

MOEC Board Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023
10:00 AM - 2 PM
Coffee and Conversation at 9:45AM
Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: Joanne Haley Sullivan, Theresa Craig, Chris Scott, Arnold Lundwall, Catherine Cooper, Pam Girouard, Roland Joyal, Rick Reino, Kristin Shaver, Todd Gazda, Cathy Lawson, Paul Hilton, Donna Flaherty, Kim Oliveira, Ruth Hersh (DESE), Paulajo Gaines (DESE), Karen Brann (DESE), Christine Romancewicz (DESE)

Theresa Craig opened the meeting at 10:03AM and turned the meeting over to Joanne Haley Sullivan for the Executive Director report.

Executive Director Report

Job Alike Groups have continued to meet.

The Special Education Transportation Task Force met on January 24th and discussed an update about Representative Vargas' meeting with MAPT and ASE subsequent to our meeting. He hopes to work toward a mandate for training in de-escalation for all drivers. As far as we know, no legislation has been filed at this time.

DESE Working Group - Staffing Vacancies

Joanne has participated in a small working group to analyze staffing shortage data and to make recommendations.

Executive Director Salary Survey

As you know, we have requested input on the salary [survey](#). We are waiting for a few more Collaboratives to respond. We use some of these figures to determine the dues for FY24. Regional Reps were encouraged to remind their regions to complete the survey.

Funding for HVAC

As you know, we discussed concerns about lack of eligibility for the HVAC funds that the legislature had set aside. We are expecting positive news from DESE but they are still putting together the paperwork and getting all of the necessary approvals in hand.

Capital and Facilities Update

Regional Liaison Representative Meeting with Commissioner Riley

We had a positive meeting with Commissioner Riley on January 19th to discuss our [concerns about facilities for Collaborative students](#). We focused our discussion on facilities and the challenges Collaborative face. Commissioner Riley was supportive and willing to work with us to secure funding for Collaborative facilities; and requested talking points about this issue. We are still finalizing the data but have the [talking points](#) for the Board to review. There might be some changes to the final amounts included based on follow up details from the members.

Capital and Facilities Committee Update

Paul Hilton shared the next steps of our Capital and Facilities Committee. They are working hard to ensure the funding is equitably distributed. The Capital and Facilities Committee will continue to work on this issue.

MASS/MASC Joint Conference and Dissemination of our Legislative Priorities

Theresa and Joanne met with Dan Hayes, a CES Board member and a former President of MASC, along with Todd Gazda last week. The discussion focused on how MOEC can work with MASC to better serve students and their schools. There was also discussion about MOEC having a greater presence at the MASS/MASC Conference.

Joanne also heard from two collaboratives as follow up to the meeting we had at the MASS/MASC Conference in November 2022 who want to hear from MOEC about our legislative work.

Review and Update of MOEC Goals for the Year

The following goals were set for FY23. Joane provided an update on where we are in accomplishing these and discuss how to proceed:

1. Curriculum Task Force for Programs Serving Students with Severe Special Needs–begun

To form a voluntary task force of interested Collaborative Directors to set out some action steps that we can take as a group to identify:

- a. what is currently in place,
- b. what research based materials exist that are tied to classroom practice designed to address the needs of these learners, and
- c. what adjustments might be needed to enhance our practice in these programs.

2. MOEC Website

Identify two or three services that members would like to work together and write content for a new page titled [“Bringing Expertise to Expand District Capacity.”](#) We could add that page to the drop down “What We Do” menu under “Expand Capacity”. The Board selected:

- i. family supports,
- ii. assistive technology, and
- iii. autism

Some questions that come to mind are how we will gather the information and then how we will synthesize it onto these pages.

The plan is for the Regional Liaisons to bring this back for discussion with their regions to determine who would be willing to contribute to each. Joanne suggested that the Board

may wish to consider bringing in a consultant to assist with this enhancement of our website. Arnold Lundwall suggested using JGPR for this project.

3. Membership Survey

The survey has been completed and information shared with the General Membership statewide and by region. It is my hope that these will continue to be part of regional meeting discussions.

4. Continue to expand Professional Development Offerings

- a. Leadership Academy for Leaders of Therapeutic Programs—complete
- b. Training from the Office of the Inspector General—complete
- c. Nurse job-alike groups—begun
- d. Other

Theresa made a motion to take Goal 2 (MOEC Website) and postpone this until the FY24 school year. Cathy Lawson moved the motion and Arnold Lundwall second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DESE Report

We heard from Ruth Hersh and Paulajo Gaines with an update regarding Audits and Compliance as well as plans for FY24 meetings with Executive Directors and their Board Chair.

Ruth and Paulajo continue to work on the audits as they do every year. Collaboratives were reminded to post annual reports to their websites. On the DESE website, there is a [link for submitting your reports](#). Please also update your Board's certification and minutes as well.

Collaborative Credit Collection (related to circuit breaker) will be submitted once, in April. Ruth and Paulajo will be meeting to find out what information is requested and will share that information at a future date.

They continue to work on the *Lessons Learned* documents from what has been learned from the closings of CHARMS & EDCO. This tool will be for Executive Directors and their Boards to use as a checklist or guide to double check their own practices.

In the process of obtaining an RFR to develop a new protocol for FY23/FY24. Again, more information will be shared once the vendor is contracted.

