

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors
December 12, 2024

AGENDA

- 1.0 - Call to Order
- 2.0 - Minutes of October 24, 2024
- 3.0 - Financial Information
- 4.0 - Human Resources
- 5.0 - Executive Session
- 6.0 - Building Program Update
- 7.0 - Policies and Procedures
- 8.0 - Internal/External Professional Development
- 9.0 - Superintendent Issues
- 10.0 - Other Superintendent Issue(s)
- 11.0 - Warrants
- 12.0 - Other Item(s)
- 13.0 - Adjournment

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors

December 12, 2024 at 1:00 PM

BACKUP

1.00 - Call to Order:

2.00 - Minutes of October 24, 2024:

The minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting held on October 24, 2024, are being presented for review and approval.

3.00 - Financial Information:

3.10 - Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

The OPEB Trustees will be meeting on June 12, 2025, at 12:00 PM to consider future funding initiatives, policies, structural considerations, and retiree benefits. The results of this meeting will be shared with the Board of Directors during the Board meeting scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM on June 12, 2025.

Currently, members of the Trust are Jeffrey Schoonover, John Cabral, Andrew O'Leary, Jennifer Prendergast, and David Heimbecker.

3.20 - Updating of the FY 25 Business Plan/Budget

John Ratcliffe, partner from Pavento, Ratcliffe, Renzi & Co. LLC recently closed the SCEC's financial books for October 2024. He reports that at the end of October, SCEC had lost \$194,675 due to enrollments being below budget projections by 11.5 students. There are currently 14 less member students than budgeted, and there are 2.5 more nonmember students than budgeted. Cash reserves cover 3.24 months of SCEC's monthly expenses and exclude reserves for OPEB and Capital.

Balancing the FY25 business plan/budget has been difficult. Managing the budgetary complications of student enrollment trends has been challenging for all members of the SCEC educational community, and Leadership Team members have been relentlessly creative and courageous in addressing the challenges. In this vein, SCEC's Senior Leadership Team and Finance Committee will be continuing to take the following steps, which seem to be producing positive results:

- Encouraging all Board Members to support efforts to increase student enrollment and use of other SCEC services
- Exceeding expectations by providing the highest quality programming for all students and their families and staff members in the SCEC catchment area
- Assisting all SCEC leaders in outreach efforts

- Restructuring programs and repurposing staff and other resources
- Pursuing grants and other non-tuition generated funding
- Limiting spending to essential items and activities
- Considering reduction in amount of time being paid to outside consultants.
- Collaborating with other educational collaboratives and service entities
- Considering mid-course adjustments in fee structures

3.50 – FY26 Business Plan/Budget

Post-pandemic-driven uncertainty is complicating an already difficult budget construction at SCEC. Currently, the Business Plan/Budget model being considered reflects 5% increases in tuition and other fees for services. All possible avenues are being considered and explored to reduce the potential increases, but as indicated major challenges exist. As always, predicting student enrollment, the level of student challenges, and acquiring suitable public-school classrooms are the most significant factors. Unfortunately, recruiting and retaining high quality staff are becoming increasingly difficult, and these issues are limiting program development efforts.

However, since the LIFE Academy building and property has been purchased by SCEC from the YMCA in Swansea in December of 2023, programming for 18- to 22-year-old students has a permanent home. In fact, there may be space made available for additional programming.

3.60 - SCEC Financial and Control Policies

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

Note: Monthly Report (MR – 6) for October 2024 will be made available for the December 12, 2024 Board of Directors’ meeting.

4.00 - Human Resources – Prepared by Sheena Martin:

4.10 - New Hires:

4.11 - Douglas MacDonald, Para II @ GHS, 12 Months

4.12 - Lori Rego, Para II @ Seekonk North, 12 Months

4.20 - Transfers:

4.21 - Patrick Townson, Teacher @ GHS to Teacher @ Seekonk North, 12 Months

4.22 - Raymond Kenny, Para II @ Life to School lunch para @ LIFE Academy, 12 Months

4.30 - Resignation(s):

4.31 - Kristie Pepin, PTA 12 Months

4.32 - Sheena Martin, Director of Human Resources, Director of Payroll, and Title IX Coordinator, 12 Months

4.40 - Retirement(s):

4.41 - Mary Cooper, APE Teacher 12 Months

4.42 - Christopher Nametz, Teacher @ Seekonk North, 12 Months

4.50 – Leave(s): 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. E.g., Recently, Seekonk inspectors expressed concerns regarding security and egress issues at the Food Pantry in the North Seekonk School. Since SCEC students have learning goals related to their participation in Food Pantry activities, SCEC is currently in the process of making needed renovations. Working in the food pantry and striving to keep it operational are congruent with SCEC's strategic plan, especially regarding to being change-makers.

