

Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2022
9:00AM -12:30PM
Coffee and Conversation at 8:45AM
Zoom Video Conference

Attendees:: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Liz McGonagle, Theresa Craig, Chris Scott, Catherine Cooper, Fran Rosenberg, Roland Joyal, Arnold Lundwall, Paul Hilton, Dympna Thomas, Susan Farrell, Rick Reino, Donna Flaherty, Kim Oliveira, Bill Lupini, Cathy Cummins, Karen Brann (DESE), Ruth Hersh (DESE), Christine Romancewicz (DESE)

Liz McGonagle called the meeting to order at 9:00am and turned the meeting over to Joanne Haley Sullivan for the Executive Director Report.

Executive Director Report

The following **Job Alike Groups** met this month: Technology Specialists, English Learner Leaders, Equity Specialists, Human Resource Leaders, and In-Home Services Leaders. In-Home Services Leaders focused on onboarding strategies to support new hires and staff evaluation.

The Coalition for Special Education Funding provided a legislative briefing on February 15th. There were over 60 people in attendance and the meeting materials are [attached](#). We had a wonderful heartfelt presentation from a parent from Central Massachusetts Collaborative who represented us well. She said that *the collaborative staff were saviors to her son and her family*.

Approval of the February Board Meeting Minutes

The February minutes are in [this Google folder](#).

Theresa Craig made a motion that the minutes of the February Board meeting be adopted as presented; Roland Joyal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of whether to continue meeting remotely for the remainder of FY22

Given the change in the COVID Guidance, the board discussed whether we wished to resume face-to-face meetings this year or resume in-person meetings.

Catherine Cooper made a motion for the May meeting to be held remotely, with the June meeting possibly in person and a discussion on the meeting model for next fiscal year to happen at the June meeting. Theresa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update from DESE

We heard an update from Ruth Hersh regarding **annual reports and collaborative agreements**. Amendments to collaborative agreements should be submitted to DESE timely. The guidance on the Roles and Responsibility of Collaborative Board members document is being reviewed, along with the training recommendations for board members. Review of audits is currently underway and DESE will follow up individually if there are any questions.

Discussion with Russell Johnston about Students who turned 22 during the COVID-19 State of Emergency

Chris Scott, Catherine Cooper, Jackie Clark, and Joanne Haley Sullivan met with Russell Johnston, Jamie Camancho and Nina Marchese to discuss funds from the legislature to support students who turned 22 during the COVID-19 State of Emergency and require additional services to compensate for learning loss. Approximately 2000 students are in this group and many of these individuals have left school but there is no capacity in adult services to provide services for them. Russell wondered whether the collaboratives would be willing to take this on, regionally, through grants, through reimbursement to districts, etc. The group discussed incorporating identified individuals into our 18-22 year old programs to continue to support their transition. No decisions were made at this meeting, but Russell appreciated our input.

Karen Brann shared that there is a committee discussing who is eligible for additional services, what the services will look like and the scope of how long the services will last. Funding will be available through 2027. Karen will provide a monthly update following the committee meeting with any updates.

Curriculum Data Collection

There was discussion on the following from the “On the Desktop” dated March 2nd about expanding access to high-quality, standards-aligned curricular materials can significantly improve student learning and outcomes. There was a lengthy discussion that many collaboratives are using the curriculum used in their districts and/or customizing the curriculum for each student. Joanne encouraged everyone to register to attend a Zoom meeting regarding the Curriculum Data Collection. Ruth and Paulajo Gaines will follow up with Craig Waterman about whether collaboratives are required to participate in this data collection.

The Board also discussed considering professional development surrounding literacy and curriculum for FY23.

MOEC Collaborative Communication strategy

Joanne reminded the board that MOEC has contracted with John Guilfoil Public Relations Firm to create a series of stories and articles highlighting the good work of collaboratives. These brief stories will be published to the MOEC and individual collaborative websites, and shared to a variety of social and print media outlets as possible.

Liz, Theresa, and Joanne met with our primary contact, Alia Spring, and developed the attached cover [letter and chart](#) of what is planned thus far, and discussed a process to keep this process fair and equitable going forward. All members are encouraged to consider where they might wish to participate.

As time goes on, the plan is that this calendar will be built out and shared through regional reps and reviewed by the Board at monthly meetings. The first few months have been laid out to get us started.

2022 MASC and M.A.S.S Annual Joint Conference is planned for Wednesday November 2, 2022 through Saturday November 5, 2022, at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis. The General Conference Theme is Promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Creating the Narrative to Define the Message

Suggested Session Topics

- Building Leadership Capacity
- Addressing Those Conditions that Lead to Behavioral Dysregulation
- Partnering for Success: Stakeholders and Allies
- Practices that Work: What Have We Learned through COVID
- Strategies for Engaging Divergent Voices

The planning committee is hoping for proposals from MOEC members, particularly around dysregulation. The Board discussed having a member from each collaborative/region present on one of the suggested topics above. Brief discussion about MOEC having a table or other enhanced participation at this conference.

