

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors' Meeting September 22, 2022 Minutes

Present: T. Anderson, T. Aubin, J. Cabral, R. Drolet, B. Gifford, M. Pontes,
J. Robidoux, M. Eakins-Ryan, B. Runey, J. Schoonover, A. Straus,
M. Canner, D. Heimbecker, J. Prendergast

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair J. Schoonover at 1:02 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of June 16, 2022

The minutes of June 16, 2022 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, J. Robidoux: To approve the minutes of June 16, 2022
Second, J. Cabral

Abstain, M. Eakins-Ryan
Abstain, T. Aubin

Vote, Unanimous

Executive Director introduced Superintendent Schoonover as the new chair of the SCEC Board of Directors. He also welcomed new Board members: Dighton/ Rehoboth Superintendent Bill Runey, Freetown/Lakeville Superintendent Alan Strauss and Fall River Superintendent Maria Pontes.

3.00 - Financial Information

3.10 - Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

The OPEB Trustees last met in June 2022. They will meet again in December 2022.

The SCEC Board took action in June to approve revenue over \$1 million of the surplus revenue to be deposited into the OPEB trust.

Superintendent Cabral asked about the impact of \$300,000 in the OPEB Trust account. SCEC Director of Finance, Jennifer Prendergast explained that it would not have a large impact. The GASB 74/75 valuation report for SCEC recommends \$12.5 million, currently SCEC OPEB trust only has \$58,000.

3.20 – Updating of the FY23 Business Plan/Budget

At the end of the summer, the Collaborative's year to date net operating result is a deficit of \$58,000. Summer revenue was aided by a \$100,00 grant and the return of a \$21,000 deposit on vehicles that are no longer available. SCEC budgeted for 235 students and there are 198 students at the end of August. Currently SCEC has 207 students.

In June 2022 SCEC had a loss of \$128,000. There is a profit of \$2.8 million which includes the PPP loan forgiveness and over \$100,000 in grants. SCEC is at 30% surplus revenue; this is 5% over the allowable amount. SCEC currently expects to be \$1.3 million over the surplus revenue. This can go into a Capital Reserve Account or into the OPEB Trust. The \$1.3 million will not be certified until the audit is presented and approved by the SCEC Board of Directors in December.

3.30 - SCEC Financial and Control Policies

At this time, 9 Board Member districts have voted to create the Capital reserve fund. This approval rate is sufficient for SCEC to create the Capital Reserve fund. SCEC is collecting the appropriate documents to continue the process.

3.40 – Potential Purchase of LIFE Academy

Executive Director Heimbecker reviewed pages 8-9 of the Board Backup so that Board Members were able to see the spaces where SCEC programs are currently housed. Being able to purchase LIFE Academy will enable SCEC to save money on leasing expenses. SCEC is pleased that the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association Southcoast, Inc. has offered to sell LIFE Academy at the reasonable price of \$1.5 million.

Work does need to be done on the septic system and leaching fields and that could cost could between \$50,00 to \$250,000. Superintendent Cabral asked about the funding to cover the costs. Dr. Heimbecker explained that if SCEC did not want to use current funds available, SCEC can borrow money from Rockland Trust using the property as collateral, additional revenue would not be an assessment to the member districts.

In response to a question from Superintendent Aubin about getting a variable rate for the loan, Dr. Heimbecker explained that SCEC accountants do not recommend this. They recommend using the funds that SCEC has or use the building as collateral.

SCEC would like to use \$1 million from surplus revenue to fund the purchase of the building that houses LIFE Academy. Superintendent Robidoux stated he thought the purchase would be a good investment.

Motion, B. Gifford: To allow the Executive Director to continue discussions about the purchase of the building that houses the LIFE Academy and sign the Purchase and Sale agreement.

Second, J. Cabral

Vote, Unanimous

Motion, J. Cabral: To authorize the use of 1 million dollars in surplus revenue for the purchase of the building that houses LIFE Academy
Second, B. Runey

Vote, Unanimous

4.00 - Human Resources

4.10 - New Hires

- 4.11 – Chantel Freitas, Paraprofessional, 12 months at Gallishaw High School
- 4.12 – Allison Mitchell, Counselor, 12 months
- 4.13 – Riley Oliver, Counselor, 12 months
- 4.14 – Stephanie Rosata, Paraprofessional, 12 months at Palmer River School
- 4.15 – Samantha Walkden, Paraprofessional, 12 months at GRAIS

Motion, J. Robidoux: To approve new hires as presented
Second, B. Runey

Vote, Unanimous

4.20 – Resignations

- 4.21 – Jennifer Stockdale, Teacher, 12 months at Gallishaw High School
- 4.22 – Amanda Cahil, Teacher, 12 months at Gallishaw High School
- 4.23 – Kaitlyn Gregoire, Paraprofessional, 12 months at LIFE Academy
- 4.24 – Jessica Roberts, Paraprofessional, 12 months at North School
- 4.25 – Wade Paiva, Teacher, 12 months at North School (NS)

Motion, J. Cabral: To accept all resignations as presented
Second, T. Aubin

Vote, Unanimous

4.30 – Transfers

- 4.31 – Nancy Vadeboncoeur, Paraprofessional, 12 months to Teacher, 12 months at GHS
- 4.32 – Laura Spath, Paraprofessional, 12 months at North School to Teacher 12 months at NS
- 4.33 – Jen Schubert, Paraprofessional, 12 months at NS to Teacher, 12 months at NS
- 4.34 – Susan Medeiros, Teacher 12 months at Bishop Connolly HS to Teacher, 12 months at NS Executive Director Heimbecker commented that we are very proud to be hiring from within SCEC.

