

# SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

## Board of Directors' Meeting September 23, 2021 Minutes

Present: T. Anderson, T. Aubin, A. Azar, J. Cabral, R., B. Gifford, R. Medeiros, M. Ryan,  
J. Robidoux, J. Schoonover, M. Canner, D. Heimbecker, J. Prendergast

### 1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair R. Medeiros at 1:02 PM.  
Board Chair Medeiros welcomed Superintendent Melissa Ryan to the Board.

### 2.00 - Minutes of June 18, 2021

The minutes of June 18, 2021 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, J. Robidoux: To approve the minutes of June 18, 2021  
Second, J. Cabral

Vote, Unanimous

### 3.00 - Financial Information

#### 3.10 - Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

The Trustees will meet again in December 2021 and will make recommendations after the audit is presented and approved by the Board.

#### 3.20 - Updating of the FY 21 Business Plan/Budget

Executive Director Heimbecker stated that SCEC is doing fine but there is a lot of uncertainty due to the Pandemic. Enrollment is down and needs to increase and additional staff is needed due to the needs of the students. However, due to the uncertainty, the leadership team is hesitant to hire.

Jennifer Prendergast gave the preliminary numbers for June 2021. \$475,000 of FY 2020 surplus funds were used to go forward into the FY 2021 budget and the year ended with a small surplus of approximately \$114,000. She is working with a new auditor on summer numbers. At the end of June, enrollment is currently down by 30 students and down by 17 students to budget.

#### 3.30 - SCEC Financial and Control Policies

As existing policies are honed and new ones emerge, board member participation and oversight will be encouraged and solicited.

4.00 - Human Resources

4.10 - New Hires:

4.11 – Erica Allardice, Nurse 12 months

4.12 – Brianna Gordon, Paraprofessional II, Gallishaw High School, 12 months

4.13 – Victoria Scanlon, Paraprofessional II, Gallishaw High School, 12 months

4.14 – Hayley Snow, RBT Paraprofessional, 12 months

Motion, B. Gifford: To accept the new hires as presented

Second, J. Cabral

Vote, Unanimous

4.20 - Transfers:

4.21 – Alicia Albernaz, Paraprofessional II, Palmer River to Seekonk High School,  
12 months

4.22 – Sarah Galbraith, Paraprofessional II, North School to Reading Teacher, 12  
Months

Motion, J. Robidoux: To accept transfers as presented

Second, B. Gifford

Vote, Unanimous

4.30 - Resignations:

4.31 – Sarah Berube, Paraprofessional II, at North Seekonk, 12 months

4.32 – Deon Perry, Paraprofessional II at North Seekonk, 12 months

4.33 – Priyanka Sharma, Paraprofessional II at GRAIS, 12 months

4.34 – Denise Ponte, CNA

Motion, J. Cabral: To accept resignations as presented

Second, B. Gifford

Vote, Unanimous

4.40 - Retirements:

4.41 – Cathy DeBlois, Nurse, 12 months

Motion, J. Cabral: To accept the retirement of Cathy DeBlois and send her a letter of  
acknowledgement and appreciation for her work at SCEC.

Second, J. Schoonover

Vote, Unanimous

4.50 - Terminations:

4.51 – Kyle Ivey Jones, Paraprofessional II, North Seekonk, 12 months

4.60 - Leave of Absence:

4.61 – Michael Silva, Paraprofessional II at Seekonk High School, 12 months

4.62 – Michael Panza, Paraprofessional II at Gallishaw High School, 12 months

These are unpaid leaves of absence granted by Executive Director Heimbecker.

4.70 - Educational Leave:

4.71 – Olivia Rezendes, Paraprofessional II at LIFE Academy, 12 months

Executive Director Heimbecker granted this educational leave.

5.00 - Executive Session: None

6.00 - Building Program Update

6.10 - Repairs and replacements at most SCEC sites are being completed on an as needed basis.

7.00 - Policy and Procedures

7.10 - As current administrative policies and procedures are refined and new ones emerge, board participation and oversight will be encouraged and solicited.

8.00 - Internal & External Professional Development – Prepared by Dr. Carolyn McKearney & Frank Gallishaw

All of the SCEC Professional Development is recorded and made available to all staff members. The professional development is driven partially by the union contract and takes place on ½ days, once per month. Additional support is provided continuously throughout the school year.

SCEC has been providing professional development in most board member districts, and if board members are interested in any additional professional development for their district, Dr. McKearney or Frank Gallishaw should be contacted.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 - Board members discussed the need to fill the position of Vice-Chair of the Board, due to the retirement of Superintendent Lynch.

