

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors' Meeting January 11, 2024 Minutes

Present: J. Schoonover, M. Ryan, J. Saba-Maguire, B. Runey, M. Pontes, A. O'Leary, R. Kidwell, J. Robidoux, J. Cabral, D. Heimbecker, J. Prendergast, L. Thibault

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent J. Schoonover at 1:09 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of December 14, 2023

The minutes of December 14, 2023 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, J. Schoonover: To approve the minutes of December 14, 2023

Second, B. Runey

Vote, Approved

3.00 - Financial Information

3.10 - Updating of the FY 24 Business Plan

The OPEB Trustees will be meeting on June 13, 2024, at 11:00 AM to consider future initiatives, policies structural considerations, and retiree benefits. The results will be shared with the Board of Directors during the board meeting immediately following at 1:00 PM.

Director of Finance, Jennifer Prendergast mentioned that SCEC liability is \$8.9 million, and SCEC has \$193,000 in the account currently.

3.20 – Updating of the FY 23 Business plan/Budget

John Ratcliffe, partner from Pavento, Ratcliffe, Renzi & Co. LLC completed a quick close for the month of December showing a profit of \$72,000. SCEC through the end of December has a profit of \$60,000. Director of Finance, Jennifer Prendergast reported SCEC's student level are at budget and down by one staff member. SCEC's reserves are at 2.77 versus the three month's that are advised.

SCEC recently received two grants, \$10,000 for Chronic Absenteeism and \$11,000 for Special Education Grant.

3.30 - FY 25 Business/Plan

SCEC is actively working on the FY 2025 Business Plan.

SCEC does not have a Union Contract for next year. The Union mentioned a discussion about working on 11-month contracts, Executive Director Heimbecker stated it would be very difficult

to provide quality care to every student with each individual need, and that job sharing would need to fit the student needs.

Superintendent, Jeffrey Schoonover asked about the 5% increase, Director of Finance Jennifer Prendergast stated SCEC would try to make that happen.

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 Hire(s):

4.11 – Samantha Phillips – Paraprofessional, 12 Months GHS

4.20 - Transfer(s): None

4.30 - Resignation(s):

4.31 – Sarah Galbraith – Reading Teacher, 12 Months

Motion: J. Schoonover: To approve the New Hires and Resignations as presented.

Second, R. Kidwell

Vote, All in Favor

4.40 - Retirement(s): None

4.50 – Leave of Absence(s): None

4.60 – Termination(s): None

5.00 - Executive Session: None

6.00 - Building Program Update

6.10 – Executive Director, Heimbecker noted they started the installation of the new septic system at LIFE Academy in Swansea

Executive Director, Heimbecker also noted SCEC is looking for a middle school setting for inclusion programs. Our search is on going and SCEC would appreciate any help from the Board. SCEC is always looking at our future and we are limited on classroom space options.

SCEC will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony at the LIFE Academy once the septic system has been completed and encourages our Board of Directors to tour our facility.

7.00 - Policy and Procedures

7.10 – As current administrative policies and procedures are always being refined new ones emerge, Board participation and oversight is always encouraged and solicited.

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

8.10 - Internal Professional Development – Prepared by Frank Gallishaw Jr.

8.11 - SCEC Deep Learning Leadership Team held its monthly meeting on January 9, 2024. The team was provided with two presentations by SCEC teachers Stacy Harris from our SCEC GRAIS site and Christopher Nametz from our Seekonk North Middle School site. Each presentation helped to illustrate the use of “questioning.” to promote Deep Learning in instructional practices. Each presentation will be added to the SCEC Deep Learning HUB as a resource for other instructional staff.

8.12 - SCEC will host a half-day Professional Day on January 31, 2024. All SCEC staff will receive orientation/training on the new Massachusetts DESE IEP.

8.20 - External Professional Development

8.21 - The SCEC/BSU master’s in special education cohort – January 2024 will be the start of this SCEC’s cohort’s fifth semester. The anticipated graduation date is Fall 2024. Cohort enrollments consists of 5 SCEC, 2 Somerset/Berkley staff members, and 1 Seekonk Public Schools part time member.

Executive Director, Heimbecker stated he is very proud of the work Dr. McKearney has done.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

Executive Director, Heimbecker wanted to note what keeps SCEC “alive” is that SCEC always goes back to our core values. “What can we do to supply the best services to our students and families, and we are very lucky to have the support of our board”.

9.10 – The Executive Director’s Book Club: Sustainability through developing character, changemaking, and community building is being repeated, because it is essential that its focus is maintained throughout FY24 and beyond.

The following comes from page 2 of SCEC’s Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 and has been referred to in all recent SCEC meetings: Board, FinCom, SLT, SL, SF, and Union President/Ex Dir.

It is also contained in the newest version of our Annual Report, and it is available on our SCEC website:

Our Theory of Action: Sustainability through staff and students as changemakers

The sustainability of South Coast Educational Collaborative (SCEC) depends on maintaining and increasing student enrollment. As a Deep Learning organization, we believe we can achieve this goal by enabling all – students and staff – to be changemakers at SCEC, in our communities and in the world.

Given the enormity of the challenges embedded in our Theory of Action, it would be wise to seriously consider the implications of what Adam Grant maintains at the end of his newest book entitled *Hidden potential: The science of achieving great things* (2023) to our leadership commitments and responsibilities as SCEC leaders:

Many people dream of achieving goals. They measure their progress by the status they acquire and the accolades they collect. But the gains that count the most are the hardest to count. The most meaningful growth is not building our careers—it's building our character.

Success is more than reaching our goals—it's living our values. There's no higher value than aspiring to be better tomorrow than we are today. (p. 233)

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 – National Conference Opportunities:

Executive Director Heimbecker would like each board member to continue to share their experiences when attending conferences.

The AASA and ASCD Conferences are coming up, interested parties should contact Leah Thibault at (508) 379-1180 x 129 or lthibault@scecoll.org for more information.

10.20 – The 2023-2024 Board meeting dates have been scheduled.

September 14, 2023
October 26, 2023
December 14, 2023 (Award Ceremony)
January 11, 2024
February 8, 2024
April 11, 2024 (Admin Luncheon)
June 13, 2024

The Rookery is booked for the Admin Luncheon on April 11, 2024.

11.00 - Warrants:

Presented to Board Members through DocuSign approval.

12.00 - Other Item(s)

12.10 – Updating and Discussing Leasing Property for Instructional Purposes

Space to operate SCEC programs continues to be a concern for the SCEC Leadership Team. Finding adequate space for inclusion programs continues to be a problem.

Superintendent, Jeffrey Schoonover mentioned the Somerset Middle School transitioning to the new Building, this transition will take place July 2024. The original middle school will be a complete shut down once the transition is complete.

12.11 – Executive Director, Heimbecker noted Associate Executive Director, Lisa Martiesian will act as health care administrator while SCEC is waiting on a new leader to be hired in this role.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Schoonover: Motion to adjourn at 1:44pm
Second, J. Robidoux
Vote, Unanimous