

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors' Meeting September 14, 2023 Minutes

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

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent J. Schoonover at 1:05 PM.

Board Chair, Schoonover wanted to take this time for introductions of the new Board Members and SCEC staff. Each member introduced themselves with brief descriptions of their career paths.

2.00 - Minutes of June 15, 2023

The minutes of June 15, 2023 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, J. Cabral: To approve the minutes of June 15, 2023
Second, J. Robidoux

Abstained, R. Kidwell
Vote, Approved

3.00 - Financial Information

3.10 - Updating of the FY 23 Business Plan

The month of June SCEC shows a profit of \$307,000. As projected and reported there was a loss for FY23 of \$786,000, however the PPP grant fund covered the loss. In addition, cost-cutting measures by the Leadership Team were very helpful in reducing loss. The final numbers will be reported in Audit at the December board meeting.

At the end of June SCEC had 226 students. SCEC's summer enrollment was 211 and as of today we have 213 students. SCEC hasn't closed our summer financials yet, but it is going well.

SCEC has deposited \$175,000 into the OPEB Trust, and the balance as of August is \$191,000. SCEC is continuing to add to the trust. The trust has an \$8.9 million liability. Executive Director Heimbecker stated that Collaboratives are funded differently, and historically the votes were just not there for OPEB.

The members of the OPEB Trust Board-

Board Chair- J. Schoonover
Vice Chair- J. Cabral
SCEC Executive Director- D. Heimbecker
SCEC Financial Director- J. Prendergast
New Bedford Superintendent- A. O'Leary

SCEC Capital Reserve started with \$1 million, the balance today of \$1,050,000. This will be used to purchase the LIFE Academy in Swansea.

3.20 – FY24 Business Plan/Budget

It appears the steps taken by the SCEC Leadership Team and Finance Committee to slow the FY23 losing trends are having a positive impact and will help shape FY24 positively, beginning with student enrollment.

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 Hire(s):

- 4.11 – Erin Rice - Paraprofessional, 12 Months at Seekonk North
- 4.12 – Kevin Mojico – Paraprofessional, 12 Months at Gallishaw
- 4.13 – Hans Gabriel – Paraprofessional, 12 Months at FES
- 4.14 – Laurie Thornton – Paraprofessional, 12 Months at Gallishaw
- 4.15 – Kiley Hall – Occupational Therapist, 10 Months

4.20 - Transfer(s):

- 4.21 – Amy Neveu – Nurse, 12 Months to Substitute
- 4.22 – Patrick Townson – Paraprofessional, 12 Months to Teacher, 12 Months at Gallishaw
- 4.23 – MARRISA RAUSEO – Nurse, 12 Months to Nurse, 10 Months.

4.30 - Resignation(s):

- 4.31 – Mitch Paiva – Teacher, 12 Month at North Seekonk
- 4.32 – Jennifer Soqui – Occupational Therapist, 12 months
- 4.33 – Tyrime DaSilva – Teacher, 12 Months at Gallishaw
- 4.34 – Danielle Murphy – Teacher, 12 Months at SCMAS
- 4.35 – Danielle Hancock – Teacher, 12 Months at North Seekonk
- 4.36 – Colleen Kinder – Paraprofessional, 12 Months at North Seekonk
- 4.37 – Lauren Richard – Paraprofessional, 12 Months at FES

4.40 - Retirement(s): None

4.50 - Leave of Absence(s): None

4.60 – Termination(s): None

Motion: J. Robidoux: To approve the New Hires, Transfers, and Resignations, as presented.

Second, J. Cabral

Vote, Unanimous

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 always being refined new ones emerge, Board participation and oversight is always encouraged and solicited.

7.20 - The updated Policies and Procedures Manual for SCEC was provided for Board Members.

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

8.10 – Internal Professional Development

8.11 – The SCEC first Professional Development Day of the 2023/2024 school year took place on September 5, 2023 and included training in DESE mandated topics.

8.12 - The SCEC Deep Learning Team will continue throughout the school year to provide professional learning instruction and facilitation in New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL).