Approval of the December Board, January Special Board, and January General Membership Meetings Minutes (FOLDER 1)

Theresa made a motion that the minutes of the December Board, January Special Board, and January General Membership meetings minutes be adopted as presented. Catherine Cooper moved the motion; Todd Gazda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report

We received the [Treasurer's Report](#) from Chris Scott.

Theresa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Todd Gazda moved the motion. Donna Flaherty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Professional Development Committee Report

Arnold Lundwall provided an update about the work of the PD Committee. Please reach out to Arnold if your Collaborative can host a Let's Open Our Doors session in either March or May.

The PD Committee will reach out to the presenters from the Leadership Academy to discuss a second Leadership Academy for FY24.

The Committee continued the discussion begun at the January General Membership meeting about Leadership Academy for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The attached RFP for presenters is [here](#). Please forward any suggestions of presenter names to Joanne for consideration.

Theresa made a motion that the RFP for a Leadership Academy for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion be released for proposals as presented or amended. Catherine Cooper made the motion and Cathy Lawson seconded the motion. No further discussion was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee Report

We received an update from Catherine Cooper about the work of our Legislative Committee this month. The new legislature has been sworn in and a variety of Bills have been filed.

The Ethics Bill has been refiled in the House and the Senate. The language is identical in both the House and Senate and includes the recommendations we received previously.

- **SD1032 An Act relative to educational collaboratives**
- **HD3303:** Reps Markey and Scanley

A Bill to change funding for schools to include Collaboratives facilities has been filed.

- **SD1057 An Act providing school building assistance for Special Education Collaboratives**
- **HD2326:** Reps Scanlon and Kushmerek

The percentage of Student Transportation reimbursement to be increased.

- **SD1785 An Act to special education transportation reimbursement from 75% to 90%**
- **HD3163:** Reps Scanlon and Kushmerek

Bill to increase special education circuit breaker.

- **SD1783 An Act to increase special education circuit breaker reimbursement from 75% to 90%**
- **HD3156:** Reps Scanlon and Kushmerek

Special Education funding: Bill to consider how Special Education is funded in Massachusetts (forming a study commission).

- **SD1421 An Act relative to the long-term fiscal health and sustainability of special education in the Commonwealth**
- **HD3156:** Reps Scanlon and Kushmerek

Establishes a committee to study regional school transportation and removes certain barriers to efficiency in regional transportation.

- **SD405 An Act relative to student transportation**
- **HD2361:** Reps Scanlon and Kushmerek

Modernize Town Meetings: Change the Open Meeting Law to allow for virtual meetings to continue. Appears to only be filed in the Senate.

- **SD1059 An Act to modernize municipal meetings, town meetings, and local elections**

Curriculum Committee

We received an [update](#) from Cathy Lawson about the work of our Curriculum Committee this month.

AESA Liaison Report

On January 24th and 25th Cathy and Joanne attended the AESA Legislative Conference at which the legislative agenda was established for the coming year. They worked on revising the documents attached in the folder [here](#).

Regional Liaison Representative Reports

We heard reports from our Regional Representatives about meetings this month:

- Report from Regional Meetings
 - Cathy Lawson (**North**) - A subcommittee was formed to host their own Special Olympics among Collaboratives. Karen Brann will introduce Cathy to a few people at the Special Olympics to assist with planning.
 - Arnold Lundwall (**Central**) - Arnold will be attending a Rural Crisis Responders Workshop hosted by Sutton Public Schools (2/23). Continued focus on DEI and have used Keisha Latulip from the state to facilitate two sessions this year. Partnering with Mike Mastrullo of ArcsEd to assemble a database of information about Collaboratives (wages, tuition, staffing, etc.).
 - Donna Flaherty (**Greater Boston**) - The region has been using meetings as a support session for our newly appointed Executive Directors. ACCEPT is also in the process of adding an additional school district and will amend their Collaborative agreement soon.
 - Catherine Cooper (**Southeast**) - Have not met recently

- Todd Gadza (**West**) - Roland Joyal filling in for Todd today. Roland and Todd speak regularly. Roland Joyal announced that he will be retiring at the end of the year.

There was a discussion about Collaborative Agreements as a few Collaboratives will be adding districts to their membership. Joanne will speak with Ruth and Paulajo at their next meeting about a template/guide that may be available for current agreements.

Joanne shared that John Demanche was asking about retaining students who turn 22 who do not have adult placement options to provide the students with what they need. The Law allows collaboratives to contract with different agencies to provide services to adults. Karen Brann shared that they are granting extensions for students who are +22 to continue services on a case by case basis.

Brief reports from members who represent us on Commissions

- DESE/OASES Change Coalition (Cathy Lawson) - Karen Brann shared that all collaboratives are being updated into the new system. A launch is being rolled out to all approved special education schools on 2/16; all districts will be notified if they'll be having a review in the 23/24 school year. Districts will be broken into 3 Cohorts [Cohort 1 (Sept-Jan review); Cohort 2 (Jan - April review) Cohort 3 (April - June)] and training will be during the 20 weeks prior to the date. There are no collaboratives in Cohort 1.
- Safe and Supportive Schools Commission (Susan Farrell) - no report
- Special Education Advisory Council (Susan Farrell) - no report

The meeting adjourned at 1:22PM.

The next MOEC Board meeting will be held April 10, 2023

The next MOEC General Membership meeting will be held March 6, 2023.