

**Minutes**  
**March 11 2013 MOEC Executive Board meeting**  
**Central Mass Special Education Collaborative in Worcester**

Attendance: Susan Cuoco, Cathy Cummins, Richard Murphy, Susan Rees, Dave LeBlanc of DESE, Rob Curtin of DESE, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Annie McKenzie, Steve Theall, Chris Lynch of DESE, Bud MacDonnell, Joan Dio, Joan Schuman, Catherine Cooper, Cathy Lawson

Steve Theall began the meeting by welcoming Cathy Cummins back from maternity leave and formally announcing that Susan Cuoco and Susan Rees will be retiring at the end of the school year. He then introduced Jim Luthi of Silverback Learning.

Jim Luthi of Silverback Learning (SilverbackLearning.com) presented information about his company, which is based in Idaho. Silverback's main product is **Mileposts**, a student learning and intervention management software system.

**Steve Theall then provided his Executive Director's Report:**

During the week of March 18, Steve will hold meetings with collaborative business managers, SPED directors and professional development leaders. These meetings are held periodically to give middle level management of collaboratives the chance to share issues of common concern. Steve asked the executive directors to encourage their management to attend.

Steve Theall then updated the board on the presentation he provided to the Collaborative Commission on February 25. The presentation focused on the next generation of Massachusetts Educational Collaboratives. At the next meeting of the Collaborative Commission, Peter Young of AESA will present information about the Connecticut ESA model.

**DESE discussions with Dave LeBlanc, Rob Curtin, and Chris Lynch:**

Dave LeBlanc said that his department is finalizing the plan for reviewing collaboratives. ALL collaboratives will be on some type of cycle that is still being determined. He is putting together a document laying out the review process and plans to present the document to MOEC members so that the process is transparent before the reviews begin. He went on to say that his staff will be doing desk reviews of the collaboratives' audits: auditing standards, requirements from regulations and the statute. In the past, DESE only audited those DESE gave money to. Now the department will be auditing all collaboratives, even if they do not get DESE grant money. DESE will also be coordinating with state auditor's office.

The members of the MOEC board suggested that the summer would be the best time for DESE to start the DESE reviews at collaboratives.

Rob Curtin of DESE then provided the board with an update. DESE is focused on collecting the same data about all students. DESE will be reporting out data from collaboratives. For the current year, that will be MCAS data. For next year, enrollment and discipline data will also be reported. On the collection side, there will be consistent reporting and consistent access in Edwin. DESE will run a series of training sessions.

Cathy Lawson asked if the LEA issue had been reconciled. Rob Curtin responded that DESE is not going to make PPI determinations for the districts because it's only the second year of the system. DESE will be aggregating results for collaboratives.

Chris Lynch then explained the reasons behind the letters that collaboratives received from DESE about their annual reports. She said that some of the annual reports were not as thorough as they could have been and that it was not easy to find the answers to some of the questions required by the new legislation.

Chris Lynch provided the latest information about training for collaborative board members. She said DESE is hoping to have online training so that individual board members can log in using a secure, individual password and be able to be recorded by DESE and by collaboratives. The plan will be for the online system to print a certificate. DESE is ultimately responsible for holding board members accountable. New members would need to receive training within 60 days. Chris Lynch provided the following information to the MOEC board:

- 1.) Collaborative board members need to be done with training by June 30; DESE will contact board members directly and training will be available later April or May. For board members who are changing with election in April, collaboratives need to update their lists, as Chris understands the new members should be trained of the outgoing members.
- 2.) Assignment process for board member representatives us still being sorted out. DESE hopes to have appointments done by September-October 2013
- 3.) Collaborative Agreements:
  - a. 501c3 language – language will be run by legal
  - b. Board approval of amendments – from DESE perspective – will provide feedback/required additions or revisions. Collaborative directors will then take it back to board; resubmit any changes since the original submission.
  - c. Timeline for feedback from DESE – hopefully within a month
  - d. Then to Board
  - e. Then to school committees
  - f. Hoping to have all the way through by July 1. Commissioner won't approve it until all school committees have been approved

### **Membership Forum:**

BICO reduced its transportation spending by 20% by putting bids out for routes instead of for the entire contract.

Anne McKenzie of LPVEC will be testifying on March 18 on the historical basis for why 501c3 corporations emerged as necessary legal instruments to undertake projects such as the acquisition of buildings. There could be negative impacts if they are required to dissolve.

Joan Schuman requested that Joanne Haley Sullivan bring Joan's concerns to the Collaborative Commission about the prohibition of collaborative employees from receiving compensation from member districts.