

**DRAFT MINUTES
MOEC Executive Board Meeting
The Education Cooperative
February 7, 2011**

In attendance: Catherine Cooper, Cathy Cummins, John Fletcher, Susan Cuoco Hassan, Christine Lynch, John Mara, Anne McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Susan Rees, Joan Schuman, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Nancy Sullivan, Dorsey Yearley

The meeting began at 12:20.

Executive Director Report

Steve Theall informed the Board of his upcoming meetings with Representative Alice Peisch and Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz.

Steve Theall reported on the progress of the Regionalization and Collaborative Commission. The Commission made some revisions to the definition of district capacity. Mr. Theall is now working on developing a benchmark with Saeyun Lee, a representative from the MSBA, and a selectman from Harwich.

Steve Theall reported that the professional status bill was filed by Representative Christine Canavan and that the bill granting Collaborative directors the ability to hire and fire was filed by Representative Paul Donato.

Joan Schuman asked if the Innovation bill was filed. Steve Theall said that he would ask Representative Peisch. Anne McKenzie said that she would work with her legislators to help its progress.

DESE Update

Steve Theall and Christine Lynch reminded the Board that a bill filed as a result of the Regionalization and Collaborative Commission's work will be a good opportunity for Collaboratives because the bill will have weight.

John Fletcher agreed to lead a group of executive directors to review the 1988 Massachusetts Board of Education Policy on Educational Collaboratives.

Christine Lynch thanked the executive directors for their responses to the Program Quality Assurance reviews and reported that Darlene Lynch is compiling the responses. The executive directors stated that they had questions on the fiscal portion of the PQA. Dave LeBlanc will come to the March MOEC Business Leaders Meeting and work with the business leaders. The executive directors and Ms. Lynch also discussed the reporting at the conclusion of the PQA review. Ms. Lynch explained that the review is meant to be a pilot.

Christine Lynch will ask Darlene Lynch if the review can be split up, with different Collaboratives completing different sections of the review.

Regional Updates

Greater Boston

Susan Rees reported that the Greater Boston Collaborative Regional Organization has discussed the DESE PQA review and has been collecting and sharing operating data: programs, tuitions, and salary, for example.

Central

Cathy Cummins reported that the Central Massachusetts Association of Collaborative meetings have been cancelled because of snow.

West

Joan Schuman reported that the West Collaborative Regional Organization is working with a Connecticut RESC on a GATES grant for virtual learning and is trying to help Dean Technical High School to become a turnaround school.

South

Catherine Cooper reported that the South Collaborative Regional Organization met with a transportation consultant about regular education transportation and with Bob Springer about starting a regional technology innovation center. Steve Theall suggested that the Greater Boston Collaborative Regional Organization members may also want to meet with him.

North

John Fletcher reported that that North regional organization has a name: the Northeast Regional Organization (NERO). NERO has discussed the MSEC audit, as well as transportation in the Northeast. NERO is planning a professional development program in October for low-incidence staff. Most of the NERO Collaboratives are sharing professional development, not overlapping, and giving group discounts.

Educational Collaborative Capacity

The executive directors suggested these edits to Steve Theall's document defining Educational Collaborative regional capacity:

- “Educational Collaboratives shall be considered Educational Service Agencies for the purposes of receiving grants”
- Replace “disabled” with “disabled and at risk”
- Replace “backoffice” with “administrative”

Steve Theall asked the executive directors to send him further suggestions.

Blueprint for Collaborative Enhancement

Steve Theall asked the directors what would need to happen for Collaboratives to become more viable players in enhancing collaboration. The executive directors offered these suggestions:

- Chapter 40 needs to recognize Collaboratives as LEAs or let Collaboratives access all state grants. DESE staff also needs to know that Collaboratives are eligible for many grants. Steve Theall asked Joan Schuman to find the language previously proposed to amend Chapter 40.
- Collaborative executive directors need the authority to hire and fire.
- DESE should use Collaboratives to provide services rather than use outside vendors or establish new structures.
- Collaboratives need the financial stability of either entitlement funds or reserves. The trust fund rules need to be clarified.
- Districts should have a financial incentive to use a Collaborative. DESE could offer extra money to districts who use Collaboratives.
- The incentives for districts to use Collaboratives should be in policy but not legislation.

PDP Awards

Richard Murphy will find out what MOEC needs to do to be PDP provider.

AESA Federal Relations Update

Joan Schuman reported that there are new guidelines and regulations for E-rate. Schools are now allowed to make their computers available to the community and can be reimbursed for that use. It is not clear if schools must make their computers available to the community.

Joan Schuman urged all executive directors to ask federal legislators to join the Rural Trust.

Joan Schuman reported that the reauthorization of ESEA will happen, but that Part IID has been removed. AESA will take strong stand that it will be kept.

Joan Schuman reported that the terminology on teacher evaluations will change from highly qualified to highly effective.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Murphy presented MOEC's FY 11 fiscal activity to date. He also stated that MOEC's FY 10 financial reports are nearly ready.

Approve minutes of December 13, 2010 Executive Board meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2010 Executive Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

Other Issues

Susan Rees reported that the funding for the Regional Education Laboratory was cut and asked the executive directors to lobby for restored funding.

Susan Cuoco Hassan asked about the timeline for the teacher evaluations called for by Race to the Top.

The executive directors told Susan Rees that they do not get actuarial studies done for retiree health benefits.

Joan Schuman stated that the West Readiness Center Common Core rollout is March 30 and asked if any other Readiness Centers have announced theirs.

Several executive directors announced that they have discontinued their practice of keeping credits for districts. Christine Lynch reported that school committees are not allowed to carry over funds.

Cathy Cummins reported that the Children's Mental Health legislation is unfunded and not yet implemented. An Assabet Valley Collaborative staff member is on the taskforce and will stay on top of how Collaboratives can help. Cathy will send the executive directors a link to the legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Sabin