

MOEC June Board Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2021
Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Fran Rosenberg, Jackie Clark, Steve Donovan, Catherine Lawson, Theresa Craig, Cindy Landanno, Catherine Cooper, Donna Flaherty, Rick Reino, Cyndy Taymore, Arnold Lundwall, Sanchita Banerjee, Karen Brann, Christine Romancewicz, Paulajo Gaines, Ruth Hersh, Jennifer Gwatkin, Elizabeth Bennett

9:03am Liz McGonagle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the April and May Meeting Minutes (FOLDER 1)

Theresa Craig made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 12th and May 10th meetings be accepted as presented with second by Jackie Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Joanne Haley Sullivan shared that new Executive Directors for LABBB and CES will be joining MOEC in the fall. Bill Lupino (LABBB) as an interim Executive Director who will also lead the search for a permanent Executive Director, and Todd Gazda (CES).

Funding for Collaboratives

Joanne reported that she met with Commissioner Riley and his senior staff to consider reimbursement to Collaboratives through the use of the ESSER or other funds. He was receptive to our request although not committing to the full amount. Joanne had a subsequent request from Bill Bell to send in a detailed spreadsheet of Collaborative expenses (\$5.3Million across the Commonwealth) based on the ESSERS Categories and inclusive of all that collaboratives submitted. Joanne will keep you informed when she hears back from him.

Meeting with Cliff Chuang and the Office for Educational Options team

Joanne reported that she, Liz McGonagle, and the Regional Representatives met with the Office for Educational Options. They provided feedback on recommendations for DESE in the report regarding the David Almond case. They also highlighted priorities we would recommend for use of the ESSER funds. This was another example of our voices being brought into important state level conversations.

Joanne was asked to attend an additional meeting with the Office of the Child Advocate to discuss lessons learned from the David Almond case and how to improve the systems in support of the welfare and safety of children in the Commonwealth. Included in the meeting were MASS, MASC, MAAPS, Mass Advocates, and ASE. Joanne suggested we invite the Office of the Child Advocate to our Fall general membership meeting (October) so we can hear more about their work and she can hear more about ours.

Job alike meetings

A decision was made that next year the Data Specialists would join two meetings per year with the Tech Directors since there is so much overlap between the groups. The Data Specialists will

continue on their own for two additional meetings. This month, the Technology Leaders and the HR Directors met as well. The PD group has agreed to host two shared remote RBT courses to draw sufficient enrollment for these sessions to run. They are still working on developing a shared revenue model.

Joanne reported that **The Coalition for Special Education Funding** is planning to submit a letter to the Joint Budget Committee in support of the Senate budget for Circuit Breaker. They also plan to submit a letter to our federal delegation in support of IDEA.

Safe and Supportive Schools Proposal

Joanne heard from Kristen McKinnon about partnering to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid Training. We have filled the 10 spots that Kristen has held for collaboratives to attend the Train the Trainers program in late June. The scheduling of district training for the rest of this year is on hold, but we will pull the group together to think about a plan for next year. We can then think more strategically about all of the available resources and the best way to support offerings.

Language Based Learning Disabilities Program

Joanne met with Jill Norton, a parent of a child who is placed at Carroll School. Jill was the former Executive Director of the Rennie Center and also worked in the offices of Secretary Reville and of Secretary Malone. In the pursuit of equity, Jill is interested in pursuing a public day school option for students with Language Based Learning Disabilities (dyslexia) who may not have the resources to attend a private program. There was a discussion about the different players offering Language Based Learning Disabilities (dyslexia) services. This is offered by many public schools already and there is not an out of district need for an additional program. However, there could be a need for this program due to equity concerns with underserved kids. It was learned that the Carroll School is now an Independent School - no longer an approved DESE Special Education school. Cathy, Cindy, Catherine, Donna are interested in discussing this further.

Learn Launch Partnership with DESE

Joanne met with Jane Swift, Dana Ansel, and Jake from Learn Launch to hear more about their partnership with DESE and how MOEC could be further included in their work. Learn Launch is offering free PD and MOEC will continue to pass along these opportunities to our districts.

[FY22 Annual Report](#)

We have taken the content of the annual report powerpoint presented at the last meeting and revised it into more of a narrative. We will be creating a copy with a visually appealing design to share on the website.

