

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 21, 2021

Minutes

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

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair R. Medeiros at 1:03 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of September 23, 2021

The minutes of September 23, 2021 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, J. Robidoux: To approve the minutes of September 23, 2021

Second, B.Gifford

Vote, Unanimous

Board Chair Medeiros welcomed Superintendent Rich Drolet to the leadership council of the SCEC Board of Directors. He will serve as Vice Chair of the Board.

3.00 - Financial Information

3.10 -Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

Jennifer Prendergast reported that there are currently 19 retirees, and the Collaborative is spending \$59,000 out of current budget. This funding would be taken from the Trust if it were in effect. A new actuarial study was completed in August, 2021 and the current liability is \$12.5 million dollars. This will be discussed at the December 16, 2021 Trustees meeting.

3.20 - Updating of the FY 21 Business Plan/Budget

Cash for September is down a little over \$100,000 from the previous year. The current year is not the same due to lower enrollment as a result of the Pandemic. At the end of September, SCEC shows a \$563,000 loss which is all student driven as the budget is tuition based. The Collaborative has joined a MOEC initiative to put together COVID expenditures. DESE has informed us that SCEC will receive approximately \$200,000 reimbursement for COVID required expenditures.

Board members discussed a comparison of the deficit this year to last year and why the deficit is smaller this fiscal year. Jennifer Prendergast explained that there were fewer billing days in September 2020 verses September 2021. Although student enrollment is down by 35 students, looking at past trends indicate that enrollments should begin to build at this time of year, and there are referrals coming into the Collaborative. However, the students that are being referred

are the most dysregulated in the history of SCEC. The application for the PPP money to be forgiven is in process, however we cannot rely on PPP funding as a structural measure. This funding must be used judiciously.

When discussing the \$563,000 deficit at this time, Dr. Heimbecker explained that SCEC is responding to this by hiring less staff. If staff are needed, we are hiring from within and whenever possible we are promoting paraprofessionals to teachers.

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

4.12 – Kerrie Serrecchia, Teacher, Palmer River, 12 months from 12 months
Paraprofessional II at Berkley (added during Board Meeting-10-21-2021)

4.20 - Transfers:

4.21 – Dion Rubio, Paraprofessional II, from North Seekonk to Gallishaw, 12 months

4.30 - Resignations:

4.31 – Justine Bailey, Teacher at Palmer River, 12 months

4.32 – Brittany Chippendale, Paraprofessional II at North Seekonk, 12 months

4.33 – Ashley Berry, Paraprofessional II at GRAIS, 12 months (added during
Board Meeting-10-21-2021)

Motion, R. Drolet: To accept new hires, transfers and resignations as amended by
Executive Director Heimbecker
Second, J. Robidoux

Vote, Unanimous

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 - 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 SCEC professional development is recorded and available to districts if requested. Interested board member should speak with Dr. Carolyn McKearney or Frank Gallishaw. Professional learning continues with Deep Learning work at our monthly release days. Dr. Heimbecker spoke about the great work that Dr. McKearney and Frank Gallishaw have been doing and the ability of SCEC to provide service in the districts.

Board members asked about the process for Dr. McKearney working in non-member districts and Dr. Heimbecker explained that SCEC responds to board member requests first and Dr. McKearney schedules her time around the requests of member districts. He explained that all compensation goes to SCEC; she does not receive any additional compensation.

Dr. Heimbecker discussed the role of Frank Gallishaw who is responsible for all internal professional development. He provides the momentum and structure behind the scenes. Identified teams of SCEC leaders are able to provide professional development for districts when requested and districts are charged for this as well.

SCEC will generate a list of SCEC trainers and their area of expertise to send to Board members. All requests for professional development should go through Dr. McKearney, she will work with districts to identify appropriate SCEC trainers.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 - All the School Committees of SCEC Board Members have voted to approve Fall River's request to become a SCEC member. A copy of the meeting minutes should be forwarded to Leah Thibault.

9.20 - 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.

9.30 - The Executive Director's Book Club – Continuous Learning Service for Board of Directors

Executive Director Heimbecker reviewed the book by Maggie Nelson entitled *On freedom: Four songs of care and constraint* (2021). He spoke about the need to think out loud with others and to keep having discussions. We need to talk to one another, lead and learn together.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 - Interested parties should contact Leah Thibault for National Conferences. The AASA national conference is scheduled for February 17-19, 2022 in Nashville, Tennessee.

10.20 - Board members reviewed the Board of Director's Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022. The February 17th, 2022 meeting will have to be changed as it conflicts with AASA Conference in Nashville: February 17-19, 2022.

11.00 - Warrants:

Warrants will be signed via DocuSign.

12.00 - Other Items(s):

12.10 - Updating and Discussing Leasing Property for Instructional Purposes

Although SCEC turned down the lease for the former Coyle Cassidy site, the Fall River Dioceses recently contacted Executive Director Heimbecker and there is a possibility of subcontracting with Bristol Community College.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, R. Drolet: To adjourn meeting at 1:47 PM
Second. J. Robidoux

Vote, Unanimous