

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Virtual Board of Directors' Meeting February 6, 2025 Minutes

Present: B. Runey, S. Holcomb, R. Kidwell, J. Saba-Maguire, J. Cabral, T. Aubin, M. Ryan, T. Curley, A. O'Leary, D. Heimbecker, J. Bouchard Prendergast, L. Thibault, R. Steele

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent/Vice Chair J. Cabral at 1:16 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of January 9, 2025

The minutes of January 9, 2025 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, B. Runey: To approve the minutes of January 9, 2025

Second, T. Aubin

Roll Call:

J. Cabral- Yes

S. Holcomb- Yes

J. Saba-Maguire-Yes

M. Ryan- Yes

R. Kidwell- Yes

A. O'Leary- Yes

T. Aubin- Yes

B. Runey-Yes

T. Curley- Yes

Motion Passes

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, the Capital Reserve balance is \$119K. 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 December had a profit of \$18,000. SCEC will continue the 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.

With SCEC's low staffing numbers, SCEC nurses and medical staff as well as the program directors are helping in the classrooms on an as needed basis.

SCEC's student numbers at the end of December are 214 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.

3.50 – FY26 Business Plan/Budget

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast is working with the program leaders getting a sense of SCEC's student to staff ratios.

SCEC students move around and it's currently an unknown for this summer as to where we will be with this ratio. Jennifer is working with the leaders as to where they will be this summer.

Executive Director, David Heimbecker is exploring the idea of collapsing programs for the summer if they are low on student numbers. This may be a way to lessen the burden of hiring staff at that time.

3.60 – SCEC Financial and Control Policies

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast notes, discussions are in place for the future of SCEC's Capital Plan.

4.00 - Human Resources:

4.10 - New Hire(s):

4.11 – Nathan Pereira, 12-month Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)

4.12 – Laurie Anderson, 12 -month Reading Interventionist/English as a second language (ESL) Teacher

4.20 - Transfer(s):

4.21 – Kathleen McGough-Staley-12-month PTA- transfer to 10-month PTA position

4.22 – Laurie Thornton is transferring from a 12-month Para at Gallishaw HS to a 12-month Teacher at Gallishaw HS

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

Second, S. Holcomb

Roll Call:

J. Cabral- Yes

J. Saba-Maguire- Yes

R. Kidwell- Yes

T. Curley- Yes

S. Holcomb- Yes

M. Ryan- Yes

B. Runey- Yes

A. O’Leary- Yes

T. Aubin- Yes

Motion Passes

4.30 - Resignation(s): Douglas McDonald 12-month Para from GHS

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. The Gallishaw HS elevator should be completed sometime in the month of March.

According to SCEC’s Facilities Director Shane Vezina, repairs and replacements at most SCEC sites are being completed on an as needed basis. E.g., We are in the process of making the necessary renovations at the Food Pantry in the North School, planning to install an actuator in the boiler at the North School, attempting to manage the roof leaks

at North and Gallishaw Schools, repairing minor heating issues at all our locations, and fixing areas from students' damage and wear-and-tear.

MOEC completed a facility study bill to allow Collaboratives some funding to aging buildings and Collaborative territory.

7.00 - Policy and Procedures:

7.10 – SCEC's fiscal review from DESE will take place this April.

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.

8.12 - SCEC programs are hosting walk throughs for staff to be able to participate in their day to day and to see what each program has to offer.

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.

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 - The Executive Director's Book Club: Sustainability through being willing to search for and know the truth and to act upon it.

Mark Lilla's *Ignorance and bliss: On wanting not to know* (2024) can serve as a timely reminder that although it might be easier to passively settle for less than the truth, Lilla believes that doing so is remarkably dangerous. Lilla maintains that individuals, organizations, and nations who slide into a comfortable space where some individuals become the purveyors of knowledge often leads to abuse of power and ultimate domination and servitude.

According to Lilla, the intellectual and emotional rigor required to pursue truth, even when not knowing would be easier, can be worth the commitment, focus, and energy required. And it may be that if we aren't willing, our individual and collective lives are at risk. (p. 16)

9.40 - Opportunity to apply Lilla's admonition to fight the "ignorance is bliss" mentality by reflecting on the potential impact on public schools of President Trump's Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families Executive Order. Let's focus on the provision specifying how "States can use Federal formula funds to support K-12 educational choice initiatives." What impact could it have?" and how can the impact be addressed? Let's keep in mind that Lilla (2024) says, "The harder the truth, the greater the temptation to escape it." (p.226)

9.50 – The Executive Director's Book of the Month is by Reid Hoffman & Greg Beato. Its title is *Superagency: What could possibly go right with our AI future* (2025).

In the Executive Director's opinion this is one the most positive and instructive books currently available on AI. It comes highly recommended by some of the world's most intelligent and successful individuals. If you read it, you will be informed of AI's positive possibilities and uplifted by them.

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>
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

10.40 – Superintendent, Bill Runey and Superintendent, June Saba-Maguire will be attending the AASA conference in March.

11.00 - Warrants:

Presented to Board Members through DocuSign approval.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, T. Aubin: Motion to adjourn at 2:17PM

Second, S. Holcomb

Roll Call:

J. Cabral- Yes

J. Saba-Maguire- Yes

R. Kidwell- Yes

T. Curley- Yes

S. Holcomb- Yes

A. O'Leary- Yes

M. Ryan- Yes

B. Runey- Yes

T. Aubin- Yes

Motion Passes