

**MOEC General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**May 11, 2020**  
**Held via Zoom Video Conferencing**

**Attendees:** Cathy Lawson, Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Theresa Craig, Fran Rosenberg, Jacki Clark, Chris Scott, Steve Donovan, Catherine Cooper, Cindy Landanno, Cathy Cummins, Donna Flaherty, John Demanche, Nadine Ekstrom, Arlene Grubert, David Heimbecker, Allen Himmelberger, Arnold Lundwall, Kim Oliveria, Rick Reino, Dymrna Thomas Matt Irish, Ruth Hersch, Paulajo Gaines, Karen Brann, Christine Romanciewz,

Meeting began: 10:00am Adjourned 2:13 pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

Cathy and Joanne welcomed the Zoom meeting attendees.

**A Bill Relative to municipal governance during the COVID-19 emergency (Senate, No. 2673)** Presented by Matt Irish:

The bill has passed the Senate and is pending in the House. They are still meeting a few times per week. Language has been vetted by Baker Administration and are working to determine when the House will take this up. Matt encouraged everyone to contact their representatives and encourage them to take up this bill as soon as possible. He hopes for an update later in this week; the House scheduled for formal session on Wednesday and informal sessions on Monday and Thursday.

**CARES Act Letter**

The membership reviewed a letter to Governor Baker requesting consideration of CARES Act Funds being made available to collaboratives. General feedback is that the letter is an appropriate approach to the situation.

**David Heimbecker makes a motion to send the proposed CARES Act Letter to Governor Baker. Liz McGonagle seconds the motion. No further discussion about the letter. Unanimous vote to approve sending the letter.**

Matt Irish left the meeting at 10:44am

**Coronavirus as it pertains to collaboratives:**

Joanne Haley Sullivan provided an update on the **Commissioner's Re-entry committee**. There will be weekly meetings to discuss what needs to be looked at when the schools do reopen so the Department can issue guidance. The expectation is that there will be overarching guidance in early June and more detailed guidance in mid-June.

**Lessons Learned: Reflecting on what we've learned so far.**

- **David Heimbecker** - Staff members are going above and beyond what is expected of them.
- **Theresa Craig** - People are doing small things with extraordinary impacts. For example, a bus driver has delivered lawn graduation signs to students. People are trying to ensure

emotional health needs are being met for all of the students. Using a Google Sheet in conjunction with the Student Remote Learning plan - it shows how everyone has a role in supporting the students. We will be moving forward with students receiving credits (high school level) - met or not meet standards - but no student will receive a failing grade due to COVID-19.

- **Cathy Cummins** - Going virtual without a technology director has been a challenge; our team has jumped in to ensure everyone is comfortable with remote learning tools. There are several things that we'll continue to do that we've learned from this pandemic. Speech and language pathologist has coached a family on how to program a student's device at home - grandparents and older siblings are helping and this student has made great progress while at home.
- **Jacki Clark** - Form for students with significant and/or multiple disabilities which includes a grid of what was offered during the week and provides an opportunity for students/families to provide feedback on what is working and what is not working.
- **Liz McGonagle** - So proud of the work that teachers, nurses, and custodians have been doing a wonderful job. Communication has improved across the board. Board is discussing closing for the last two weeks of the school year - giving everyone a solid break.
- **Cathy Lawson** - Shared that LABBB lost a student to coronavirus.
- **Jacki Clark** - Lost 6 to coronavirus as well. Beginning to coordinate grief counseling.
- **Fran Rosenberg** - When we reopen, we're bringing students together from many communities - some of which are much higher risk areas than other students.
- **Sanchita Banerjee** - Wants to recognize her Board; transports 500 students and has over 100 drivers. Board acted with compassion and unanimously voted to pay drivers through the end of the school year.
- **Ruth Hersch** - You are all role models to me. You have such amazing skill sets and I really learn from this group. I received many sympathy cards from you after my mother passed and I want to thank you for that. Having a central vision here is so important. It's powerful to see. I see you all as such an amazing resource.

### **Reopening Discussion - what big ideas do we need to be thinking about before we reopen**

We don't know when reopening will happen - it could be for summer, could be September or November. What are some big ideas we need to be thinking about in terms of reopening.

