

## MOEC Board Meeting Minutes June 8, 2020

**Attendees:** Joanne Haley Sullivan, Cathy Lawson, Liz McGonagle, Catherine Cooper, Chris Scott, Steve Donovan, Bill Diehl, Allen Himmelberger, Paul Hilton, Rick Reino, Donna Flaherty, Anna Bishop, Donald Jarvis, Theresa Craig, Cindy Landanno, Fran Rosenberg, Kim Oliveria, Nadine Ekstrom, Ruth Hersch, Christine Romanceiwz, Karen Brann, Matt Irish

Meeting began 10:05am Adjourned at 2:05pm

### **Executive Director Report**

Joanne made opening remarks about the Pandemic and the remarkable work Executive Directors have done to lead collaboratives to provide amazing services for students and families while supporting your educators with compassion and empathy.

She reviewed attempts to address the financial challenges that many collaboratives have encountered. The municipal finance bill has passed the House and Senate in slightly different versions that now must be aligned so that it can be enacted. (see follow-up discussion with Matt Irish below in the legislative committee report).

MOEC has submitted [Public Comment on the new Collaborative Regulations](#). Joanne thanked those who helped with that document.

Joanne provided an update on DESE's Return to School Working Group.

**Job Alike Groups** have been well received by many during this trying time.

**Special Education Regional Meetings.** At this point, DESE has determined that they are not ready to decide if they will issue an RFP for a contract for the Regional Meetings.

There are three (3) **new Executive Directors** starting on July 1, 2020: Arnold Ludlow (SWEC), Jeanne Sullivan (Bi-Co), Roland Joyal (LPValley)

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (Folder 1)**

The April and May meeting minutes are in your packet.

*Liz McGonagle made a motion that the minutes April 12th Board meeting and the May 11th General Membership meeting be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Catherine Cooper. Unanimous vote.*

### **Update on DESE Re-entry Working Group**

Joanne has been participating on the DESE re-entry working group. The group is addressing four subcommittees: Academic; Physical, Social, and Emotional Health and Wellness; Structural; and Business/Operations. The group is working with Commissioner Evans' consulting group to

prepare a Guidance Document for all schools in the Commonwealth. Joanne has been trying to bring the collaborative voice and all of the concerns that you have raised into the discussion. I am currently collaborating on a [folder](#) that pulls together all of the recommendations from a variety of states and will have an update for you in this meeting.

Other current groups addressing collaborative re-entry plans state-wide:

- Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Nurses Association
- Transportation group--MAPT Group
- Others?

### **MOEC Membership Needs re COVID-19**

Joanne asked the group what they need from MOEC going into the summer or into the fall.

- a) an opportunity to get together weekly to have conversation about the current climate. This would be an optional meeting, of course.
- b) exploring Liability Waiver with our attorney.
- c) create a working group regarding in-home service providers.

### **MOEC Meeting Calendars for FY21**

The Board agreed to continue with Zoom Meetings through December and revisit possible in person meetings for 2021.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chris Scott presented the [Treasurer's Report](#) with a revised budget. The increase in the budget is due to the additional payroll expenses having the Executive Director move from a contractor to an employee based on the Auditor's recommendation. It was mentioned that for FY22, an increase in dues and/or offering additional professional development opportunities through MOEC will be needed to help offset the deficit.

*Bill Diehl made a motion that the new budget be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Catherine Cooper. Unanimous vote.*

### **Update on DESE from Ruth Hersch**

Ruth provided an update on the [Public Comment on Collaborative Regulations](#). She noticed that there are very few comments to date.

Ruth has been participating in the Covid Working Group and will provide any updates to Joanne as they come in.

Ruth would like to know if collaboratives would be interested in a survey to collect data based on the programs offered from each collaborative on a bi-annual basis. We will revisit this in the fall, and allow people to review the questions that were asked in prior surveys.

Considering a meeting with the Commissioner to get it on the calendar now for October. We will meet with the regional liaisons AND with the membership. Could we consider a Sr. Staff meeting with Cliff, Russell, and a few others in addition to the other meetings?

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Legislative Update from Matt Irish**

Gov. Baker signed the municipal funding bill into law on Friday. The language we had been pursuing was included in the final bill. Thank you to Joanne for her hard work. Alice Peisch and Jason Lewis were instrumental. The Senate President's office was also supportive of this bill.

The Senate is still meeting; though struggling with how to do the budget for FY21. Budget recommendations haven't been presented yet - they are due by July 1. House and Senate are meeting remotely and it is very challenging logistically. The State House is closed to the public for the foreseeable future. With Phase 2 of the Reopening Plan starting today, people are wondering what schools will look like for the fall? That's going to become a big issue in the near future.

We have not yet had any follow-up to letters that we sent regarding the Gov Emergency Relief Fund and the Commissioner Discretionary Funds.

**Professional Development Committee Liz McGonagle** - There are opportunities for Professional Development going forward.

MASBO was planning very worthwhile sessions that would have been very beneficial to new Executive Directors and Business Leaders. These sessions were canceled due to the pandemic. We should run these sessions through MOEC in the fall; and would be appropriate to help offset the MOEC budget for FY21.

Social and Emotional Mental Health Topics were discussed and we're curious if we should put something together as a way to support our Districts and the Department.

#### **By-Laws Committee Chris Scott**

There will be meetings over the summer to work on the changes that will need to be put in place due to the new law and discussions that we have been having in response. Chris, Joanne, Nadine, Cindy, and Jacki will meet to discuss this.

### **Regional Updates**

Regions have been in close contact throughout the pandemic. Regions with new Executive Directors coming on board should encourage collaborations and regular meetings.

### **Website Update**

We continue to work on the **MOEC website** with InTouch Web Design and we encourage you to check it out on your own and provide us with any feedback you may have. It is our hope to have the new website launched by the end of FY20.

### **Closing Thoughts for the Year**

Joanne thanked the Board for a wonderful year in which everyone has been supportive and cohesive to one another. She said that Cathy Lawson has done a phenomenal job as President.