

## SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

### Board of Directors' Meeting October 26, 2023 Minutes

Present: J. Cabral, B. Runey, J. Robidoux, M. Pontes, J. Schoonover, T. Aubin, M. Ryan, D. Heimbecker, J. Prendergast, L. Thibault

#### 1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent J. Schoonover at 1:03 PM.

Executive Director Heimbecker updated the board on Alan Strauss's health. Alan's address was presented to the board to send well wishes.

#### 2.00 - Minutes of June 15, 2023

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

Motion, J. Cabral: To approve the minutes of September 14, 2023  
Second, J. Robidoux

Abstained, T. Aubin  
Vote, Approved

#### 3.00 - Financial Information

##### 3.10 - Updating of the FY 24 Business Plan

The Collaborative's year to date net operating results are at \$13,798 surplus and are \$411,834 better than the previous year. All the strategies SCEC has implemented seem to be working.

SCEC is down two staff from the business plan but on track with 223 students. Although it is difficult to recruit new employees, student enrollment continues to rise. As a result, SCEC's Senior Leadership Team is cautiously optimistic that the financial outlook for the 2024 fiscal year is good.

SCEC received a grant, Development and Expansion of High-Quality Summer Learning in the amount of \$100,000. The purpose of this state and federal continuation grant is to support the development and expansion of high quality, comprehensive summer learning opportunities and partnerships in districts to address both the academic and social-emotional impacts of COVID-19 on students.

##### 3.20 – FY24 Business Plan/Budget

SCEC's 2023 audit was completed by Powers and Sullivan and will be discussed at the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting.

The board discussed SCEC's current program enrollment availability and 45-day placements versus full time placements. Executive Director Heimbecker confirmed SCEC wants to be the sole provider and accommodate the member districts.

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 – Rachel Desrosiers - Paraprofessional, 12 Months at Gallishaw HS

#### 4.20 - Transfer(s):

4.21 – Stacy Harris, Paraprofessional, 12 Months to Teacher, 12 Months at GRAIS

#### 4.30 - Resignation(s):

4.31 – Mable Kabatayla – Paraprofessional, 12 Month at North School

4.32 – Melanie Medeiros – Paraprofessional, 12 Months at Berkley Elementary School

Motion: T. Aubin: To approve the New Hires, Transfers and Resignations, as presented.

Second, B. Runey

Vote, All in Favor

#### 4.40 - Retirement(s):

4.41 – William MacDonald – Teacher, 12 Months at Palmer River Elementary School

Motion: J. Robidoux: To approve the Retirement as presented.

Second, T. Aubin

Vote, All in Favor

Executive Director Heimbecker noted that William MacDonald is a valuable employee, and he hopes to see him come back as a substitute in the future.

Motion: J. Cabral: To send a letter from the Board of Directors to William MacDonald in appreciation of his service with SCEC.

Second, J. Robidoux

Vote, All in Favor

4.50 - Leave of Absence(s):

4.51 – Teresa Medeiros – ABA Paraprofessional, 12 Months Related Services

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 Heimbecker mentioned SCEC has a contract with Seekonk for three years – Gallishaw High School and North Elementary School. Both schools need work, Executive Director Heimbecker would like to speak with the town administrator regarding this work, our contract with Seekonk does state that they will take care of these building issues. Repairs are ongoing.

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 – Copies of The MOEC 2022-2023 Annual Report were handed out during this meeting.

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

8.10 – Internal Professional Development

8.11 – SCEC held its second full Professional Development Day on October 6, 2023. The primary presentation of the day was the SCEC Legal Issues update, presented by Attorney Felicia Vasusdevan. Additionally, staff participated in online learning, entitled Mandated Reporter Training for Educators. Staff were instructed to complete the training and final assessment. The SCEC site leaders led site specific trainings for the remainder of the day.

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 – Executive Director Heimbecker is happy with the aquatics program and the training of our own SCEC Lifeguards to be with our students. Superintendent A. Strauss has kept the tradition of allowing SCEC to use his district’s pool as well as the YMCA.

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.

8.22 – Superintendent Robidoux mentioned Dr. Carolyn McKearney’s training is well received in Swansea and has been very helpful with staff.

8.23 – Superintendent Schoonover asked how the 2023 Paraprofessional Bachelor’s course is going. Executive Director Heimbecker stated that it is going well, we have four paraprofessionals who are now teachers.

8.24 - Executive Director Heimbecker mentioned that Dr. Carolyn McKearney would be happy to build another BSU cohort, and to just reach out to her.

## 9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 – Superintendent J. Robidoux wanted the Board to know he will not be renewing his contract with the Swansea Public Schools after June 2024. He thanked the Board.

9.11 - Superintendent Schoonover stated that in December he’d like to share some positive news. Superintendent Robidoux agreed and stated he absolutely loves the December Award Ceremony and is looking forward to it. Executive Director Heimbecker passed around the release letter to the board and spoke briefly about it. Executive Director Heimbecker mentioned Superintendent June Saba-Maguire was very helpful in securing the space at UMass Dartmouth. Executive Director Heimbecker also mentioned that he will reach out to the Superintendents who will not be able to attend this event and update them.

9.30 – The Technology Committee and Acupoint

Financial Director Jennifer Prendergast is delighted and in process for next year.

The Technology Committee has been exceeding expectations as SCEC has been forced to migrate from Acupoint to Frontline, a new software. As critically important data is being salvaged from Acupoint by SCEC Assistant Technology Director Sean Neas and uploaded into Frontline by Technology Director Raymond Steele, disaster is being averted.

9.50 – The Executive Director’s Book Club: “*The Drivers: Transforming Learning for Students, Schools and Systems.*” and “*Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things.*”

9.51 - 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 asked to look at Dimensions on page 8 and reflect on Deep Purpose when working with staff. Executive Director Heimbecker stated this isn’t supposed to be about compliance but to think purpose. If you have the time to do the activity that may benefit you.

9.52 – Executive Director Heimbecker also offered Adam Grant’s book entitled “Hidden Potential”.

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 – Opportunities for continuous professional learning:

Executive Director Heimbecker would like each board member to continue to share their experiences when attending conferences. Executive Director Heimbecker thanked Superintendent Ryan for partnering with SCEC’s Maggie Arruda and himself at the MASC/Joint Conference.

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](mailto: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:

This year’s award ceremony/board meeting will be held at UMass Dartmouth.

Superintendent Schoonover, is interested in how other principals choose their students for the award ceremony? Executive Director Heimbecker noted that though it is about the students, their leadership skills, and academics there can be many other traits included in decision making.

Superintendent Pontes and Superintendent Runey both agreed that looking for a well-rounded student was also a large factor.

10.60 – Associate Executive Director Lisa Martiesian has agreed to facilitate in person a Special Education Director job alike workshop.

Executive Director Heimbecker stated Lisa will contact folks and decide where they can meet.

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.

12.11 – Executive Director Heimbecker asked if any Superintendents would like a reporter to attend the December 14, 2023, award ceremony to let us know. Superintendent J. Cabral has a freelance writer who he'll contact.

12.12 – The purchase of sales for the LIFE Academy finally came through. Executive Director Heimbecker asked permission from the board for a Ribbon Cutting ceremony at The LIFE Academy. Superintendent Robidoux asked when would we like to see that happen? Sometime before Christmas might be nice. SCEC would like to thank town administrators, Superintendent Robidoux offered to assist.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Cabral: Motion to adjourn at 1:59 PM  
Second, J. Robidoux

Vote, Unanimous