

October General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020
10:00AM - 2:00PM
Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Theresa Craig, Steve Donovan, Arnold Lundwall, Karen Reuter, Susan Farrell, Jacki Clark, Cathy Cummins, Bill Diehl, John Demanche, Fran Rosenberg, Dympna Thomas, Catherine Cooper, Cindy Landanno, Cathy Lawson, Roland Joyal, Rick Reino, Chris Scott, Kim Oliveira, Jeanne Sullivan, Donna Flaherty, Alison Bagg (DESE), Paulajo Gaines (DESE), Ruth Hersch (DESE), Christine Romancewicz (DESE), Karen Brann (DESE), Cliff Chuang (DESE), Nina Marchese (DESE), Joan Wade (AESA), Commissioner Jeffrey Riley (DESE)

Welcome and Introductions

Liz McGonagle welcomed everyone to the first FY21 General Membership meeting.

New Executive Directors were introduced:

Jeanne Sullivan from BICO

Arnold Lundwall from Southern Worcester County

Roland Joyal from Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative

We also welcomed Cliff Chuang and Alison Bagg from the DESE Office for Educational Options this morning. And finally, Joan Wade from AESA joined us as well.

Additionally, we acknowledged that this will be Nadine Ekstrom's last meeting with MOEC. Nadine has only been with us for a short while but she has been a very involved and engaged member of MOEC. She served on the Collaborative Law Steering Committee, and the Professional Development Committee.

Executive Director Report

Joanne provided a brief overview of what would be discussed at today's meeting.

AESA Update

Cathy Lawson, Liz McGonagle and Joanne Haley Sullivan remotely attended the AESA Legislative Call to Action from September 29 - October 1. They met with legislative aides in Congresswoman Clark, Congressman Lynch, Congressman Neal, Congresswoman Trahan, and Congressman Kennedy joined our meeting himself. Additionally, they met with aides from Senator Markey, and Senator Warren's offices. The focus was on telling legislators about the work of collaboratives particularly in the time of COVID-19, and the challenges of funding we have faced. They briefed them on the revised guidance we have received from FEMA and how that will limit our ability to fund our needs.

AESA has submitted a [letter](#) to the House Leadership regarding the HEROES Act and specifically how it will positively impact our districts.

Board of Education Meeting and Approval of the Collaborative Regulations

At the September Board of Education meeting, the revised [Collaborative Regulations](#) were approved.

Job alike meetings have begun and the meeting dates can be found [here](#).

Business Leaders had a discussion with MEMA Public Assistance and learned there was a change to the recent FEMA Guidance that limited reimbursement of expenses related to COVID-19 as of September 15th. FEMA has tied eligibility for reimbursement to a distinction between “response” and “reopening.” As a result, all expenses related to bringing students back to school beginning in September results in all costs and responsibilities being borne by collaboratives when they can least afford it.

All other job-alikes have begun as well.

Confirmation of MOEC FY21 Meeting Dates and Locations

Included is a [list](#) of meeting dates and locations for the year as well as a [current list of Executive Directors](#) for your reference as well.

Committee Updates

1. Professional Development Committee--[Learning Tour](#)
 - Throughout FY21, the PD will offer engaging, authentic professional development experience designed to promote the sharing of new ideas, successful practices and innovative programs as well as an opportunity to network with collaborative colleagues from across the state. These will be virtual events.
2. By-Laws Committee
 - The By-Laws Committee has met to review and update the existing MOEC by-laws. Revisions will be ready for review at the November Board meeting and will be presented at the January General Membership meeting.

Salary Survey The MOEC Executive Director Salary Survey will be sent out later this month.

Consideration of Goals for the Year

A copy of the FY21 [goals](#) has been approved by the Board and ties into the strategic plan.

Bill Diehl commended Joanne Haley Sullivan for her hard work and advocacy for MOEC during the pandemic.

Positions on MOEC Committees and Commissions can be found at this [link](#).

Roland Joyal will be representing the West Region on the Legislative Committee.

Susan Farrell will participate on the Safe and Supportive Schools Commission at DESE, effective January 1, 2021.

Nomination and Election of new West Regional Liaison Representative

Liz McGonagle made a motion that Roland Joyal be appointed Western Mass Regional Representative January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, seconded by Theresa Craig. The motion was unanimously approved.

Title IX Update (FOLDER 2)

Theresa Craig presented the significant changes to the Title IX Regulations. Attached is a training video that came from MASS [here](#) and below are links from the AESA Conference for other videos for Title IX for your use as needed:

1. [Hogan Lovells: The New Title IX Regulations—What School Leaders Need to Know](#)
2. [ATIXA: 2020 Title IX Regs Overview—Commitment Beyond Compliance for K-12 Schools & Districts](#) (you may see an error message when the video opens, disregard that message and hit “Play” and the recording should start)

Commissioner Riley

Commissioner Riley joined this meeting and a presentation to inform him of the work collaboratives have been doing to support our students and districts through the pandemic was shown. Presenters were Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Theresa Craig, Fran Rosenberg, and Cathy Lawson. He expressed gratitude for the work of collaboratives and suggested that we remain in touch in the coming weeks about possible funding opportunities.

Joan Wade, AESA

Joan Wade presented some examples of how ESA’s across the country have partnered with their Departments of Education to support teaching and learning during COVID.

- Bringing people together to have conversations about how to move forward.
- Cooperating with one another; rather than competing.
- Nebraska partnered with the Department of Education and with the Department of Health and the ethanol industry to procure 75,000 gallons of hand sanitizer. Also partnered with FEMA to procure masks (at least 5 per student and teacher). They’ve also received \$16m worth of equipment (devices and internet access).
- Oregon worked with school districts in rural areas where broadband wasn’t available to create correspondence courses - very “old school” idea, but this worked.
- Meal distribution was essential for students. ESAs coordinated these Breakfast & Lunch programs, often delivering them to families who needed them most.
- Whatever it takes is what ESAs across the country are doing.
- Diverse Portfolio of Services
 - Technology Support
 - Business Services Support
- The Annual AESA Conference will be virtual with over 80 pre-recorded breakout sessions that will be made available for six (6) months after the conference is ended. There will be three (3) live Keynote presentations.
- AESA offers a variety of webinars, including Business Development Support. Those are found on the [AESA website](#).

Break for Lunch 12:00pm - 12:30pm

Debrief Discussion on Commissioner Riley presentation

Bill Diehl felt the presentation went well and was direct and clear. Joan Wade noted that the “ask” was as important as the presentation. Karen Brann stated the presentation went well and did a great job advocating for the students served.

There is a meeting scheduled for November 3 with Commissioner Riley and the Regional Liaison Representatives, Joanne Haley Sullivan, and Liz McGonagle.

Discussion about how collaboratives are addressing Social Justice and Equity (FOLDER 3)

Bill Diehl facilitated this discussion as CES is one of several collaboratives leading the way in this area. CES provided documents to review. There was agreement for Regional Representatives to continue this discussion with their region and to be prepared to report at the next meeting about whether there are common needs for MOEC to consider to assist collaboratives.

Apple Education Presentation

We heard from Matt Brooks about training and support for districts that Apple can provide for or through your collaborative. Matt Brooks is part of Apple’s Education team as an Education Leadership Executive working with school leaders to leverage technology to transform learning. Jim Doyle, with Apple’s Strategic Initiatives Group, joined this portion of the meeting as well to learn more about the work of collaboratives in Massachusetts. Matt will share resources with Joanne to share with the Executive Directors.