

Draft Minutes
MOEC Executive Board Meeting
June 15, 2015 at CES

In attendance:

Steve Theall
Cathy Cummins
Joanne Haley Sullivan
Theresa Craig
Catherine Cooper
William Diehl
Richard Murphy
Colleen Dolan
Andy Churchill
Shawn Smith and Mike Walls – Modern Teacher Press

The meeting convened at 10:12 am

1. Presentation

Representatives from Modern Teacher Press presented on digital convergence in education. The company provides strategic guidance, professional learning, and technology resources to move schools from the analog to the digital world. A representative from MOEC may attend an upcoming retreat. Members would like the discussion around this product to continue.

2. Executive Director and DESE report

Catherine Cooper, Joanne Haley Sullivan and Steve Theall appeared before the Joint Committee on May 26, 2015. They provided general testimony regarding MOEC support for House 457. They offered two amendments; one is to eliminate the number of regions from the legislation and two to clarify the second role of the liaison. MOEC chose not to provide testimony regarding House 328, the professional status bill.

3. Review of flip chart output from May Annual Meeting: Tom Hehir report, Commissioner update report, MOEC Strategic Plan and formulation of MOEC action plan for 2015-2016

At the general meeting in May, the Commissioner's Letter, Tom Hehir's report, and the MOEC strategic plan were discussed and recommendations prioritized. Priorities identified by the large group were shared with the Board.

The Board first looked at the priorities identified by 10 or more participants with the aim of narrowing these to a few goals. First, the Board feels the MOEC website should include a link to all collaborative programs. This would be similar to the MAAPS searchable database. Visitors could search by disability category, primary and secondary, age, grade level, geography. Steve Theall will develop an action plan geared to accomplishing this.

The Board next considered how collaboratives might support districts with issues such as over-identification, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), digital learning, and support for students with a social-emotional disability. Cathy Cummins suggested we make an effort to provide Professional Development similar to the 3-part workshop offered by Kathy Levesque, *Branding Your Collaborative*. At the next meeting, the Board will look at designing a series of forums around the issues identified in the survey. This will raise awareness of collaborative capacity and give us an opportunity to explore strengths of capabilities of individual collaboratives and regions.

Bill Diehl suggested over-identification is related to the challenges of working with diverse cultural, and racial, and socioeconomic populations. As part of our role in serving low incidence populations, we should be providing professional learning around these issues.

Colleen Dolan suggested MOEC's mentoring program for new collaborative leaders be more robust, perhaps similar to the model used by MASS for new superintendents.

All Board members feel we should continue to monitor and advocate for legislation favorable to collaboratives.

4. Working lunch: updates from Regional Reps and committee members representing MOEC

Representatives from each region provided updates to the group:

- SCRO is looking at developing a database of programs and services.
- Cathy Cummins asked if MOEC has adopted a code of ethics. It was discussed several years ago. Steve will check on this.
- Richard Murphy suggested we work with the vocational schools to enhance collaborative capacity. Mike Fitzpatrick will attend a future MOEC meeting.
- Attendance at MOEC job-alikes was discussed. The meetings for tech leaders and business managers are attended well. Members felt in order to increase participation, the goal should be a balance of formal presentations and open discussion.
- West region collaboratives meet frequently and are planning to join forces on Professional Development, Virtual High School, and E-Rate.

5. Debrief of Matt Holloway's June 10th DESE workshop - implications for collaboratives and MOEC

We are not sure to what extent districts are using MCAS-Alt but some elements in the presentation could be valuable resources. Could this be made into a more general

workshop for a larger audience? Many of the topics could be easily translated to an expanded group.

6. E-Rate: There is concern at DESE about E-Rate funds being left on the table. Could collaboratives support districts in applying for E-Rate reimbursement? Steve Theall and Colleen Dolan will meet with Jeff Wulfson on July 28th to discuss the role collaboratives could play.

7. MOEC position on House 460: An Act Relative to Special Education Finance
Districts will receive incentive points from School Business Assistance Bureau (SBAB) for projects that include collaborative programs. Steve Theall and Maureen Gaughan will attend and give testimony at the hearing.

A **motion** was made by Joanne Haley Sullivan and seconded by Catherine Cooper to extend Executive Director's Contract 7/1/15-6/30/16 at the salary approved in the budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Richard Murphy provided handouts including checking account YTD, FY16 approved budget, and budget to actuals as of 6.11.15.

A **motion** was made by Bill Diehl and seconded by Theresa Craig to consolidate MOEC's two checking accounts into one money market account at Santander and to move \$14,000 into the savings account.

A **motion** was made by Theresa Craig and seconded by Catherine Cooper to approve the minutes of the General Membership meeting December 15, 2014, February 23, 2015 and April 13, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Cathy Cummins suggested stipends be offered to job-alike facilitators. The Board is in agreement that facilitators should receive compensation, but since the job-alikes are during work hours, we will only be able to compensate for planning time done outside of the work day.

Steve Theall reported there have been changes in the way the Data Specialist position is funded by DESE. The specialist must be a registered provider. Some of the current data specialists are not qualified to continue. Steve will research who is qualified and make a proposal to ensure all regions are covered.

Richard Murphy reported that DESE is exploring a student information system, School Brains, to promote school interoperability. He asked if MOEC wants to consider adopting School Brains. Consensus is we do not have the funding.

A **motion** was made by Theresa Craig and seconded by Bill Diehl to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by C. Dolan and A. Atallah