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:

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

8.11 - On December 11th SCEC held its monthly professional learning half-day with the primary topics focused on two key areas:

- Discussing and Planning Based on Deeper Learning Pedagogies
- Universal Precautions, including Medication Delegation

Training was primarily facilitated by members of the Deeper Learning Leadership Team. SCEC sites were tasked with further integrating deeper learning strategies into classroom instruction and determining goals for the 24/25 school year. SCEC Nursing staff facilitated the second training of the afternoon.

8.12 - Collaborative-wide training was provided to SCEC staff on November 20th with the primary topics focused on:

- Emergency Preparedness
- School Safety

Presenters included many of the members of the SCEC School Safety Team. (Matt Ulmschneider, Chair, Dr. Catherine Vieira-Baker, John Murphy, and Raymond Kenney)

8.20 - External Professional Development – Prepared by Dr. Carolyn McKearney:

8.21 - The SCEC/BSU Master's in Special Education cohort – January 2024 will be the start of this SCEC's cohorts 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.

8.20 - External Professional Development – Prepared by Dr. Carolyn McKearney:

8.21 - The SCEC/BSU Master's in Special Education cohort –4 Cohort members will graduate in December 2024.

8.22 - In collaboration with BSU, SCEC recruited 1 additional candidate for the Bachelor's degree in special education program this month. This program is not like the traditional cohort model because candidates enter with different programming needs and course requirements. Candidates are eligible for the Para Grant and student loans. There is a rolling admissions process. Potential candidates should contact Dr. McKearney if interested.

8.23 SCEC currently has two staff members participating in the BSU Emergency Licensure in Moderate PreK-8 & 5-12 DESE Project. Projected graduation is Fall 2025.

8.24- Dr. Carolyn McKearney is assessing potential interest in the following programs at BSU: Master's in Educational Leadership, Master's in Special Education, Bachelor's in Special Education, Social Emotional Learning Credential, ASD Credential, and Transition Credential. Recruitment will take place in January of 2025.

8.25- SCEC is exploring a possible partnership with UMASS Dartmouth for a Doctorate in Educational Leadership cohort.

8.26 - Dr. Carolyn McKearney is providing consultation to Avon, Dartmouth, Fall River, Seekonk, and Norwood Public Schools in the 2024-2025 school year.

8.27 – Dr. McKearney is providing a two-part “Creating Therapeutic Environments for All Students” training series for Butler Elementary School in Avon in October and December 2024.

8.28- Dr. McKearney and Donna Cranshaw-Gabriel are conducting a program evaluation for Dighton-Rehoboth's TLC program at Beckwith Middle School in November/December 2024.

8.29- CPI Initial and Refresher trainings were conducted for Seekonk Public Schools (Aitken Elementary) and Swansea Public Schools in November 2024. Both Initial and Refresher CPI courses are available from SCEC's CPI team. If interested, please contact Dr. Carolyn McKearney at (508) 922-6213 or cmckearney@scecoll.org.

8.30 - SCEC's ESL teacher, who is also a certified special education teacher, is available to assist SCEC member districts in supporting their English Learners in the 2024-2025 school year. Examples of available supports include:

- Support WIDA testing for students
- Support/train staff on WIDA testing

- Consult with classroom teacher to support EL students in the acquisition of the English language
- Collaborating with teachers to plan lessons that include language goals in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
- Determining appropriate teaching methods for students based on their English proficiency.
- Assessing student progress
- Consult on EL students who also require special education services
- Communicating with and supporting families

Contact Dr. Bethany DeNardo if interested in this service at bdenardo@scecoll.org or call/text at (508) 962-6521.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues:

9.10 - The South Coast Educational Collaborative Annual Report 2023-2024 has been submitted to the Board of Directors. If the Board approves the Annual Report, the Board must vote to:

“Approve the 2023-2024 Annual Report of South Coast Educational Collaborative and instruct the Board Chair and the Executive Director to certify that this action was taken by signing a document that memorializes the action taken.”

9.20 - The Executive Director’s Book Club: Sustainability through Changemaking and Data-Informed Self-Correction

9.21 - The following comes from page 2 of SCEC’s Strategic Plan for 2023-2028:

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.

