

SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE (SCEC)

Board of Directors' Meeting June 11, 2026 Minutes

Present: F. Roy, J. Schoonover, B. Runey, J. Cabral, J. Saba-Maguire, B. Starkie, D. Heimbecker, J. Bouchard, L. Thibault

1.00 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent/Chair J. Schoonover at 1:06 PM.

2.00 - Minutes of April 16, 2026

The minutes of April 16, 2026, were presented for review and approved.

Motion, J. Cabral: To approve the minutes of April 16, 2026
Second, B. Runey

All in favor

3.00 - Financial Information

3.10 - Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust

SCEC's current OPEB liability is \$7.3M. SCEC's OPEB balance at the end of May 2026 is \$351,000.

Superintendent J. Schoonover asked a few questions and Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard answered.

Q. Who manages our OPEB Trust?
A. Rockland Trust

Q. Is it a requirement to have Rockland Trust present to the Board of Trustees?
A. No, it is not a requirement.

Q. Can we have Rockland Trust present to the Board of Trustees every year?
A. Yes, of course we can and will.

Motion, J. Cabral: To have Rockland Trust present annually to South Coast Educational Collaborative Board of Directors.

Second: J. Saba-Maguire
All in Favor

3.20 – Updating of the FY26 Business Plan/Budget

John Ratcliffe, partner from Pavento, Ratcliffe, Renzi & Co recently completed the May 2026 financials. At the end of May, SCEC's loss is \$111,000, with May having a loss of \$80,000, mainly due to the last quarter having fewer billable days and less students than budgeted. SCEC is projecting a loss of about \$200,000 for the year.

Students budgeted for FY26 is 215, SCEC had 211 and 10 are graduating in June.

Superintendent J. Cabral asked for an explanation about the loss of \$513, 471.00 for Related Services Program. Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard explained that this is partly because of less direct district billing services, districts are hired within and haven't needed to outsource as much as prior years. Related Services bills differently than Clinical and Medical programs so comparing those programs does not work. Related Services staff have also been filling the Paraprofessional voids. Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard and Related Services Leader Linda Cullen are aware of this challenge and are working to find a solution. SCEC has purchased new Related Services software, and billing has been much cleaner, that will allow them to help find the appropriate solution.

Superintendent John Cabral would like to see a clearer analysis of where we are once solutions are in place. Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard agreed, and those updates will show in future MR-6 reports.

Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover asked if districts were charged tuition for the snow days in February 2026. Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard replied with yes, because we pre-bill. District will not be billed for the make-up days.

Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover asked why Berkley had no revenue and if there is a game plan to bring students back? Executive Director David Heimbecker replied that we have a commitment with Berkley regarding leases and with available space being hard to come by we can't afford to lose that space. Palmer River is starting to pull in revenue and there is a possibility of being able to move some students to Berkley soon.

3.50 – FY27 Business Plan/Budget

Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard thanked the board again for approving SCEC's FY27 Business Plan. Tuitions rates and fees are being shared with districts.

3.70 – The Financial Review from DESE was shared with the Board.

Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard explained the criteria of the report, DESE looks for 12 specific pieces of Criteria (page 3).

J. Bouchard explained specifically the three pieces that were not rated or partially rated.

#4 Adequate Cumulative Surplus = not rated, because DESE no longer reviews this.

#7 Effective Budgeting and Financial Management= Partial, because DESE will mark any year with a loss, not in compliance and will mark as partial.

#9 Strong Governance and Leadership by the Collaborative Board= Partial, going forward this should be met, due to SCEC's quarterly reports being shared with the Board and the Board sharing with their School Committee.

4.00 - Human Resources:

4.10 - New Hire(s):

4.11- Ian Barkon, hired as a full-time music teacher, will be shadowing Brian Bigelow throughout May & June. Full Time starts July 2026

4.12 – Kara Belen-Tullos – 12-month Paraprofessional-Palmer River, Start date 7/6/2026

4.13 – Nicole Mello- 12-month Nurse-Palmer River & SCMAS @ Beckwith, Start date 6/1/2026

Motion: J. Cabral: To approve New Hires as presented.
Second: B. Runey

All in Favor

4.20 – Transfer(s):

4.21 – Susan Adams- 10-month SLPA to 12-month SLPA

4.30 – Resignation(s):