4.40 – Leave of Absence:

- 4.41 – Brianna Loyd, Teacher, 12 months at NS

5.00 - Executive Session: None

6.00 - Building Program Update

6.10 - Rich Shannon continues to do great work in our own buildings. He was able to get cedar shingles for our building at the Swansea Campus and repair leaks in some of our buildings.

7.00 - Policy and Procedures

7.10 – As current 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

All the work that SCEC has been doing in Professional Development can be done in the districts as well if requested. Upon reviewing all professional development activities taking place at SCEC, board members can contact Dr. Carolyn McKearney for further information.

8.20 – External Professional Development

Many districts have been contacting Dr. McKearney for their professional development needs. Dr. McKearney's work is excellent, and she is consulting to multiple school districts. She has been working with Linda Cullen, M.Ed., MS, CCC-SLP to conduct a program evaluation of Preschool programs in Truro, Ma. In addition, Dr. McKearney has been working with our SCRO and was also the keynote presenter at the Leadership Institute.

SCEC has developed a relationship with BSU and this enables SCEC to buy the courses and offer them to staff at a reduced price. Districts are encouraged to call Dr. McKearney if interested.

Board members discussed the "Threat Assessment" training on November 2, 2022, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Seekonk, Ma. Registration information will be sent to board members soon. If interested, board members may contact Dr. McKearney at SCEC. SCEC is getting trained in this as an alternative approach, but SCEC staff who are in district buildings have also been trained in ALICE Training. Board members who are interested in this can contact Kate Murphy, MA, CAGS, NCSP at SCEC.

Board members requested that all external professional development notices be sent to Superintendents and Special Education Administrators in the districts.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 - Dr. Heimbecker reminded board members that he has been instructed by Ruth Hersh and PaulaJo Gaines at DESE to advise Board members about the need to stay current with the DESE Roles and Responsibilities of Collaborative Boards. Jennifer P. will research which board members are in need of this training.

9.20 – We are currently in the process of revising our Strategic Plan Meeting and it is our hope to have it ready for the December Board Meeting.

9.30 - The Executive Director's Book Club Reflections – Continuous Learning Service for the SCEC Board of Directors-Grammar Lessons and Changemaking:

9.31 – Ellen Jovin's *Rebel with a Clause*, points to the importance of using language that is standard enough so that everyone will understand.

9.32 – David Ambroz's *A place called home* is his memoir and is not historical fiction. This book can provide validation that the work that educational leaders are doing is making a difference in the lives of children and family.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 – Board members shared the highlights of the 2022 Paul J. Andrews Executive Institute. Superintendent Runey spoke about his participation in the New Superintendents Induction Program (NSIP) and the great support he received. Superintendent Robidoux was pleased to see SCEC Board Member Superintendent Gifford receive the prestigious 2022 Christian Daoulas Award. Superintendent Cabral spoke about the keynote presenters John D'Auria and Rob Evans as they talked about the challenges faced this year. Other board members shared the highlights of the sessions they attended, and all board members agreed that this was a worthwhile and energizing experience.

10.20 – The proposed Executive Director Heimbecker shared exemplary highlights from the evolving SCEC aquatics program.

10.30 – Reviewing the proposed scheduling of SCEC Board of Directors' meetings for the 2022-23 school year.

Board members reviewed the proposed scheduling of SCEC Board of Directors' meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, the AASA national conference on education, scheduled for February 16-18, 2023, in San Antonio Texas was reviewed as well as the ASCD annual conference scheduled for March 31-April 3, 2023, in Denver Colorado. SCEC will register any board members who are interested in attending either one of these conferences.

Upon review of the schedule of board meetings, Board Chair, Schoonover spoke about the December 15, 2022, meeting at which there will be a presentation of the SCEC Annual Report and Audit. The Superintendent's Academic Award Luncheon is also a highlight of this meeting date. Dr. Heimbecker discussed the potential location of this meeting and luncheon and is open to Board member suggestions.

11.00 – Warrants: To be signed via DocuSign

12.00 - Other Item(s)

12.10 - Updating and Discussing Leasing Property for Instructional Purpose. The potential purchase of LIFE Academy discussed in 3.40

Other leases and negotiations were reviewed as well. Discussions are continuing with the Diocese of Fall River relative to expanding classrooms and space for our existing program as well as possibly opening a high school inclusion program.

12.20 – Additional items – None

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Robidoux: To adjourn meeting at 2:20 PM
Second, M. Eakins-Ryan

Vote, Unanimous