Changemakers and changemaking are throughlines for all components of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan that was approved by the SCEC Board of Directors. The works of Michael Fullan and Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade have impacted the writers of the SCEC Strategic Plan the most. The Plan itself has many authors, and they represent a broad spectrum of individuals throughout the SCEC catchment area.

We the authors of SCEC’s 2023-2028 Strategic Plan are all the members of the SCEC educational community, and we are totally committed to providing the best possible education to all students. To aid us in accomplishing this mission, we believe that we have created an agile plan that can change and grow as we grow and as our environment evolves.

As representatives of the SCEC community, the Leadership Team thanks our Board of Directors for providing input, support, and partnership as we continue into the next 4 years of growth and development at SCEC.

9.22 -According to Yuval Noah Harari in his latest book entitled *Nexus: A brief history of information networks from the stone age to AI* (2024) information and its use have been powerfully impactful throughout the history of the human species. The source of the power is seen by Harari in the potential to use information to self-correct. He believes that in sustainable institutions self-correction is built into the core of the organization and the use of it is celebrated. In this sense, self-correction is an ongoing process. Additionally, he maintains that it is essential to continually pursue a consensus on guiding principles and commit to continually assessing organizational adherence to them. (p. 113)

but what ‘right’ means depends on value judgements that differ among diverse people, cultures and ideologies (pp. xvi & xvii)
 put aside our fantasies of infallibility and commit ourselves to the hard and rather mundane work of building institutions with strong self-correcting mechanisms. (p.404)

SCEC’s Executive Director strongly believes that the sustainability of the organization depends on developing and enhancing a culture committed to self-correction. Getting individual and community values aligned so that judgements made are self-correcting for SCEC and beneficial to the staff and individuals and groups being served will be challenging. But the resulting sustainability will benefit the entire community and result in a self-correcting organization that continues to positively evolve.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issue(s):

10.10 - Schedule of Remaining SCEC Board of Board Directors Meetings for 2023-2024*:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
December 12, 2024	Award Ceremony	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	UMASS
	Board of Directors’ Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	UMASS
January 9, 2025	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC – 2
	Board of Directors’ Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC – 2
February 6, 2025	Board Luncheon	12:30 1:00 PM	GLC – 2
	Board of Directors’ Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC – 2
April 10, 2025	Adm Assistant Luncheon	11:30 – 1:00 PM	Rookery
	Board of Directors’ Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	Rookery
June 12, 2025	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC – 2
	Board of Directors’ Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC – 2

*Please remember that all members of SCEC’s Board of Directors are strongly encouraged to attend

Board of Directors' meetings. Since Massachusetts State (MA) laws governing Educational Collaboratives require attendance, officials from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MADESE) are monitoring attendance. DESE officials are required to audit Educational Collaboratives once in a six-year cycle.

10.20 - Continuous Professional Learning Experiences Supported by SCEC for FY25*:

10.21 - AASA - March 6 – 8, 2025 in New Orleans

10.22 - ASCD – June 29 – July 2, 2025, in San Antonio

10.23 - MASS Summer Institute – July 15 – 17, 2025 in North Falmouth

*Please remember the long SCEC history of Board Members conferring at PD activities and sharing their professional learning experiences at subsequent Board of Directors' meetings. Board Members have frequently reported that doing so has proven to be useful in their professional growth and development.

Board Members who are interested in participating in any of these PD experiences should contact Leah Thibault who will assist in obtaining registration and accommodations for all Board Members. She can be reached at (508) 379-1180, extension 129 or lthibault@scecoll.org.

11.00 - Warrants: To be signed via DocuSign

12.00 - Other Item(s):

12.10 - Updating and Discussing Leasing Property for Instructional Purposes

Space to operate SCEC programs continues to be a serious concern for the SCEC Leadership team. Both lease extensions and acquiring new ones are being pursued.

12.11 – Leases for venues providing inclusive programs have been extended at the Berkley Community* and Middle Schools in Berkley, Palmer River Elementary School in Rehoboth, the Beckwith Middle School in Rehoboth, the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School in Dighton, the Freetown Elementary, George R. Austin Intermediate School in Lakeville, and a classroom in Seekonk High School.

*It should be noted that SCEC staff members are currently teaming with colleagues of the Berkley School Department as they plan for a new elementary school in which 2 classrooms will be dedicated for use by SCEC. Everyone involved seems to be excited by the prospects.

12.12 - Leases for school buildings to house substantially separate programs have been executed at the North Grades 1-8 School in Seekonk and the Gallishaw High School in Seekonk.

12.13 – LIFE Academy is now owned by SCEC and home to a program serving 18–22-year-old adults.

13.00 - Adjournment: