theall requested that the regional representatives work with their colleagues to complete the strategic plan pre-meeting questionnaires before Christmas.

Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Sabin