Goal Setting for FY22

Joanne proposed [goals for FY22](#). After a brief discussion, a motion was made to accept the goals.

Catherine Cooper made a motion to accept the goals for FY22 and second by Arnold Lundwall; the motion passed unanimously.

Pathways Planning Grant and other career readiness opportunities.

Jennifer Gwatkin and Liz Bennett from DESE joined us to share information about the Pathways Planning Grant Opportunity and other career readiness opportunities that may be available for our students through DESE. The goal of these programs is getting students work ready/credentialed.

Jennifer Gwatkin: jennifer.a.gwatkin@mass.gov

Liz Bennett: elizabeth.l.bennett@mass.gov

Connecting Activities: Kerry Akashian (kerry.akashian@mass.gov)

After Dark Program: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/afterdark/>

Innovation Pathways: <https://sites.google.com/view/innovation-pathways/home>

Committee Updates

We heard from our committee chairpersons about their ongoing work since we last met.

- Professional Development Committee - Liz McGonagle, no update
- [Legislative Committee](#) - Catherine Cooper reviewed the attached letter that was sent on behalf of MOEC as written testimony
- [Executive Director Transportation Group](#) - Steve Donovan
 - COVID-19 protocols are encouraged for now, but not required.
 - In September, restrictions will be lifted and things will be back to normal.

Motion to accept the Special Commission on Improving Efficiencies Relative to Student Transportation Catherine Cooper with a second by Fran Rosenberg. The motion was passed unanimously.

- [Safe and Supportive Schools](#) - Susan Farrell submitted a written report
- [Special Education Advisory Panel](#) - Susan Farrell submitted a written report
- We heard from our [Regional Liaison Representatives](#) about the meetings or other issues of note in their regions.
 - **West Region:** Roland Joyal - CES has chosen Todd Gadza as their new Executive Director. The region has not otherwise met.
 - **Central Region:** Cindy Landanno - Met recently with her region; there were no hot button issues (Arnold, Susan, Cindy were in attendance); on-going staffing issues and shortages of summer staffing this year. COVID has taken a toll on staff. Plan to meet again, possibly over the summer in a more social setting. With EDCO dissolving, CAPS will bring the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program to their collaborative effective July 1. All of the staff have been brought on-board, too. Cindy Landanno announced that she will be retiring in November 2021.
 - **Northeast Region:** Fran Rosenberg - Met briefly with the region. Discussed that Zoom is convenient, and will try to gather over the summer in person.
 - **Greater Boston Region:** Jacki Clark - Set up a meeting on the last Friday of the month and it's been working well over the year. The staffing issue has been

impacting our region as well. Region is changing with Patric retiring and Cyndy (EDCO closing) leaving

- **Southeastern Region:** Catherine Cooper - Met recently and discussed the retirement incentive; Social Emotional Wellness Symposium: Building Resilience - in person event to be held in November, with possibility of hybrid model

FY22 Proposed Meetings Calendar

Joanne enclosed a draft meeting date list for FY22 for your review and feedback. It was decided that Board Meetings will remain remote and General Membership meetings will be held in-person (January should be remote due to weather conditions?). Executive Director Job Alike will meet once per month (Wednesdays) with no meetings held during July or August.

Liz McGonagle made a motion that the calendar be approved as presented with the recommended changes to the Executive Director Job Alike group with a second by Steve Donovan. The motion passed unanimously.

Social Justice and Equity

Several members of the Board attended the MASS Spring meeting where the focus was on their plan to promote Social Justice and Equity through an initiative they are referring to as [REDI](#). I have attached the overview of this plan which includes a link to the complete plan as well. The members provided updates on their initiatives on this topic.

COVID Sick Leave

On May 28, 2021, Governor Baker signed legislation implementing COVID-19 emergency paid sick leave (“EPSL”) for Massachusetts employees. Employers are required to provide up to 40 hours of EPSL to employees when they are unable to work for certain qualifying reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Employees may use EPSL beginning June 7, 2021 through September 30, 2021, or until the state’s EPSL fund is exhausted, whichever first occurs. The Board reviewed this new requirement.