

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2022**  
**10:00AM -2:00PM**  
**Valley Collaborative**  
**25 Linnell Circle, Billerica, MA 01821**

**In-Person Attendees:** Joanne Haley Sullivan, Theresa Craig, Catherine Cooper, Kim Oliveira, Dympna Thomas, Roland Joyal, Arnold Lundwall, Todd Gazda, Pam Girouard, Sanchita Banerjee, Jacki Clark, Theresa Craig, Donna Flaherty, Chris Scott, Fran Rosenberg, Susan Farrell, Karen Brann (DESE), Christine Romancewicz (DESE),

**Remote Attendees :** Rick Reino, Jeanne Sullivan, Jennifer Gates, Paul Hilton, Paulajo Gaines, Ruth Hersh

Theresa Craig called the meeting to order at 10:06AM

**Welcome and Executive Director Report**

Joanne Haley Sullivan welcomed everyone back to our first General Membership meeting since the lockdown due to the Pandemic. We have two new Executive Directors who have joined MOEC: we welcome Clarice Doliber at North River, and Pam Girouard at LABBB.

[Job-Alike meeting dates](#) have been established for FY23 and Joanne gave an update on their work.

**50th Anniversary of Chapter 766.**

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Chapter 766. MAAPS organized an event with elected officials at the statehouse on September 21st. Theresa represented MOEC at this event as a speaker.

**AESA Update** Cathy Lawson, and Joanne gave an update on the [AESA Legislative Call to Action Conference](#) in September. They connected with experts on the legislative topics that affect collaboratives and the districts we serve; learned up to date information about emerging and pending legislative topics. They also met with representatives from the following offices: Senator Warren, Congressman McGovern, and Congresswoman Clark.

The AESA national conference is in Atlanta this year. The dates are November 30 - December 2.

### **MASS/MASC Conference Update**

Joanne provided an update on the informal breakfast session at the MASS/MASC Conference in November to provide a forum for networking of collaborative Board members and to increase their knowledge of MOEC as an entity.

In addition she shared that, there are several collaborative presentations that will take place at the conference.

### **PR Update**

Joanne reported that MOEC has continued the publishing of articles over the summer.

### **MOEC Annual Report**

The MOEC Annual Report is completed and was distributed to members. We will also be distributing it at the breakfast session at MASS/MASC.

### **Review of Goals for the Year**

Joanne reviewed goals that have been set for the year:

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

2. [MOEC Website](#)

Additionally, we will work together to create content for a new page titled “Areas of Expertise.” The Board has recommended the following content to be included this year.

- a. family supports
- b. assistive technology, and
- c. autism

The Presenters at MASS/MASC will work together to build the content for the family supports page. This page could serve as an outline for the other pages.

3. **Membership Survey**

The survey was conducted to provide information to the Board and other stakeholders.

We will analyze the data once we have received it from everyone.

4. **Continue to expand Professional Development Offerings**

[FY23 MOEC Committees](#) membership and chairpersons.

### **By-laws Committee Report**

We received an update from Chris Scott about the By-Laws Committee.

Sanchita Banerjee has joined the committee and additional members would be helpful.

At its September meeting, the Board approved an [amendment](#) to reflect current practice and the Membership will vote on these by-law changes.

Todd Gadza made a motion that the proposed by-law amendment be approved by the General Membership as submitted and Fran Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Legislative Committee**

Catherine Cooper provided an update about what is happening in the state legislature as well as our legislative goals for the year. Governor Baker's close out budget did include collaboratives in the language around school security funding; however we were not included in the infrastructure piece of the funding - only the hotline funding. This funding is currently being held up. 9

### **Professional Development**

Liz McGonagle shared a brief update on the PD Committee's plans for this year. Liz thanked the members for their participation: David Heimbecker, Fran Rosenberg, and Helen Deranian.

A brief update on Leadership Academy: 41 registered initially; and two had to withdraw. Thank you to ACCEPT Collaborative for hosting the three sessions.

Learning Tours will resume after the first of the year. If anyone is interested in hosting a tour, please let us know. SEEM has volunteered to host a tour, and we will discuss this at a future PD meeting.

