

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors' Meeting June 12, 2025 Minutes

Present: T. Aubin, T. Curley, J. Saba-Maguire, R. Kidwell, M. Ryan, J. Schoonover, S. Holcomb, J. Cabral, D. Heimbecker, J. Bouchard Prendergast, L. Thibault

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent/Chair J. Schoonover at 1:21 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of April 10, 2025

The minutes of April 10, 2025 were presented for review and approved.

Motion, S. Holcomb: To approve the minutes of April 10, 2025

Second, J. Cabral

All in favor

Executive Director, David Heimbecker presented Superintendent, Tom Aubin a celebratory plaque thanking him for his time spent on the SCEC Board of Directors and wishing him well on his retirement.

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 April is \$275,000. OPEB decisions will be discussed at the September 19, 2025 meeting. SCEC's current OPEB liability is \$9.1M.

Board Chair, Jeffrey Schoonover asked who handles the OPEB Trust? Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast noted Rockland Trust.

3.20 – Updating of the FY2025 Business plan/Budget

At the end of June, \$25K will be deposited in both the OPEB and the Capital Reserve Fund per the FY2025 Approved Business Plan.

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast reports that at the end of April, SCEC had a small loss of \$1,300 with a YTD of \$508K. 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. SCEC currently has 202 staff, with 207 staff budgeted.

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

SCEC has 198 students in June with a budget of 225. This year Gallishaw High School will be graduating over 10 students which brings down our student count at the end of the year.

3.50 – FY2026 Business Plan/Budget

Business Plan/Budget model reflects 5% increases in tuition. All possible avenues were 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.

Tier billing will remain the same.

Per the A & B Union contract- salaries for all union employees will move up a step if eligible and receive a 1.5% pay increase along with 5 days off for ESY, with a total of 217 working days for FY2026.

Health Insurance will increase 8.2% for FY2026.

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast worked with the program leaders to get a sense of SCEC's student to staff ratios. SCEC is currently estimating 18, 1:1 aide for FY2026.

Board Chair, Jeffrey Schoonover asked SCEC if tuition rate increases could be provided to the Board sooner in the year. He mentioned it can be challenging to finalize his district plans with our later notice.

Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard Prendergast explained with our student numbers constantly changing, SCEC's history was to present in April so we have more clarity of our student numbers for the following year, but we can investigate finalizing sooner.

Motion: J. Cabral: SCEC to provide the Board tuition increases for the next fiscal year by March.

Second: S. Holcomb
All in favor

Executive Director, David Heimbecker thanked the board for approving the FY2026 Business Plan and Budget.

4.00 - Human Resources:

4.10 - New Hire(s): None

4.20 - Transfer(s): None

4.30 - Resignation(s):

4.31- Susan Abbott- 12-month Physical Therapist

4.32- Olivia Torres- 12-month Teacher-Berkley Community School

4.33- Dion Rubio- 12-month Paraprofessional-Gallishaw High School

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

Second: S. Holcomb

All in favor

4.40 – Retirement(s): None

4.50 – Leave of Absence(s): None

4.60 – Termination(s): None

Executive Director, David Heimbecker praised the SCEC Business Office Team on all the work they've taken on after the HR Director took another position.

Motion: J. Cabral: The Board to assist Executive Director, David Heimbecker with writing recognition letters to the BOT team for all their HR Support.

Second: S. Holcomb

All in favor

5.00 - Executive Session: None

6.00 - Building Program Update:

6.10 – SCEC's Facility Director, Shane Vezina painted and added new cameras to our time-out spaces/settling areas throughout the SCEC programs.

SCEC is currently evaluating bid responses and interviewing potential vendors for a main office generator system at 2201 GAR Highway, Swansea MA.

7.00 - Policy and Procedures:

7.10 – As current administration policies and procedures are refined and new ones emerge, Board participation and oversight will be encouraged.

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

9.20 – As SCEC enters its 2nd year of a 4-year commitment with the Think: Kids project from Mass General, we are seeing steady progress in our programs as Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) practices are being learned and applied.

Based on CPS successes of practitioners, students and families at READS and SCEC, Deirdre Dowd-Pizzuto from READS and SCEC Associate Executive Director, Lisa Martiesian will be presenting at a Collaborative Problem-Solving webinar being sponsored by the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC) and Mass General Hospital. The webinar is planned for Wednesday, July 23, 2025 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm ET.

9.30 – Board Chair, Jeffrey Schoonover spoke about the state/DESE looking at School Committee agendas to see if Collaboratives are sharing their quarterly updates. SCEC will begin sending quarterly updates to each district including the administrative assistants starting this Fall 2025.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

10.10 – SCEC Board of Board Directors Meetings for 2025-2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 19, 2025 (Friday)	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC 2
	Board of Directors' Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC 2
October 16, 2025	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC 2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 3:00 PM	GLC 2
December 12, 2025 (Friday)	Frank Gallishaw Awards/Lunch	11:00 – 1:00 PM	UMASS
	Board of Directors' Meeting	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Dartmouth
January 15, 2026	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC 2
	Board of Directors' Meeting	1:00 – 3:00 PM	GLC 2
February 12, 2026	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC 2
	Board of Directors' Meeting	1:00 – 3:00 PM	GLC 2
April 16, 2026	Administrative Luncheon	11:30 – 1:00 PM	The Rookery
	Board of Directors' Meeting	1:00 – 3:00 PM	The Rookery
June 11, 2026	Board Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC 2
	Board of Directors' Meeting	1:00 – 3:00 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 Experiences Supported by SCEC for FY26.

Board members who are interested in participating in any of these PD Experiences 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, Jeffrey Schoonover would like to discuss a policy with the Board regarding the Seacrest attendees in the future

11.00 - Warrants:

Presented to Board Members through DocuSign approval.

13.00 - Adjournment

Motion, S. Holcomb: Motion to adjourn at 2:06 PM
 Second, J. Cabral
 All in favor