

## **MOEC General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2023**

**10:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

Coffee and Conversation at 9:45AM

**Zoom Video Conference**

**Attendees:** Joanne Haley Sullivan, Theresa Craig, Chris Scott, Donna Flaherty, Cathy Lawson, Roland Joyal, Arnold Lundwall, Todd Gazda, Fran Rosenberg, Dympna Thomas, Jennifer Gates, Clarice Doliber, Kim Oliveria, Pam Girouard, Kristin Shaver, Kim Wilmot, Patrick Murphy, Jeanne Sullivan, Sanchita Banerjee, John Demanche, David Heimbecker, Christina Caputo, Cathy Cummins, Rick Reino, Paul Hilton, Christine Romancewicz (DESE), Karen Brann (DESE), Alicia St. Florian (MHTL).

Theresa Craig called the meeting to order at 10:01AM.

Joanne Haley Sullivan welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly reviewed the agenda.

### **Executive Director Report**

#### **Funding for HVAC Systems**

Fran Rosenberg and Joanne were able to meet with DESE for some clarification about HVAC funding, data was submitted and we are optimistic that there will be funds available for those collaboratives who indicated they have a need to make these improvements.

#### **Public Relations**

The MOEC Board has been working with John Guilfoil Public Relations to create a series of stories and articles highlighting the good work and positive news coming out of Collaboratives across the state. We have highlighted many collaboratives through these efforts, but it is our goal to have each Collaborative featured in some way over the next year. To accomplish that, Joanne reported that we are once again soliciting ideas for stories. Collaboratives can submit ideas on this [sheet](#) on the “Idea Submission Form” page. Joanne also reviewed a “Finalized Calendar” page where we list all the articles we have published over the last year.

**Educator Licensure Program** - if you have a program, members were asked to please be sure to complete the form shared with them as it will be provided to DESE to share externally.

#### **The Impact of the Changes to 37 H3/4**

Todd Gazda led the discussion of the changes this law entails and good practices for implementing these changes. Todd shared a link to a [spreadsheet](#) that he created to track the steps they are taking to document various student concerns.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance Committee/Treasurer’s Report**

Chris Scott shared that an update on the MOEC finances will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **Professional Development Committee Report**

Arnold Ludwall is our new chair of the PD Committee which will be meeting soon. He shared that there are two dates to be filled for the upcoming sessions of “Let’s Open Our Doors” and we would love to have Collaboratives volunteer to showcase their programs.

### **Equity Job Alike Group**

Theresa Craig shared that there is an interest in a Summer Leadership Academy/Anti Bias Program for Executive Directors and Program Leaders to work together using the Guide to Getting Started with REDI. The lens will be anti bias work for all inclusivity. Approximately seven collaboratives expressed interest in these sessions.

If anyone has a recommendation of a presenter who specializes in this area, please let Theresa, Joanne, or Arnold know.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Catherine Cooper provided a brief update on the Legislative Committee.

- The Ethics Bill was stalled during the committee on Third Read.
- Our contract with O’Neill and Associates was renewed for the calendar year 2023.
- School Security Funding did not move forward.

### **Emergency Termination Discussion**

Given recent BSEA rulings, conditions seem to have changed related to emergency termination particularly because placements for students are so challenging to find at this time.

Alisia St. Florian from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane reviewed effective strategies and protocols for risk management regarding admissions, discharges, and documentation. We are optimistic that there may be guidance that Karen Bran may be able to provide from DESE. We are also pursuing whether collaboratives may accept students whom they cannot serve on-site as remote students so that they can access a program while becoming stabilized.

Ms. St. Florian discussed the following cases: 2004 Lalani vs Northampton Schools BSCA 040359; Melmark New England case vs Dracut.; Falmouth Public Schools vs The Cotting School A Ruling on Stay Put; Georgetown Public Schools vs Landmark School 1408733; and League School vs Quincy Public Schools 2202940

**The group broke for lunch at 12:05pm and reconvened at 12:30pm.**

### **Review and analysis of the results of the MOEC Programs and Services Survey**

MOEC conducted its [Programs and Services Survey](#) this Fall. Joanne presented the overall results to the Membership and then members broke out by region to review the [regional data for special education programs](#) and for [services](#) compared to the state.

- **South Region (Theresa Craig):** The collaboratives will update the numbers on the spreadsheet as some may be inaccurate. Staffing issues are impacting the ability to accept all students. Sometimes having a particular student in a program (because of their needs),

limits additional enrollment in the program. **Noticed there is not a program for intensive special needs in the South Region.**

- **Greater Boston (Donna Flaherty):** Most of the discussion focused on the same things the South Region talked about.
- **Central (Arnold Lundwall):** Are the programs fulfilling the needs of all students - there isn't an "in between" group for some students. Collaboratives have been asked to do partner classrooms, where Collaboratives work with the Districts to set up the in-school classrooms, then back away. There isn't enough staff to support this, and cannot find new staff to replace the staff that would need to be in the District classrooms.
- **North Region (Cathy Lawson):** In the North Region, Collaboratives are working to resolve staffing issues and how to support schools. Social Emotional programs are bursting at the seams, most of these programs are at the high school level. There is a need for space, staff, and more support for Recovery High Schools. Physical space is an issue and there is no funding mechanism in place to help resolve this.
- **West Region:** Members of the West Region were not present for this session.

### **Special Education Transportation Website**

Colleen Cavanaugh who chairs the state-wide Special Education Transportation Task Force joined us to present the resources available on [their website](#) and how they can be helpful to member districts.

### **Committee Reports Continued**

#### **Capital and Facilities Committee**

Paul Hilton reported on the progress of the Committee and possible data points needed going forward. Joanne provided this [document](#) to review prior to the meeting. Any initial bills in response to this need to be filed by January 20, 2023. There is an urgent need to collect these data points as facts/figures are needed to support the requests/Bill. A survey was created and will be sent to the membership to collect this information.

#### **Curriculum Committee**

Cathy Lawson reported that the group sent out a survey and will discuss the results of the survey with the group during the next meeting.

### **Brief reports from members who represent us on Commissions**

- DESE/OASES Change Coalition (Cathy Lawson/Karen Brann)
  - A meeting was held January 6
  - A survey was sent last week asking about contact information for your Collaborative at-a-glance and it was noted that some surveys weren't linking to appropriate programs. These surveys will be going to Executive Directors first, and then will go out to additional Collaborative leaders as needed.
- Safe and Supportive Schools Commission (Susan Farrell) - not present, no report
- Special Education Advisory Council (Susan Farrell) - not present, no report
- BirCH Project (Fran Rosenberg) - no report

### **Salary Survey**

The MOEC [FY23 Salary Survey](#) has been sent out. It has been useful in understanding the salary, staffing and responsibilities of your fellow collaboratives when considering salary and other negotiations. Members are requested to please complete it at their earliest convenience.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

The next MOEC Board Meeting will be held on February 6, 2023.

The next MOEC General Membership meeting will be held on May 8, 2023.