

**Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2019
North River Collaborative
525 Beech St. Rockland, MA
Meeting Began: 10:00am Meeting Adjourned: 2:15pm**

Attendees: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Cathy Lawson, Liz McGonagle, Catherine Cooper, Bill Diehl, Fran Rosenberg, Jacki Clark, Chris Scott, Steve Donovan, Nadine Ekstrom, Susan Farrell, Donna Flaherty, Allen Himmelberger, Cindy Landanno, Dympna Thomas, Paulajo Gaines, Ruth Hersch, Christine Romancewiz

Welcome and Introductions

Joanne welcomed everyone back from the summer break and new attendees/members were welcomed as well.

Approval of the June Board Meeting Minutes (DOCUMENT 2)

The June minutes were reviewed.

Motioned by Catherine Cooper and second by Steve Donovan “*That the minutes of the June 19 Board meeting be adopted as presented.*”

Executive Director Report (FOLDER 1)

Summer Update

Joanne shared with the group that she met with the three new Executive Directors (Donna Flaherty--ACCEPT, Susan Farrell--Central Mass Collaborative, and Allen Himmelberger --SWCEC) over the summer; they each seem well suited for the role they are in. At the meeting we reviewed an updated orientation [binder](#) in some detail so they have been walked through print copies of the documents on the list attached.

Joanne pointed out that there is a [new collaborative law](#) in one place and easily accessible for everyone. The link can also be found at the bottom of the homepage of moecnet.org.

Job alike meetings have been established; the individuals in each collaborative should have received a list of Job Alike meeting dates and locations by now. We are looking forward to good participation again this year.

The new [brochure](#) was shared and it was decided that at the next meeting copies would be distributed to attendees.

AESA Update

Cathy Lawson and Joanne will be attending the AESA Legislative Call to Action from September 18-20 in Washington DC. They will share the agenda upon receipt.

Joanne asked Bill for more information about Secure Rural Schools - and encouraged other members to share more about how these topics impact the collaboratives: Secure Rural Schools, Municipal Medicaid Reimbursement, E-Rate, mental health, and school shootings.

Joanne will also be attending the AESA Annual Conference in Phoenix in early December. (Liz McGonagle and Nadine Ekstrom confirmed they will be attending as well). Nadine encouraged others to attend by briefly sharing her experience from last year, as a first year attendee.

Joanne congratulated CES for their [*Everyone is a Learner*](#) article published in AESA *Perspectives*. Bill spoke about how proud they are of this opportunity and they appreciated the opportunity to share their program with others.

Confirmation of MOEC FY20 Meeting Dates and Locations

Joanne reviewed the [list](#) of meeting dates and locations for the year. There were no concerns about dates and/or locations expressed.

An overview of today's meeting was provided so new attendees/members could understand what the flow of the meeting will be.

Open positions on MOEC Committees and Commissions (FOLDER 2)

Cathy Lawson shared that there were three (3) open positions on MOEC Committees and Commissions. The nominating committee has the following for the Board to consider as appointments for FY20:

- **Interim Regional Representative for Central Mass:** Cindy Landanno (to be voted by the full MOEC membership in October 2019)
- **DESE Special Education Advisory Committee:** Susan Farrell
- **Professional Development Committee Members:** Dympna Thomas and Helen Deranian

Motion by Bill Diehl and second by Steve Donovan *“That Cindy Landanno be appointed as interim Central Mass Regional Representative, pending vote of the membership at the October General Membership meeting. That Susan Farrell be appointed as the MOEC representative to the DESE Special Education Advisory Committee.”*

MOEC/DESE Initiatives (FOLDER 3)

DESE Reorganization

Ruth Hersh and Pauljo Gaines discussed the changes made to the DESE department to which collaboratives are assigned. We will be working under the Center for Educational Options and overseen by Cliff Chuang at the Senior Management Level.

Ruth talked about the goal that the transition will be seamless. Pauljo shared that their website will be refreshed and is open to feedback. There is a DOEECF list that is being monitored, but Pauljo is not sure how it is being used. The Board Member Management system is still not

functional; but please continue to add new members with a new profile - make anyone that is retired “inactive”. Do not try to login/complete the online training, which is expected to take approximately one hour to complete. Six (6) year renewal is required for about 75 people.

Pauljo expects the issue to be resolved swiftly. Pauljo asks that membership reminder for financial audits be shared with her to expedite reviews of the collaboratives.

Special Education Regional Meetings

DESE Regional Special Education Directors Meetings the [Save the Date](#) was sent to over 400 special education, collaborative, and charter school leaders, and will be happening across the state. There is also a remote option for those wishing to attend that way (limited to 100 screens, not attendees). The plan is to have all January meetings held remotely so that no one has to travel. Joanne thanked Nadine and EDCO for coordinating the remote access.

Steve Donovan shared that the meetings are productive and quick. Nadine Ekstrom shared that feedback forms/sheets are very important as the information collected is used to improve future meetings. The feedback is used to improve each session; Joanne reminded the Board that negative feedback on the surveys is encouraged and welcomed.

