

MOEC Special Board Meeting Minutes
Coalition Proposed Legislation
January 9, 2023
9:15am
Zoom Video Conference

Attendees:: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Donna Flaherty, Cathy Lawson, Chris Scott, Roland Joyal, Arnold Lundwall, Todd Gazda, Catherine Cooper, Fran Rosenberg, Theresa Craig

Joanne Haley Sullivan opened the meeting at 9:15.

The conversation began with a reminder about MOEC's document regarding lowering the circuit breaker threshold to incentivize districts to use collaboratives, how private schools rates are higher, but with Circuit Breaker reimbursement, the differences are mitigated, and circuit breaker for transportation is making it more of a challenge.

At the Coalition for Special Education meeting (MAPPS, ASE, MASS, MASC, MOEC, and a few advocacy groups) the following information was learned. There was a vote taken at the CSE meeting, however MOEC abstained from voting as Joanne wanted to discuss these items with the Board first. Regardless, the items passed at the Coalition for Special Education meeting.

Immediate:

- Supplemental Budget - Creation of funds for educational collaboratives to offset effects of the Covid-19 pandemic (\$140 million)
Proposed Language: "provided further, that not less than \$140,000,000 shall be provided to assist educational collaboratives in Covid-19 recovery efforts"
- Supplemental Budget - Creation of pothole funds to offset the OSD tuition adjustment for FY'24 (\$95 million)
Proposed Language: "provided further, that not less than \$95,000,000 be provided by the department to public school districts for out of district tuition costs".

New Legislative Session (193rd General Court):

- Increase Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement from 75% to 90%.
(Estimated \$56 million increase for current fiscal year)
Proposed Language: "Section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line ##, the number "75", and inserting in place the number "90".
- Adjusting the "Approved Costs Threshold" as defined in MGL 71B:5A from \$45,793 to \$37,120 (Estimated \$80m-\$100m per year)
Proposed Language: "Section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line #, after "Approved Costs Threshold", the number \$45,793, and inserting in place the number \$37,120"
- Increase transportation reimbursement from 75% to 90% (Estimated \$27 million per year)

Proposed Language: SECTION 1: Section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line ##, the words “and transportation”. SECTION 2: Section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “threshold.”, the following: Transportation costs shall be reimbursed at 90%.

Theresa Craig asked for a motion to ask Joanne to move forward with supporting the Legislative proposal put forward by the Coalition for Special Education. Catherine Cooper made the motion, Roland Joyal seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members who were on the call.