Motion, J. Robidoux: To reorganize the SCEC Board of Directors with Superintendent Richard Medeiros as Chair and Superintendent Rich Drolet as Vice Chair.

Second, B. Gifford

Vote, Unanimous

9.20 – It was reported by Executive Director Heimbecker that officials from the Fall River Public Schools have formally reiterated their desire to join the South Coast Educational Collaborative and have sent the necessary documents. He stated that in his opinion, Fall River becoming a SCEC member is long overdue. According to Executive Director Heimbecker, historically the successful Fall River/SCEC partnership has benefited SCEC strategically, programmatically, and financially. He also stated that the SCEC Leadership Team enthusiastically endorses accepting the request.

Board Chair Medeiros stated that the 2018 vote in Fall River is still supported by the school Board and the SCEC board has had many discussions about this in the past.

Motion, B. Gifford: To approve the Fall River Public Schools to become a member of South Coast Educational Collaborative  
Second, J. Cabral

Discussion: Board members discussed the potential benefits and possible disadvantages of Fall River becoming a SCEC member. They questioned the impact on tuition for existing SCEC member districts. Executive Director Heimbecker responded that tuition will not increase for member districts as Fall River tuition will be prorated. Jennifer Prendergast explained that it takes 2-3 years to transition the tuition and for a new member to receive the full benefit of member rates, and that usually by that time the new member has increased their use of SCEC resources.

In addition, Director Heimbecker stated that since SCEC has been gradually shrinking the difference between tuition rates for member and non-members, the difference in tuition would not be that impactful. However, he reported that losing their business could be devastating. He said that economy of scale allows for smaller districts to receive services that could not be afforded without the numbers urban districts bring the Collaborative.

Roll Call Vote:

T. Anderson - Yes

T. Aubin - Yes

A. Azar - Yes

J. Cabral - Yes

B. Gifford - Yes

R. Medeiros - Yes

J. Robidoux – Nay

M. Ryan - Yes

J. Schoonover – Yes

Motion passes

Board Chair Medeiros stated that SCEC will move forward adhering to the proper DESE procedures for having the Fall River Public Schools becoming a member of SCEC.

The Executive Director reported that according to DESE guidelines, Member School Committees need to vote to accept Fall River, approve their minutes of the meeting in which

the vote is taken, and send a copy of the motion and minutes to Leah Thibault. Since Board members will need to obtain approval from their school committees, Director Heimbecker will send a sample of the motion to each board member. Once the School Committee documents have been received, they will be forwarded to Commissioner Riley. Ultimately, he must approve the request to amend SCEC's collaborative agreement to reflect the admittance of Fall River.

9.30 - Executive Director Heimbecker spoke about the services that SCEC has been providing to a number of Rhode Island students. Some officials from the Rhode Island school districts are interested in having SCEC staff provide services in RI schools. Executive Director Heimbecker is informally exploring the possibilities with education department staff from both RI and the Ma. Department of Education.

9.40 - The Executive Director's Book Club

Executive Director Heimbecker reviewed the book by Malcolm Gladwell entitled *The Bomber Mafia*. (2021) According to the review, we are all at our best when we are working together. It is important to be guided by our will and core values, but success will require our collective ingenuity.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 - Board members discussed the highlights of the July 2021 Summer Institute in Falmouth.

10.20 - National Conference opportunities were reviewed and interested parties should contact Dennis Henriques at SCEC.

10.30 - The SCEC Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule for 21-2022 was reviewed. Board Chair Medeiros recommended to keep a hybrid model. The Superintendent's Academic Excellence Presentation is scheduled for December 16, 2021 and Board members would like to do this in-person if possible. Executive Director Heimbecker will look into possible locations and let Board members know. Any location suggestions should be given to him.

11.00 - Warrants:

Warrants will be signed via DocuSign.

12.00 - Other Items(s):

12.10 - Updating and Discussing Leasing Property for Instructional Purposes

Having space for SCEC programs continues to be a serious concern. SCEC is on the Regional YMCA Finance Committee's agenda for their October meeting. Consideration will be given to SCEC purchasing the Swansea YMCA building that houses LIFE Academy. The SCEC Leadership team is also attempting to negotiate a lease with the Diocese of Fall River for a first floor lease of the Taunton property that was Coyle Cassidy School. These properties would house Transition Programs. The Taunton building would be shared with Bristol Community College.

Inclusive middle school and high school space is also needed. There will be no space in the

new middle school at Somerset, where the current inclusion program is exemplary.

Additionally, the lease at Seekonk High School expires in a year.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, B. Gifford: To adjourn meeting at 1:49 PM

Second. J. Schoonover

Vote, Unanimous