- **Communication** - facilitating situations when staff or students may become ill or experience illness in their homes. There was a lot of panic surrounding this when it happened at SEEM Collaborative. There was a challenge with the reopening after

closure due to exposure. Need to have standard messaging ready to go and have a centralized database.

- **Equity** - Strong central guidance will be needed because of medically fragile students and others who cannot wear masks/unable to social distance. Coordinating with the various Boards of Health may be a challenge as well - many are issuing guidance that is different from the State guidance. There is a need for a checklist for communication. Trauma informed approach to social distancing as well. Imminent danger definition.
- **Discipline** - There will be a lower tolerance for students who are aggressive/spit on others. Collaboratives will likely receive more students as reopening happens, while staff will feel more anxious working with those students.
- **Transportation** -
- **Health and Safety** - How will we disinfect, handle masks - wearing them or refusing to do so, what items can be brought in from home or be taken home? We also need to make sure that the districts and collaboratives are protected from lawsuits/what is the liability IF a staff member is exposed or diagnosed positive after/before being in a student's home? Welfare of children is a concern, too. Need for PT/OT services - will they be allowed and what would they look like? One-to-one services may be limited. Teletherapy services need to be discussed, too. We need to push for the strongest guidelines for schools/camps this summer - PPE, closing guidelines, what is required for students, etc. Re Entering home services is going to look different as well - how do we ensure health and safety?
- **Training Staff** - Training around specifics of COVID-19; Trauma informed practices; Sensitivity training surrounding economic impact on families; boundaries surrounding electronic communication devices. Cross training if a co-worker falls ill. Are current staffing levels appropriate? What does small group instruction look like when social distancing is in place?
- **IEPs** - Concern that families will want IEP meetings repeated when facilities reopen. Virtual meetings are not the same as face-to-face.
- **Nurses** - Currently no protocol for airborne pathogens, additional guidance is necessary. CDC and DPHs need to provide guidance specific to schools. Kate Maher (AVC) spoke about a fluid document that collaborative nurses are working on
- **Return to school after exclusion** - Testing; immunity; CDC guidelines are based on hearsay. Concerns surrounding HIPPA guidelines - is there really immunity to this even though there are so many strains?

General aside from Catherine Cooper - Has noticed that staff from collaboratives are entering things in the chats on these statewide Zoom meetings, that may not necessarily be beneficial to the overall goals of the collaboratives. Catherine encourages EDs to have a conversation with

their staff about limiting their comments in the Zoom meetings; some of the comments may not be beneficial to the overall goals of all collaboratives.

Break for lunch 12:30 - 1:00pm

### **MOEC FY21 Budget**

Chris Scott reviewed the FY21 budget.

**Fran Rosenberg makes a motion to accept the budget as written. Second by Liz McGonagle. No further discussion about the FY21 budget. Unanimous decision to accept the budget as presented.**

### **Collaborative Regulations and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Paulajo and Ruth provided an update to the Proposed Revisions to [603 CMR 50.00 Education Collaboratives Regulations](#) which is currently out for public comment between May 14, 2020 and June 5, 2020. During that time there is an email address for written public comment. Ruth or Paulajo will follow up with a link and email address.

### **Nominating Committee**

Cathy Lawson reviewed the [Slate of Candidates for FY21-FY22](#).

**Cathy Cummins made a motion that the Slate of Candidates be approved as presented. Second by Nadine Ekstrom. No further discussion on the Candidates. Unanimous decision to accept the Slate of Candidates as presented.**

### **Recognizing Outgoing Executive Directors and Board Members**

Retiree Arlene Grubert was recognized as an outstanding team member who is thoughtful and insightful by Theresa Craig, who shares a Board member with her.

Cindy Landanno recognized outgoing Interim Executive Director Allen Himmelberger for his outstanding leadership over the last year.

### **President's Outgoing Remarks**

Cathy Lawson shared how much she appreciated everyone's level of engagement and willingness to take risks and be supportive of one another at MOEC meetings. She feels MOEC is in great shape with the incoming board members.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.