

MOEC Board Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2020
10:00AM - 12:00PM
Zoom Video Conference

Meeting began at 10:02am.

Attendees: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Theresa Craig, Fran Rosenberg, Steve Donovan, Bill Diehl, Cathy Lawson, Catherine Cooper, Chris Scott, Arnold Lundwall, Rick Reino, Ruth Hersch (DESE), Nina Marchese (DESE), Karen Brann (DESE), Christine Romancewiz (DESE)

Welcome and Introductions

Joanne welcomed everyone back after a summer filled with serious challenges and decisions. Joanne welcomed and introduced three new Executive Directors: Arnold Lundwall, Southern Worcester County; Jeanne Sullivan, Bi-County Collaborative; and Roland Joyal, Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative. Joanne met with these new Executive Directors this summer and reviewed the 2021 orientation [binder](#). Cathy Cummins will mentor Arnold, Theresa Craig will mentor Jeanne, and Bill Deihl will mentor Roland. Joanne also encouraged them to reach out if she could be of assistance.

Executive Director Report (FOLDER 1)

Summer Updates

Throughout the spring and summer, MOEC attempted to provide a support system to Executive Directors and leaders to allow everyone to learn from each other and to support one another. These job alike groups were well received and everyone has pulled together as one body. Job alike meeting dates have been established for FY21 and can be found on our website.

Job Alike Groups that met this summer include:

- Executive Directors
- Business Leaders
- Special Education Program Leaders
- Home Services Providers Leaders
- Transportation Leaders
- Technology Leaders
- Transportation Leaders
- Data Specialists will be starting this month.

Joanne was involved in the **DESE Return to School Working Group** and participated in bi-weekly meetings as well as three subcommittee meetings to be sure that the voice of students with disabilities in general, and collaboratives in particular, were represented. MOEC responded to various DESE requests for information and to provide feedback to drafts of guidance they issued. As a result MOEC was able to have a voice in the Compensatory Services Guidance that was issued as well as in the Comprehensive Special Education Return to School Guidance.

MOEC took the lead on discussions concerning state and federal funding for PPE and other costs to keep students safe. Matt Irish was a big help on all of this work. These efforts resulted in the

passage of the Municipal Finance Bill; nevertheless we have raised the issues and awareness of our challenges as well as recognition of our work.

Discussions included:

- Numerous contacts to achieve the passage of the Municipal Finance Bill
- Commissioner Riley--CARES Act Funds
- Bill Bell, DESE--CARES Act Funds and Governor's Relief Fund
- Ruth Hersh and Paulajo Gaines, DESE--170 day discussion to set the daily rate and whether collaboratives were held to the 170 day agreement as the districts are.
- Letter to Governor Baker and Secretary Peyser, and Commissioner Riley--Governor's Relief Fund
- Discussion with Secretary Peyser and follow up letter--messaging about funds to follow students, FEMA funds for collaboratives, additional funds through Governor's Relief Fund
- Letter and follow-up to Representative Alice Peisch and Senator Jason Lewis including written testimony on the work of collaboratives during the Pandemic
- Letter to Massachusetts Washington delegation through the Coalition for Special Education Funding
- Emails to MEMA Disaster Relief regarding help with the process for Collaboratives to apply. [Survey](#) of MOEC members regarding 501(c) status completed and shared with MEMA. Collaboratives are advised to apply to MEMA as a *Regional Government Organization*. MEMA will be advocating on behalf of the collaboratives for Disaster Relief. FEMA has released guidance on what disaster funds can be spent on for FY21.

Current list of Executive Directors

The Board was provided a [current list](#) of Executive Directors and Board Membership. FLLAC has changed its name to Keystone Educational Collaborative.

Joanne reminded the Board that they will need to initiate the process to replace a West Regional Liaison Representative since Bill Diehl will retire in December. The Board agreed to use our process that is used for bi-annual nominations to recruit and voted on the new member at the next General Membership Meeting.

AESA Update

Cathy Lawson, Liz McGonagle, and Joanne will be virtually attending the AESA Legislative Call to Action from September 29-October 1. Topics will include Secure Rural Schools, Municipal Medicaid Reimbursement, E-Rate, mental health, and school shootings. They will brief the legislators on the work of collaboratives during the Pandemic and the need for some federal financial support specifically for special education and targeting collaboratives.