8.13 – ASPEN Training for our SCEC staff is coming soon, and is IEP mandated. The SCEC IEP Training Team went through the initial training with DESE last week and have set dates to train SCEC staff. Associate Executive Director Jennifer Faria is on point for the new IEP training. If districts would like a discussion about the new IEP let SCEC know. We are also doing the R.I. IEP, as we have Rhode Island students here at SCEC.

Board members discussed the implementation of the new IEP and noted that one of the biggest issues is the software. It was suggested that SCEC member districts should collaborate and possibly have their Special Education Administrators meet for training as well as other issues and topics.

Executive Director Heimbecker noted that in the past SCEC Special Education Administrators did meet and it was beneficial. SCEC can facilitate these meetings, offering a time for discussion and it would be available as a Job Alike.

8.20 - External Professional Development

8.21 - Executive Director Heimbecker mentioned Jacqueline Gallishaw is SCEC's ESL teacher and is strong, she is on point and available to assist member districts in supporting their English Learners in the 2023-2024 school year. If you are interested, you may contact Bethany DeNardo.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 – SCEC continues to follow the new Strategic Plan which guides the deep learning work and is built in their union contracts. Executive Director Heimbecker stated, SCEC's strategic plan is Purpose,

to provide whatever services staff and students need to be successful. Guided by the new Strategic Plan, the Deep Learning training continues during the monthly half-days.

9.20 – SCEC has entered E-Rate programming

9.30 – The Executive Director’s Book Club: Sustainability through Deep Learning and Deep Purpose:

9.21 - Executive Director Heimbecker spoke about Michael Fullen’s latest book written with Joane Quinn (2024) entitled: “The Drivers Transforming Learning for Students, Schools, and Systems”. He also spoke about Ranjay Gulati’s text about Deep Purpose (2022). Board members were given the opportunity to share their stories of their job purpose, their career purpose, and their life purpose.

Executive Director Heimbecker noted that our approved new Strategic Plan is about deep purpose, enabling our students to become changemakers.

These books are available to Board Members, if you would like a copy, please let Executive Director Heimbecker know.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 – MASS/MASC Joint Conference

10.11 - A 2023 Joint Conference RFP has been submitted for SCEC colleagues to present at the November 2023 conference. The title is: Successfully Addressing Healthcare Staffing and Servicing Needs Through Partnerships. The proposed panelists are Melissa Eakin-Ryan, Superintendent, Berkley Public Schools; Alan Strauss, Superintendent, Freetown Lakeville School District; John Burke, School Committee member, Freetown Lakeville School District; and Maggie Arruda, Health Services Administrator, SCEC. The proposed moderator is David Heimbecker, Executive Director, SCEC.

10.20 – Board members discussed their highlights and experiences from the 2023 Paul J. Andrews MASS Executive Institute that was held at Sea Crest Resort/Mashpee High School.

10.30 – 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.

10.40 – 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

10.50 – The Francis W. Gallishaw, Jr. award luncheon, December 14, 2023:

10.51 - BSU is unavailable for the award ceremony this year, Leah will work with Dr. June Saba-Maguire regarding using space at UMass Dartmouth.

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

12.11 – Leases have been extended at Berkley Community and Middle Schools in Berkley

12.12 – Executive Director Heimbecker thanked Superintendent Pontes for her support and assistance with inclusion for the students at Bishop Connolly. SCEC will keep the program running at the Bishop Connolly building for the 2023-2024 school year.

12.13 – Leases have been extended at FES and GRAIS in Freetown Lakeville

12.14 – The lease at the Palmer River School in D/R is being extended

12.15 – While Superintendent in Seekonk, Rich Drolet was able to acquire SCEC's existing, 3-year leases on a classroom at Seekonk High School, the Gallishaw School, and the North School.

12.16 – SCEC will be closing on the LIFE Academy soon, Executive Director Heimbecker invited new board members to visit the LIFE Academy.

12.17 – Finding adequate space for inclusion programs continues to be a problem

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Schoonover: Motion to adjourn at 2:30 PM

Second, J. Robidoux

Vote, Unanimous