

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

Board of Directors' Zoom Meeting
January 20, 2022
Minutes

Present: T. Anderson, T. Aubin, A. Azar, B. Gifford, R. Medeiros,
J. Robidoux, M. Ryan, 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 1:01 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of December 16, 2021

The minutes of December 16, 2021, were presented for review and approved.

Motion, T. Aubin: To approve the minutes of December 16, 2021
Second, B. Gifford

Vote, Unanimous

3.00 - Financial Information

3.10 -Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

The OPEB Trustees will meet on April 14, 2022 at 11:30 AM and will share updates during the Board meeting at 1:00 PM. Executive Director Heimbecker noted that the Trustees Board will have to reorganize due to changes in the SCEC Board of Directors.

3.20 – Updating of the FY 22 Business Plan/Budget

Cash for December was higher than the previous year if adjusted for the PPP proceeds which SCEC has received. Currently there is a loss of \$724,000 due to lower student enrollment. The budget was set for 252 students and there are currently 231 students.

3.30 – Updating the FY 2022-23 Business Plan/Budget

The budget process for FY 2022-23 has started and there is a great deal of uncertainty. It is difficult to base a budget on the number of students enrolled as done in the past, since the students that are being referred to SCEC are more complicated and challenging. Currently, the Business Plan/Budget models being considered are reflecting 3% to 5% increases in tuition and other fees for services.

3.40 – 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 – Queen Diaz, Paraprofessional II, North School, 12 months

4.12 – Sarah Hannagan, Clinical Assistant, Gallishaw High School, 12 months

Motion, T. Anderson: To accept new hires as presented

Second, J. Robidoux

Vote, Unanimous

4.20 - Transfers: None

4.30 - Resignations:

4.31 – Courtney Thomas, Paraprofessional II at North School, 12 months

4.32 – Brianna Flinton, Paraprofessional II, Gallishaw High School, 12 months

4.33 – Cambret Nystrom, Teacher, Gallishaw High School, 12 months

4.34 – Cynthia Cordeiro Mercier, Paraprofessional II at North School, 12 months

Motion, B. Gifford: To accept resignations as amended

Second, J. Schoonover

Vote, Unanimous

Discussion: Board members discussed the current challenges faced by districts to attract new staff. Dr. Heimbecker explained that this is also a challenge at SCEC, however, SCEC is often able to fill positions by hiring from within. Dr. Faria has expertise in getting people licensed and she supports staff in this process. Dr. Heimbecker also conducts exit interviews.

4.40 – Retirements: None

4.50 – Terminations: None

4.60 – Leave of Absence: None

4.70 – Educational Leave: None

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 – The *Policies and Procedures Manual 2021-2022 School Year* is being disseminated to all SCEC employees and leaders are sharing and discussing the document with members of their teams.

7.20 – 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

Executive Director Heimbecker spoke about the consulting work that Dr. McKearney has been doing in a number of school districts in the SCEC catchment area. He reported that her focus is predominately on creating environments that encourage and nurture social-emotional learning. In fact, a district leader informed him that Dr. McKearney’s work has helped to change the culture of the school system. He noted that she is available to all member districts.

The Executive Director also mentioned that under the leadership of Frank Gallishaw, monthly, Deep Learning, half-day sessions at SCEC have been shifting from focusing solely on student learning to supporting staff in wellness and the healing process. Dr. Heimbecker suggested that Board members email each other to share successful ways of supporting staff wellness.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 – PaulaJo Gaines from DESE was very pleased with the SCEC Board meeting that she attended on December 16, 2021, to monitor the presentation of the Annual Audit. Both PaulaJo Gaines and Ruth Hersh from DESE have instructed Executive Director Heimbecker to remind all Board members to make certain to stay current with the DESE Roles and Responsibilities of Collaborative Boards.

9.20 – Both the South Coast Educational Collaborative Annual Report for 2020-2021 and the Annual Audit for FY 21 have been successfully submitted to all relevant governmental agencies.

9.30 - All SCEC School Committees have approved Fall River’s request to become a SCEC member, and a majority of them have forwarded Leah Thibault their school committee minutes with a copy of the motion to approve.

9.40 - Executive Director Heimbecker continues to informally explore the possibilities with education department staff from both RI and the MA Department of Education for having SCEC staff provide services in RI schools. However, it appears that there may be many issues that would need to be successfully addressed for SCEC to provide services in RI.

9.50 - The Executive Director’s Book Club – Continuous Learning Service for Board of Directors

Executive Director Heimbecker spoke about Amanda Gorman’s poem “New Day’s Lyric” as well as “The Miracle of Morning” and how important it is to listen to young people. SCEC staff listened to these poems at the Deep learning session to support wellness.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 – Board members discussed the AASA national conference scheduled for February 17-19, 2022 in Nashville, Tennessee and who will be attending this conference.

10.20 – The second year of Influence 100 continues to successfully unfold and has a positive impact upon the SCEC Deep Learning monthly release day activities.

10.30 - Board members reviewed the revised Board of Director's Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022, and there was consensus on conducting the next Board meeting on March 3, 2022.

11.00 - Warrants:

Warrants will be signed via DocuSign.

12.00 - Other Items(s):

12.10 - Updating and Discussing Leasing Property for Instructional Purpose

Executive Director Heimbecker continues to explore the possibility of purchasing school buildings in Seekonk and the LIFE Academy building at the YMCA in Swansea. In addition, discussions are in process with officials from the Dioceses of Fall River regarding the Bishop Connolly High School building. If Board members have any ideas or suggestions, they are encouraged to contact Dr. Heimbecker.

12.11 – Board members discussed the new DESE Covid Testing Survey.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Schoonover: To adjourn meeting at 1:33 PM

Second. T. Aubin

Vote, Unanimous