4.31 – Melissa Castor- 12-month Nurse

4.32 – Sarah Leavitt- Para at LIFE Academy

4.33 – Kevin Mojica- Para at Gallishaw HS

4.34 – Michelle Dargon- Human Resources/Payroll Director

Motion, B. Runey: To approve Resignations as presented.
Second: F. Roy

All in Favor

4.40 – Retirement(s): None

4.50 – Leave(s): None

5.00 – Executive Session:

5.10 – Executive Session was moved to the end of the meeting

6.00 - Building Program Update:

6.10 – Repairs and replacements at most SCEC sites are being completed on an as needed basis. Keeping up with the roof leaks and HVAC issues at North and Gallishaw are ongoing.

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 Deep Learning Leadership Team (DLLT) is conducting a Collaborative-wide survey that will guide our PD plans for the upcoming 26/27 school year. The team wants to ensure that our Deeper Learning (DL) professional development half-days and following support sessions are aligned with the needs, priorities, and goals of our programs. SCEC staff feedback will help the DLLT identify that are most relevant and beneficial across SCEC programs.

8.12 - The SCEC Mentoring Team will be focusing on Paraprofessionals for their third round of mentoring training. The training is scheduled for the July ½ PD release day. Participants will be recommended by their respective leaders and must have worked for a minimum of three years at SCEC.

8.20 - External Professional Development Prepared by Dr. Carolyn McKearney

8.21 - SCEC Senior Fellows, Dr. Carolyn McKearney and Donna Cranshaw-Gabriel, have contracted with Dighton/Rehoboth Regional School district to complete three special education program evaluations in the 2025-2026 school year.

8.22 - Dr. McKearney is currently consulting with Dighton Rehoboth's special

education director Dr. Juanita Digioia on the DESE grant DR, was awarded. The grant seeks to support implementation of the updated restraint and seclusion regulations which take place in August 2026.

8.23 - On April 14, 2026, 12 staff members from Berkley, Freetown/Lakeville, and Swansea Public Schools worked with SCEC CPI team members to complete their CPI Initial certification.

8.24- On May 28, 2026, 21 staff members from Berkley Public schools worked with SCEC CPI team members to complete their CPI Refresher training.

8.25- Initial and Refresher CPI courses are available from SCEC's CPI team. If interested, please contact Dr. Carolyn McKearney at (508) 922-6213 or cmckearney@scecoll.org.

8.26- On June 1, 2026, a virtual information was held for the Bridgewater State University (BSU) Masters in Special Education cohort. The Masters in Special Education cohort will take place in September 2026. Contact Dr. Carolyn McKearney at (508) 922-6213 or cmckearney@scecoll.org. if you have interest/questions/concerns.

8.27 - Dr. Carolyn McKearney is currently working with Berkley, Dartmouth, Dighton/Rehoboth, and Seekonk for consultation, professional development presentations, and program evaluation in the 2025-2026 school year. She is currently working on contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.

8.28 - SCEC's ESL teacher, who is also a certified special education teacher, is available to assist SCEC member districts in supporting their English Learners in 2026-2027 school year. Examples of available support include:

- Support WIDA testing for students
- Support/train staff on WIDA testing
- Consult with classroom teacher to support EL students in the acquisition of the English language.
- Collaborating with teachers to plan lessons that include language goals in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Determining appropriate teaching methods for students based on their English proficiency.
- Assessing student progress Consult on EL students who also require special education services.
- Communicating with and supporting families

Contact Dr. Bethany DeNardo if interested in this service at bdenardo@scecoll.org or call/text at (508) 922-6213 or cmckearney@scecoll.org.

9.00 - Superintendent Issues

9.10 – Superintendent Bill Runey is seeking mentorship for his Middle School principal, someone who is out of district. Superintendent John Cabral noted Kathy Perry as a wonderful source and Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover mentioned Kim Hebert who is excellent to work with.

9.30 – The Executive Director’s Book Club

At SCEC we have a tradition of discussing books and/or articles written by members of our community. Continuing this tradition, we will be discussing the following, hopefully with assistance from the authors:

- On April 10, 2026, *Education Week* published an opinion piece by Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover. It was entitled, “Bloom’s Taxonomy Needs an Update for the AI Age: How to reimagine the classic framework of learning objectives”.
- Superintendent Bill Runey has a chapter just published in *Leaders of Tomorrow: Real stories from 15 leaders who are shaping the future of education – one bold decision at a time*, we will be discussing his chapter “Building Authentic Partnerships with Families and the Community”. This book was made available on May 1, 2026.