**(Skipped over this topic at 10:40am; meeting running ahead of schedule)
Resumed with this topic at 11:15am**

Arts Curriculum Framework Ambassador Program

Dawn Brenski, DESE Arts Content Support Lead, joined us to discuss her regional Arts Ambassadors program and how collaboratives can support her work.

She shared that there are two areas of focus at DESE:

First focus area is working on building a culturally diverse workforce through recruitment and reviewing the textbooks that are being used to ensure they are culturally responsive as well. **(Craig Waterman is the contact person for this)**

Second focus area building strong instructional materials and professional development (IMPD). When there is higher quality instructional materials, the student outcome is positively impacted. **(Rachel Radshaw (sp?) is the contact person for this)**

The new Arts Curriculum Framework was approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in late June. DESE strategized how best to support arts educators across the state, and will be implementing a regional [Arts Ambassador](#) program for this purpose. This new program aligns with the national programming. The 2019-2020 school year is the year of transition according to DESE. It's expected that the programming will be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year.

This program will focus around 11 artistic practices from PreK-Grade 12. These are skills that are lifelong skills. There is a shift to five (5) artistic disciplines, which will now include Media Arts. This project is intended to focus on the student's artistic intent. Grade diades have been

implemented because instructional time is so widely varied statewide; setting benchmarks by grade level is not practical.

How is DESE supporting arts educators across the state: The [Arts Ambassador](#) program will be organized by region representing each of the artistic disciplines. The lead ambassador from each region will partner with DESE for training, resources, and general support. The lead ambassador will then train the local arts teachers in their regions. There will be a two hour online course offered for professional development; the online model was chosen to ensure many would be able to attend.

To support this initiative, Dawn asked if Collaboratives would be willing to host Professional Development sessions at their locations. DESE wants to partner with collaborative for these sessions to help with networking and pushing the information out to the districts. These Professional Development sessions are scheduled to take place after school hours. There would be four (4) two-hour sessions. Because it is after school hours, teachers are not contractual required to attend; DESE feels there is an interest in this area and that is why regional teams have been created.

DESE has scheduled October 11 as a training date; and is looking for a commitment by September 30 from the collaboratives. Joanne asked that the regional reps take this information back to their regions and then reach out to Dawn via email dawn.brenski@doe.mass.edu to express their interest in offering their location as a venue and/or if there is interest in participating. Joanne commended Dawn for taking the initiative and jumped right in on the job-alike function and offering support via a Quick Reference Guide.

Began this discussion at 10:40am - break at 11am for DESE Art Ambassador discussion Resumed 11:50am

Consideration of Goals for the Year

Joanne included an annotated current [strategic priority plan](#) in the folder for this meeting. Time was spent reviewing the status of the goals and priorities and identify priorities for FY 20. It was recommended by Joanne that we continue to prioritize the work related to implementation of the collaborative legislation and enhance the regional structure, development of a long term professional development plan, and enhance partnerships with other agencies. Joanne also thinks that now that we have an updated brochure, the next step is to clean up our website and she would like to work on that this year.

Joanne discussed the [Strategic priority plan](#) for FY20; reviewed the status of goals and priorities and identified FY20 priorities.

A discussion of priority area *Increase dialogue and/or partnerships with statewide groups* took place. Joanne shared that some states have already begun to do this; and we should look at what others have done as there is something to be learned from what others have done. This prompted discussion from Legislative Committee. Cathy Lawson spoke about how we need to be thinking about the regions giving the population shift/allocation of funds. Needs assessment and what types of agreements are needed to be in place to determine what the organizations needs are to

ensure the organization is most efficient. Could two regions through MOEC be sustainable for Massachusetts? Bill Diehl wanted to know when this transition would happen. Joanne asked if it was necessary to bring in an outside consultant (Susan Leddick via AESA) to discuss this issue? Chris Scott talked about the fact that the law has passed and there are various parameters to be addressed. There are 25 collaboratives in the state and how do we address a regional reorganization? Once we determine what the state is doing, how do we align with that? Joanne indicated that Susan Leddick has worked with other states and is knowledgeable about the work they have done. Fran Rosenberg shared that a new discussion would be welcomed as there are new members/commissioners/etc to learn from best practices and bring back what has worked elsewhere.

There was discussion surrounding how the state is breaking up into regions - should there be two or five. Are the regional differences needed for different initiatives?

Joanne recommends that we continue to prioritize the work related to implementation of the collaborative legislation and enhance the regional structure, development of a long term professional development plan, and enhance partnerships with other agencies.

Dympna: What is the voice that we want for MOEC to have - and how can we carry that through the rest of the work?

Fran: It seems that there is some fine tuning needed on what we did last year. How can we help one another be our best selves and showcase (to DESE and others) the good things that are happening individually and collectively.

Jackie: Suggestion: Job-alike calls among Executive Directors for the next year (optional attendance) to discuss various topics. Many members of our own organizations aren't familiar with MOEC - as Executive Directors we can help spread the word. Not all regions are set up in a similar format; having ED job-alikes could provide support.