Fraud Awareness and Prevention Training was well attended and informative. Further discussion is needed to determine the next session - possibly geared toward Executive Directors and financial reports.

We have surpassed our goal of generating \$1,000 in revenue for the fiscal year. The next meeting is scheduled for January.

### **Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report**

Chris Scott thanked the finance committee members for their participation. Chris provided a brief update via a [Treasurer's Report](#) about last fiscal year's financial position. It was noted that there was a decrease in expenses, likely pandemic related. Overall, the finances look good from last fiscal year.

### **Consideration of the creation of a Capital and Facilities Committee**

The members discussed the formation of a Capital and Facilities Committee to work independently of the Legislative Committee. There was consensus to explore what options might be available for collaboratives to obtain funding and a strategy to achieve those.

### **Regional Liaison Committee Report: Follow up to Meeting with Commissioner Riley**

Regional Liaisons reported on the discussion with Commissioner Riley. During this discussion, it was shared that enrollment numbers have increased exponentially, Collaboratives cannot

sufficiently expand to keep up with enrollment. Commissioner Riley did mention that they're interested in knowing more about cost increases to any building projects.

Staffing issues were discussed, including a possible apprenticeship in special education. There was interest in further discussion.

### **TECCA**

Patrick Lattuca, Superintendent of TECCA and Linda Chase, Interim Director of Special Education gave a brief overview of TECCA with hopes of developing a partnership with collaboratives.

### **State Education Committee**

Unfortunately, Senator Lewis was unable to join the meeting. Zachary Crowley, Senator Lewis' Chief of Staff, represented the Senator's office.

The members discussed the following topics:

- Recognition of the 50th anniversary of Chapter 766
- Legislation: Catherine Cooper shared the Ethics Bill and the barriers presented to hiring qualified individuals who may work for member school districts. (House Bill 3200)
- Post-Pandemic After-Effects: Theresa Craig led the discussion about the population of students being a higher need than pre-pandemic. There are multiple students on waitlists: there is a lack of staff in part because more students are requiring one-on-one care than in previous years. Others shared that there are a lot of students displaying violent behaviors; some students have such high needs that principals/superintendents are pushing back on their enrollment. Arnold Lundwall shared that SWCEC typically has 120-130 students on average. Their referrals jumped from an average of 38 pre-pandemic to 53 (20-21 school year) and then to 100 (21-22 school year). Through September of this year, the collaborative is already at 26 referrals. ACCEPT went from 50-60 referrals to 291 referrals; which is twice the amount of students enrolled. Students are coming with a variety of issues:
  - Trauma
  - Food insecurity
  - Family abuse
  - School avoidance issues
- Funding: Catherine Cooper shared that unless Educational Collaboratives are specifically mentioned with regards to funding, collaboratives are not eligible for any funding. For example, HVAC funding just became available, but collaboratives are not eligible for funding because there is no mention of collaboratives in the language of the bill.

Zach indicated that being able to support these issues with data is helpful. Zach also offered to review the data/report put together.

Not every collaborative needs the same thing; it would be beneficial to collaboratives if there was access to funds in the areas that are needed individually.

### **DESE Update**

- We heard a brief update from Ruth Hersh and Paulajo Gaines.
- New Collaborative Leaders should reach out to Paulajo Gaines for an introduction and to review collaborative agreements
- The Regional Liaison Meeting with Commissioner Riley last week was very effective, and efficient.
- The Board Member training system has been updated; thank you to everyone who provided feedback during the process. The final version will be released shortly.

### **Medication Delegation in Host Schools/need for collaborative nurse job alike**

Catherine alerted the members that it is important that nursing services in host schools be clearly defined in writing. There is turnover in collaboratives and school districts, so it's important that all nurses are made aware of the nursing agreement.

Additionally, MOEC will form a job-alike group for collaborative nurses.

### **Brief Reports from Members who Represent us on Commissions**

- DESE/OASES Change Coalition (Cathy Lawson)
- Safe and Supportive Schools Commission (Susan Farrell)
- Special Education Advisory Council (Susan Farrell)
- Digital Learning (Angela Burke)
- BirCH Project (Fran Rosenberg)

Motion to adjourn by Todd Gadza with a second by Jacki Clark.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:01PM.