Thus far they have

- Scheduled meeting with Tim Ranstrom (Congressman Neal's office)
- Scheduled meeting with Josh Delaney (Senator Warren's office)
- Scheduled meeting with Adam Axler (Senator Markey's office)

They are waiting for responses from:

- Congresswoman Trahan
- Congressman Kennedy
- Congresswoman Clark
- Congressman Lynch

Joanne will also be attending the AESA Annual Conference virtually.

Approval of the June Board Meeting Minutes (FOLDER 1)

Liz McGonagle made a motion to approve the June 8 Board meeting minutes as presented, second by Catherine Cooper. Roll call was held and unanimously approved.

Consideration of Executive Director Evaluation and Goals for the Year

The Officers of the Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President) will be the team to evaluate the MOEC Executive Director in March of each year.

A form was drafted for the Board's consideration for the [Executive Director Evaluation](#).

Liz McGonagle made a motion that the Executive Director Evaluation Form be accepted as presented with the change that the Officers of the Board will review the Executive Director and completed the Executive Director Evaluation form; second by Bill Diehl. Roll call was held and unanimously approved.

Joanne submitted the attached [goals](#) for FY21 for the Board's consideration.

Liz McGonagle made a motion that the Executive Director Goals for FY21 be accepted as presented; Catherine Cooper seconded the motion. Roll call was held and unanimously approved.

Confirmation of MOEC FY20 Meeting Dates, Topics and Locations

Joanne provided a [list of meeting dates](#), topics and locations for the year. After a brief discussion during today's meeting, the Board agreed to meet remotely through at least March due to the coronavirus pandemic and make another decision at that time. The proposed meeting plans included in the packet were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report (FOLDER 3)

Chris Scott provided the Treasurer's report for the Board. MOEC had a strong year.

Liz McGonagle made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Fran Rosenberg second. Roll call was held and unanimously approved.

MOEC/DESE Initiatives

Ruth Hersh reported that on September 29th the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) will vote on Education Collaborative [regulations](#) (603 CMR 50.00) which reflect the

new (2018) collaborative law and could launch a new relationship between the department and collaboratives. Joanne reported that the Commissioner has agreed to attend the October MOEC meeting as well as a meeting on November 3rd with the Regional Liaison Representatives to work with DESE to set the foundation for the implementation of the provision of the new law.

Paulajo Gaines noted that due to remote meetings, they will be able to attend more Collaborative Board meetings than expected.

Website Updates

Joanne shared the update of the MOEC [website](#) that was completed this summer.

Plans for October 7th General Membership Meeting

Thus far, considerations for the October meeting include:

- Commissioner Riley (confirmed)
 - Liz McGonagle, Fran Rosenberg, and Theresa Craig agreed to spearhead the presentation for Commissioner Riley during the October membership meeting.
- Joan Wade (AESA) (confirmed)
- Matt Brooks and Jim Doyle (Apple) will present about how their PD and leadership roundtables might fit with supporting collaboratives and possibly our member districts.

The Board agreed to include these items for the agenda and suggested adding an opportunity for collaboratives to discuss how they are addressing Social Justice and Equity.

FY21 MOEC Committees

The attached list includes current committee chairpersons and membership. The by-laws require that committee chairs be appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

Liz made a motion that the Committee Chairpersons be accepted as presented; motion was seconded by Cathy Lawson. Roll call was held and unanimously approved.

Each of the committees has lost members due to Executive Directors leaving their positions and the Board will seek replacements for these members. Attached is a draft [FY21 MOEC Advisory Group Participation Form](#) for the Board to consider using for this purpose.

The Board decided to dissolve the Collaborative Law Steering Committee as the work is completed.

Reports: (FOLDER 3)

Reports on commissions or committees that have met

- Legislative Committee--met with Matt Irish over the summer and discussed Collaboratives funding needs. We do not meet the requirements for CARES funding; trying to work at the state level to secure funding. There was also discussion of need for outreach to have representation from all regions
- By-Laws and Rules Committee did not meet formally over the summer

- Professional Development Committee is planning to meet on September 22
- Regional Representative Reports-- regions did not meet formally over the summer

Featured Speaker, Todd Whitthorne provided a presentation talking about taking care of yourself as a leader so that you can take care of those around you.