We should also clean up our website this year. Social media (Twitter/Facebook) is a common practice used by superintendents/districts across the state and we should add that to our plan for FY20. Social media/marketing is a great way to showcase what the collaboratives are doing and educating through exposure.

Reconvened after lunch at 12:35pm

Update on Discussion with MASS

Cathy and Joanne presented to the new superintendents (and collaborative directors) who are participating in the MASS New Superintendent Induction Program. We provided them with and discussed these attached [documents](#).

Joanne has been in discussion about membership in MASS for Collaborative Directors. Currently, the MASS by-laws make the collaboratives ineligible for a full membership, but they could perhaps see what options might be available as we continue to support and grow this relationship. There are financial implications for collaboratives to consider: Associates are \$300;

Full Membership ranges from \$1750 - \$2600 depending on the district. There is talk of possibly creating a new membership status level for collaboratives.

The Board discussion around membership in MASS for Collaborative Directors raised concerns that not everyone holds a superintendent's license, but Executive Directors should be viewed as equals. Although the jobs are different, they are parallel in the state education system. Some Executive Directors hold two licenses and it's personal preference as to which one you work under. Perhaps it is not necessary to become full members in MASS, as MASS does not require Executive Directors have Superintendent licensing. To make a change to this, a law would need to be changed.

MASS has created a [page](#) on their website that provides collaborative information and links to the MOEC website.

Plans for October 7th General Membership Meeting

Thus far, considerations for the October meeting include:

Ideas discussed::

Topics to share/discuss with Commissioner Riley, who will be our guest:

- Allen: Commissioner's opinion on MOEC and that work that we do
- Bill: How does the Commissioner see MOEC fitting into their objectives
- Liz: Update on Steering Committee to Commissioner; Ask Regional Reps to share how they are connected
- Catherine: Licensure issue
- **Action item:** Resend June Report prior to October meeting

Adaptive Leadership Protocol:

- Breakout Sessions to discuss Crisis Management Protocol (active shooter, natural disaster, threat assessment, etc.)

School Safety Measures:

- Survey group to see if there is an interest
- Invite BeSafe to future meeting to discuss school safety measures; schedule this for 2PM during a General Meeting.

New Medicaid Procedures?

Workforce Investment Board (for January meeting)

- Mutually beneficial partnerships

MOEC Committees

Reports: (FOLDER 4)

- **Treasurer's Report**

Chris Scott provided the Treasurer's report to the Board.

Fran motioned to accept and Steve seconded *that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented.*

- **Reports on commissions or committees that have met**
- Legislative Committee (Catherine Cooper)

- As you know, there was considerable discussion about H424 and MOEC’s response to the bill. The legislative committee is meeting just prior to the Board meeting and the matter of how to move forward as an organization when there is no clear consensus on a legislative matter will be discussed. We will need to continue this conversation at the Board and membership level so that there is a position that is clear for us to follow. We will also consider ways to stay ahead of upcoming legislative matters going forward if possible.
- Catherine Cooper, Bill Diehl, and Joanne Haley Sullivan testified before the Administration and Staffing committee about our ethics bill which has now been forwarded to the Steering and Policy Committee. Next steps are being determined. We have a request to meet with Eve Slattery, the General Counsel and Legal Division Chief of the State Ethics Commission to discuss how we can be on the same page. We also met on August 28th by phone to discuss proposed legislation “Clarifying the Rights of Employees in Education Collaboratives. (H424)”
- MSBA--Catherine Cooper, Joanne Haley Sullivan, and Matt Irish met with Jack McCarthy, the Executive Director of MSBA to discuss a new approach to facilities funding for collaboratives. As you know, we have tried several different ways to get funding for collaborative classroom space. We are now attempting to find a mechanism whereby a collaborative could join with a district when they are working on a building project. The collaborative would fund additional space at the MSBA square footage rate with an understanding that there would be a long-term committed lease for the space dedicated to the collaborative. While there was certainly no commitment, we were encouraged to hear that it will be explored with MSBA legal counsel to see if it could happen and they will get back to us.

Prior to the next Board meeting, there will be a Legislative Committee meeting and that meeting will be open to everyone.

- Collaborative Law Steering Committee--September 5th
- Professional Development Committee -- (Liz McGonagle)
 - [Learning Tour](#)
 - Regional Reps were asked to share this to help promote and make this successful
- Children’s League

As we discussed previously, Fran Rosenberg has been the MOEC representative on the Children's League. She indicates that she has always questioned whether or not it really made sense for MOEC to be represented at these meetings. Fran doesn’t really think it's essential, and she is willing to stay on top of the minutes, etc. We should discuss if this

membership makes sense to continue. Bob Gass was a big proponent of membership because many of the MAAPS schools are involved, and it seemed important to be "at the table" to interface with DCF, DYS, DMH, etc.....but Fran reports that the focus is really not on schools.

Subsequently I have had a conversation with the meeting organizer who was interested in having collaboratives continue to be represented in the group and in a coalition on transition that convenes quarterly.

The Board will discuss whether we want to recruit someone else to serve as our representative.

- [Mass School Mental Health Consortium](#) - Cathy Lawson
 - Statewide initiative; we'll ask him to come to the October meeting and discuss.