

Minutes

MOEC Board Meeting - December 14, 2015

READS Collaborative - Middleboro

Attendees: Steve Theall, Cathy Cummins, Catherine Cooper, Richard Murphy, Colleen Dolan, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Bill Diehl, Liz McGonagle, Cathy Lawson, Greg Zammuto, Theresa Craig, Fran Rosenberg, Paul Hilton, Ken Wedge, Joia Mercurio Chris Lynch, Paulajo Gaines, Michelle Griffin

The meeting began at 10:00 am with a presentation by Bill Holscher of the Executive Office of Education. Bill presented a PowerPoint on the status of the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) Program. The collaborative executive directors shared the issues that collaboratives have with current reporting requirements. Collaboratives, by their nature, are structured differently from school districts, but are being asked to report to the state via reports that were developed using district-specific criteria. The current reports often contain flawed data about collaboratives and are therefore much less useful than they could be. In the summer of 2015, Michelle Griffin collected feedback for DESE about these reporting issues. After the meeting, the document detailing this feedback was also shared with Bill Holscher, who will convene a meeting that includes collaborative representatives to further discuss reporting issues.

Steve Theall then presented his Executive Director's report by recapping the recent AESA conference in New Orleans. He then announced he has a meeting scheduled with the MSBA to discuss incentive points. He also mentioned that the development of the new Leadership program is going well and is on target to be launched in the late spring. The syllabus has been sent out and over twenty people have expressed interest. Steve has extended an invitation to all executive directors to teach part of the course. Steve then asked for input about his upcoming meeting with the Director of the Office of the Child Advocate. Members suggested that good topics would be the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as well as recent concerns about inadequate inpatient mental health services for children.

Chris Lynch then provided the DESE Update. Governor Baker has issued Executive Order #562: To Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden. The Governor's office is requesting suggestions about streamlining regulations. There are multiple ways of giving feedback, including via the DESE website or Governor's website. The Governor has also just filed the Act to Modernize Municipal Finance, which defines collaboratives and regional school districts as governmental entities for purposes of OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits).

Michelle Griffin then mentioned that DESE schedules weekly roundtable discussions on various topics and that she would like to schedule a roundtable on collaboratives. The board agreed and Steve will be in contact with Michelle about coordinating a roundtable in the spring.

The board then discussed the agenda for the January 11 MOEC General Meeting. Matt Holloway will be on the agenda. He will present his Guide to Inclusive Practice and describe its pilot. His goal is to train 1,000 principals across the state and he would like collaboratives to be the key players for that work . Cathy Cummins would also like to present information about the benefits of AESA membership, including the organization's Student Loan forgiveness program.

The Regional Representatives then provided updates.

- The Greater Boston region has scheduled a meeting in early January.
- The Central region met a week and a half ago. The two new collaborative executive directors at the meeting suggested that MOEC create an Executive Director's checklist. The board agreed a checklist would be an excellent addition to the reference binder for new executive directors.
- The North region has started scheduling their meetings at the end of the work day and has found that this increases attendance.
- The South region had a meeting scheduled on December 15. The members are working on the spring Special Education Fair and are discussing Sheltered English instruction and mentoring for teachers of students with severe special needs.

The board then discussed using the template from the recently created SCRO Guide to Special Public Education Programs to create a similar statewide guide. In early January, MOEC will begin requesting that collaboratives complete the one page template for each of their programs.

The board voted unanimously to renew the contract with O'Neill & Associates.

The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November board meeting.

Richard Murphy handed out his Treasurer's report, which provided the balance in the checking and money market accounts.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by A. M. Atallah