10.00 - Other Superintendent Issues

*Please remember that all members of SCEC’s Board of Directors are strongly encouraged to attend Board of Directors’ meetings. Since Massachusetts State (MA) laws governing Educational Collaboratives require attendance, officials from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MADESE) monitors attendance. DESE officials are required to audit Educational Collaboratives once in a six-year cycle.

10.20 -Schedule of proposed SCEC Board of Directors Meetings for 2026-2027

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 17, 2026	Board of Directors Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC-2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC-2
October 22, 2026	Board of Directors Luncheon	12:30 - 1:00 PM	GLC-2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC-2
December 11, 2026 (Friday)	Frank Gallishaw Awards/Luncheon	11:00 AM - 1:00PM	UMassD
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	UMassD

January 21, 2027	Board of Directors Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC-2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC-2
February 25, 2027	Board of Directors Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC-2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC-2
April 15, 2027*	Board of Directors Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC-2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 - 2:30 PM	GLC-2
June 10, 2027	Board of Directors Luncheon	12:30 – 1:00 PM	GLC-2
	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 – 2:30 PM	GLC-2

*Note: During the week of April 12 – 16, 2027, Executive Assistants will be presented Flower Bouquets and Certificates of Appreciation by Leah Thibault in their offices.

10.30 - Continuous Professional Learning Experiences Supported by SCEC for FY26.

10.31 – ASCD, June 28 – July 1, 2026 in San Antonio

10.32 - MASS Summer Institute, July 13 – 16, 2026 in North Falmouth

*Please remember the long SCEC history of Board Members conferring at PD activities and sharing their professional learning experiences at subsequent Board of Directors’ meetings. Board Members have frequently reported that doing so has proven to be useful in their professional growth and development.

Board Members who are interested in participating in any of these PD experiences should contact Leah Thibault who will assist in obtaining registration and accommodation for all Board Members. She can be reached at (508) 379-1180, extension 129 or lthibault@scecoll.org.

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 serious concern for the SCEC Leadership team. Both lease extensions and acquiring new ones are being pursued.

12.11 - Leases for venues providing inclusive programs have been extended at the Berkley Community* and Middle Schools in Berkley, Palmer River Elementary School in Rehoboth, the Beckwith Middle School in Rehoboth, the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High

School in Dighton, the Freetown Elementary, George R. Austin Intermediate School in Lakeville, and a classroom in Seekonk High School.

*It should be noted that SCEC staff members are currently teaming up with colleagues from the Berkley School Department as they plan for a new elementary school in which 2 classrooms will be dedicated for use by SCEC. Everyone involved seems to be excited by the prospects.

12.12 - Leases for school buildings to house substantially separate programs at North School (grades 1-8) and Gallishaw High School in Seekonk continue discussion regarding extension of the leases.

12.13 – Future arrangements for the use of Case Junior High School in Swansea are currently being explored. A previously mentioned, tour of the building was arranged, and participants were optimistic about the possibilities for 2029 and beyond.

12.14 – LIFE Academy is now owned by SCEC and home to a program serving 18–22-year-old adults. It now serves as a training site for transitional programming and a wide range of SCEC and other educationally related entities.

12.15 – Midyear assessments have been conducted of all leased buildings and classrooms regarding compliance and programming impacts during FY26. It appears that leasing requirements are being successfully addressed by both the lessors (Districts) and lessees (SCEC) and programming continues to expand and grow.

12.16 – A document including floor plans of leased spaces was included with the last Board Backup. This document is available upon request. Director of Finance Jennifer Bouchard can provide it with Dimensions, square footage, and rent being paid are included. The document was produced by SCEC's Director of Finance, Jennifer Bouchard and Director of Building and Grounds, Shane Vezina.

13.00 – Executive Session

Motion, J. Cabral: To move into Executive Session at 2:05 PM and not return to open session.

Second, J. Saba-Maguire

All in Favor

14.00 - Adjournment

Motion, J. Cabral: Motion to adjourn at 2:06 PM

Second, J. Saba-Maguire

All in favor