We will discuss this again during April, May, and June meetings. Regional Reps are encouraged to discuss this at their upcoming meetings.

Plans for the May General Membership Meeting

At this time we have a few plans for the May General Membership Meeting. These include:

- Commissioner Riley is scheduled to join the meeting (Board agreed to focus on family supports collaboratives are providing in districts. Theresa agreed to coordinate.)
- Election of new Executive Board members (Liz and Theresa)
- Presentation of MOEC Budget (Chris)
- Review of Executive Director Evaluation (Liz)
- Recognition of Members Who are Leaving
- Annual Report to the membership

Kim Oliveira has been working with Mike Mastrullo from ArxED to develop a data dashboard for collaboratives. The process this year for the mandated training was helpful and streamlined. We will add this topic to the end of the May meeting agenda for those who may be interested.

Committees and Reports

Professional Development Committee

Liz McGonagle reported on the activity of the PD Committee this month.

Fostering Relationships with Districts was offered during the February Executive Director Job Alike Group and was very well received.

Northshore Education Consortium will host our next Virtual Learning Tour on March 15th. They will focus on the NEC Transition program.

On May 17th there is a planned presentation from CREST Collaborative. Stay tuned for additional details.

We are also preparing for the Legal Issues Workshop and have questions for the Board to discuss.

- Are there particular topics to ask Sarah to address?
 - Last year we discussed Special Education, Human Resources, COVID related issues, and Business Practices.
 - Title IX
 - Maternity Leave/FMLA
 - District-based/contracted staff and the notion of joint employment
 - Free workshop being given by Sarah a few weeks prior to the MOEC session - Labor and Employment Law Update. Topics: Case and Statutory Update; working hard or hardly working (tackling the hybrid work model); hiring in a tight labor market; DEI looking through the legal lens.
- The Finance Committee recommends a registration fee of \$125 for the first participant and \$100 for each additional participant, same as last year. In FY21, we had budgeted to receive \$3000 in revenue but we actually had \$7,125.

The PD Committee will meet on March 9th to discuss Inspector General training and other topics.

Nominating Committee

We received an update from Liz on the plans for the Nominating Committee who will prepare for our Spring elections. The current two-year terms end in June 2022. We will be seeking nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and AESA Liaison. Past practice indicates that the Treasurer role does not expire. We will verify that Chris Scott is interested in continuing on. The Regional Liaison Representatives terms will expire in 2023, so they are not up for nomination at this time.

Legislative Committee

We heard a report from Catherine Cooper on the recent activity of the Legislative Committee. We have submitted a [letter](#) to Representative Garlick, Chair of House Committee on Bills in Third Reading, to request an expedited passing of this bill due to the staffing crisis we are facing. We are anticipating a meeting with her soon. We will also discuss whether MOEC should submit a request for ARPA funds, and if so for what purpose.

There was a lengthy discussion about hiring practices/vacancy rates related to ARPA funding. Many districts are able to offer hiring bonuses, where collaboratives do not have those financial resources. Some collaboratives are adequately staffed, but have a challenge in accepting

additional students because of the needs of the student population. A Legislative Committee meeting will be scheduled to further discuss this

Finance Committee

In Chris' absence, Joanne shared a brief update regarding the Treasurer's Report.

By-Laws Committee

We will need to consider scheduling a meeting of the By-Laws Committee to review some changes for consideration.

Regional Rep Reports

North Region - Fran Rosenberg - The region has not met since the February MOEC meeting. Fran will schedule a meeting shortly.

West Region - Roland Joyal - Roland and Todd frequently speak about what's happening in the west. Challenging to hire bus drivers and classroom assistants/paraprofessionals - the staffing issues present a barrier to accepting additional students.

Central Region - Arnold Lundwall - The region will meet next Monday to discuss stipends that staff receive and how frequently do Collaboratives increase their membership fees.

South Region - Catherine Cooper - Meeting scheduled for Thursday morning and will be having a deeper discussion on topics mentioned at today's meeting.

Greater Boston Region - Jacki Clark - Not in attendance.

Catherine Cooper reported that this [FY2023: Development and Expansion of High Quality Summer Learning](#) is available.

Ruth Hersh reported there will not be a grant for the 274 program this year.

Reports from Committees and Commissions

[Safe and Supportive Schools](#) (Susan Farrell)

Susan also provided a link to a presentation which may be of interest: [Quantifying Equity: Racial and Ethnic Opportunity Gaps for Massachusetts High School Students](#)

[Special Education Advisory Council](#) (Susan)

Digital Learning Advisory (Angela Burke) - no report provided

Collaborative membership fees

Arnold Lundwall has asked how often Collaboratives increase their yearly membership rates. The Board decided to conduct a quick survey to gather the information.

Upcoming Items for the Board

- Nominations for New Board Members (vote by membership in May)
- Executive Director Evaluation (Presented at April Board meeting)
- Regional Representatives meeting with Commissioner Riley April 12th at 11:00 a.m.
 - Prep meeting April 6 at 2pm

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50AM.