

## SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

### Board of Directors' Meeting January 9, 2025 Minutes

Present: B. Runey, S. Holcomb, J. Schoonover, R. Kidwell, J. Saba-Maguire, J. Cabral, D. Heimbecker, J. Bouchard Prendergast, L. Thibault

#### 1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent J. Schoonover at 1:12 PM.

#### 2.00 - Minutes of December 12, 2024

The minutes of December 12, 2024 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, B. Runey: To approve the minutes of December 12, 2024  
Second, J. Cabral  
Vote, All in Favor

#### 3.00 - Financial Information

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

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast noted the current OPEB account balance at the end of November is \$275,000. As of December 1, the Capital Reserve balance is \$119,000. SCEC's current OPEB liability is \$9.1M.

##### 3.20 – Updating of the FY 25 Business plan/Budget

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast reports that November had a profit of \$145,000, partially due 2 less payroll days. SCEC has a year-to-date loss of \$48,000 and will continue a spending freeze on non-essential items.

SCEC is still in the process of hiring additional staff and will continue to monitor the student/staff ratios. Currently, SCEC has 207 staff. SCEC budgeted for 15 individual aides and as of December, 24 individual aides are required.

SCEC's student numbers at the end of November are 215 with our budget set at 225. As of January 9, 2025, 218 students are attending.

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, acquiring suitable public-school classrooms, and medical insurance costs are the most significant factors. Unfortunately, recruiting and retaining high quality staff and space issues are becoming increasingly difficult, and these issues are limiting program development efforts.

The Department of Education will conduct a financial audit this year at SCEC.

4.00 - Human Resources:

4.10 - New Hire(s):

4.11 – Jennifer Roncka, Para II @ Berkley Middle School, 12 months

4.12 – Karissa McGhee, Para II @ Gallishaw High School, 12 months

Motion: J. Cabral: To approve New Hires as presented.

Second, B. Runey

Vote, All in Favor

4.20 - Transfer(s): None

4.30 - Resignation(s): None

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 - Repairs and replacements at most SCEC sites are being completed on an as needed basis. Executive Director, David Heimbecker noted some updates that are needed on the Seekonk North Food Pantry. SCEC's students take pride in this environment and that SCEC will take care of these updates.

The heating system at North school in Seekonk requires a new regulator, and a replacement oven needs to be acquired at the Gallishaw school in Seekonk.

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 - SCEC is working hard on the internal and external professional development.

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

8.21 – Dr. Carolyn McKearney is exploring a possible partnership with UMass Dartmouth for a Doctorate in Educational Leadership cohort.

Superintendent, June Saba-Maguire noted that Dartmouth Public Schools will be offering their staff a master’s program through UMass Dartmouth at a reduced cost, this will be an online program.

Vice Board Chair, John Cabral invited the board to join their AI presentation at the Taunton High School, January 30, 2025 @ 11-1:00pm

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 – Executive Director, David Heimbecker thanks the Board for approving SCEC’s annual report.

9.20 – The South Coast Educational Collaborative 2023-2024 Annual Audit, which was approved by SCEC’s Board of Directors, has been submitted to appropriate DESE and MA Officials, and we are still waiting to hear back.

9.30 - Executive Director’s Book Review - Sustainability through Changemaking and Data-Informed Self-Correction

The SCEC Executive Director, David Heimbecker is happy to be part of this book club and feels it is a valuable part of the Board Meetings.

9.32 -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.

Harari (2024) also believes that there are Fundamental Principles that democracies can and should follow:

- 1 – Benevolence- Information should be used to help me rather than manipulate me.
- 2 – Decentralization – A democratic society should never allow all its information to be concentrated in one place.
- 3 – Mutuality-Surveillance of individuals should be balanced by surveillance of government.
- 4 – Change and rest- must provide opportunities for both (pp. 311-315)

9.33 – As a quick-read for relief from what can be extremely beneficial but tedious reading, the Executive Director is recommending the following book: ***Outraged: Why everyone is shouting, and no one is talking.***

“Funny, nuanced and wonderful” -Jon Ronson, bestselling author of SO YOU’VE BEEN PUBLICLY SHAMED and THE PSYCHOPATH TEST

“Outraged is as hilarious as it is smart, and as insightful as it is provocative. A book that had me hollering, nodding and questioning at the same time.” -Candice Carty-Williams, author of Queenie. A candid exploration of the state of outrage in our culture, how it debases our civil discourse, and how we can channel it back into the fights that matter, from radio host Ashley "Dotty" Charles.

We're living in a post-modern utopia of sorts, where thanks to our resolute predecessors, we've checked a bunch of items off our outrage shopping list. Slavery? Abolished. Apartheid? Not anymore buddy. Women's suffrage? Nailed it. But what do you do when you keep winning your battles? Well, you pick new ones, of course.

Ours is a society where many get by on provocation, the tactless but effective tool of peddling outrage--and we all too quickly take the bait. If outrage has become abundant, activism has become subdued. Are we so exhausted from our hashtags that we simply don't have the energy to be outraged in the real world? Or are we simply pretending to be bothered?

There is still much to be outraged by in our final frontier--the gender pay gap, racial bias, gun control--but to enact change, we must learn to channel our responses. Passionate, funny and unrelentingly wise, this is the essential guide to living through the age of outrage.

#### 10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 – Schedule of Remaining SCEC Board of Board Directors Meetings for 2024-2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
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

10.20 – Board Members Share Professional Learning Experienced gained throughout the year.

10.30 – Executive Director, David Heimbecker noted there will be continuous Professional Learning Experienced Supported by SCEC for FY25.

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

10.32 – ASCD, June 29-July2, 2025 in San Antonio

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

Executive Director, David Heimbecker mentioned the concerns with the rooms at Seacrest for the 2025 conference, but we are working on it.

Board members who are interested in participating in any of these PD Experienced 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](mailto:lthibault@scecoll.org)

10.40 – Board Chair, Jeffrey Schoonover will not be attending the February 6, 2025 SCEC Board Meeting due to conflicting schedules.

10.50 – Superintendent, Bill Runey shared the Dighton-Rehoboth High School will be hosting the Best Buddies Prom which will be held on March 12, 2025, they will offer dinner, a DJ and as a decompression space the library will be open for anyone who may need it. If SCEC has interest in participating, they should let Superintendent Runey know.

11.00 - Warrants:

Presented to Board Members through DocuSign approval.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Cabral: Motion to adjourn at 2:09PM  
 Second, J. Saba-Maguire  
 Vote, Unanimous