

**APPROVED MINUTES
MOEC General Membership Meeting
North River Conference Center
525 Beech Street
Rockland, MA**

May 16, 2011

In attendance: Beverly Beno, Maureen Canner, Jacki Clark, Catherine Cooper, Theresa Craig, Cathy Cummins, Joan Dio, John Fletcher, Maureen Gaughan, Donna Goodell, Marty Hanley, Susan Cuoco Hassan, David Heimbecker, Paul Hilton, Christine Lynch, John Mara, Ed McCaul, Anne McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Hank Perrin, Susan Rees, Joan Schuman, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Steve Theall, Teresa Watts, Dorsey Yearley

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Conversation with Commissioner Chester

The MOEC General Membership discussed several topics with Commissioner Mitchell Chester: Circuit Breaker, regionalization and collaboration, the new teacher evaluation regulations, meeting with the Board of Education.

Strategic Planning Activity

The MOEC General Membership divided into small groups to work on a few of the goals in the strategic plan.

Data Collection

Anne McKenzie, lead
Susan Rees
Susan Cuoco Hassan
Donna Goodell
Joan Dio
Cathy Cummins
Chris Lynch
Jacki Clark

Report:

The task force determined that the primary purpose of data collection is to increase the visibility of Collaboratives and increase the number of special education referrals to Collaboratives.

The task force believes that MOEC should work toward developing a web-based database of Collaborative special education programs and move away from a paper directory. The web-based database should include

program descriptions for PreK through age 22 special education programs.

The task force agreed to two next steps:

1. Develop a template for gathering program information based on the program profiles in the MAAPS directory. Cathy Cummins and Anne McKenzie will design the template this summer.
2. Begin preliminary discussion with a web designer.

Presentation to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Dorsey Yearley, lead

John Fletcher

Marty Hanley

John Mara

Joan Schuman

Report:

The presentation will have both a research and informational focus. The research on the impact and effectiveness of educational service agencies will be provided by a national speaker from AESA. The informational focus will be addressed by local executive directors and focus on three key ideas:

1. Who and what we are: services, governance, stakeholders
2. The role and importance of accountability: collaboration with DESE to review policies and program review procedures
3. The potential role for Collaboratives in the state: regional capacity

Conference

Joanne Haley Sullivan, lead

David Heimbecker

Maureen Gaughan

Hank Perrin

Bev Beno

Maureen Canner

Richard Murphy

Theresa Craig

Ed McCaul

Catherine Cooper

Report:

The task force discussed offering a conference on educating all students in difficult economic times. The conference will be by invitation only, and will be offered to a small group: each Collaborative can invite three people from its board of directors, three Collaborative staff members, and one other guest. The format will be a morning speaker (perhaps Tom Hehir or Ken Robinson), followed by a panel, followed by small-group discussions of district needs to increase capacity.

Professional Development Subcommittee

The professional development subcommittee reported that it will plan a professional development program separate from MOEC meetings. It is considering offering training in:

- educator evaluation

- Coordinated Program Reviews
- using Google docs
- using technology for administrative effectiveness
- organizational leadership
- economics and management

TEC Cooperative Purchasing

Steve Theall distributed materials announcing cooperative purchasing opportunities offered by TEC.

Lunch and Award Presentation

Susan Cuoco Hassan thanked Marty Hanley for his service to the Board and offered congratulations on his retirement.

Draft Revision of 1988 Board of Education Policy on Educational Collaboratives

John Fletcher reviewed the draft revisions to the 1998 Board of Education Policy on Educational Collaboratives. He acknowledged that several important sections of the Policy cannot be revised because the revisions would contradict current legislation. The general membership found the revisions favorable.

Chris Lynch suggested that the final revisions to the Policy not be made until the Commission on Regionalization and Collaboration has proposed its legislation.

John Fletcher said that the revisions are complete and that the subcommittee is working on the background documents. Steve Theall suggested that the revisions and the background documents be submitted to DESE by the end of June. Joan Schuman suggested that the subcommittee show the revisions to MASS and MASC.

The subcommittee is John Fletcher, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Nancy Sullivan, Catherine Cooper, Cathy Lawson, and John Mara.

Legislative Update

Steve Theall summarized the legislative subcommittee's recent work. The subcommittee has recently testified on bills governing professional status, Innovation Schools, and Collaborative executive director hiring and firing authority. The subcommittee has also attended hearings on Circuit Breaker and special education transportation.

Board President Report: Year in Review

Susan Cuoco Hassan reviewed in a Powerpoint presentation MOEC's successes of the last two years and its future challenges. [Please see the file MOEC Retrospective 2011]

Treasurer's Report

Richard Murphy thanked Susan Cuoco Hassan and Caroline Sabin for their work in support of the treasurer's role.

He presented the FY12 budget with the following highlights:

- The budget is a balanced budget

- There are minor changes in the budget lines related to activities fees and to the Executive Director's expenses
- There will be a small fund balance at the end of this year that the Board can decide to invest or leave in checking

Joan Schuman moved to accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by David Heimbecker and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Other Issues

Joan Schuman alerted the Board that DESE is changing the regulations for the provision of supplemental services. She also raised a concern about the Ethics Commission's finding on Collaboratives' ability to hire public school teachers from their member districts.

Steve Theall recommended that Board Members consider attending the AESA Summer Institute.

Election of MOEC Officers 2011-2012

Richard Murphy moved to approve the proposed slate of Officers and Regional Representatives for MOEC for the 2011-2012 school year. The motion was seconded by Teresa Watts and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Officers

President	Joanne Haley Sullivan	North River Collaborative
Vice-President	Anne McKenzie	Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative
Treasurer	Richard Murphy	FLLAC Collaborative
Secretary	Dorsey Yearley	EDCO Collaborative
Past President	Susan Cuoco Hassan	Bi-County Collaborative
AESA Liaison	Joan Schuman	

Regional Representatives

West Region	Joan Schuman	Collaborative for Educational Services
Central Region	Cathy Cummins	Assabet Valley Collaborative
North Region	John Fletcher	Merrimack Special Education Collaborative
South Region	Catherine Cooper	Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative
Greater Boston Region	Susan Rees	ACCEPT Education Collaborative

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Sabin and Dorsey Yearley