

Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Board
Minutes of April 3, 2012 Board Meeting

Members Present: Michelle Cusolito, Gerald Johnson, James O'Brien, Michelle Ouellette
Marlene Pollock, Jonathan Schwartz*

Members Absent: Frank Kuthan, Brian Monroe

Staff Present: Catherine S. Cooper, Executive Director

Visitors Present: John Nunes, Collaborative Treasurer
Philip Tully, DDS NB Area Director*

**Dr. Schwartz and Mr. Tully left the meeting following the discussion and vote on Agenda Business Item A.*

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:29 P.M.

1. **VOTED** To approve the Minutes of the Board's January 31, 2012 meeting. *Members Ouellette and O'Brien abstained.*

APPROVED

2. **VOTED** Catherine Cooper and Mr. Tully explained to the Board that the Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) is working with the Collaborative to address the State Auditor's report finding #4 regarding LUSA payments made to SMEC by DDS in FY09 and FY10. Discussion involved the statewide past practice by DDS of using LUSA payments under certain circumstances to pay providers for certain services provided outside of the contractual obligation and the reasons why the LUSA provision may have been utilized.

Mr. Tully responded to questions raised by the Board and verified that the services in question were in fact provided by SMEC as demonstrated through documentation provided to the state auditors and DDS and that the services had been authorized by DDS through Mr. Tully. However, at this time, the DDS/EOHHS has determined that it is necessary to work with SMEC to formulate a plan to recoup \$53,063 in funds paid to SMEC through LUSAs in FY09 and FY10. The Director's recommendation to the Board included acquiescence to a plan to reimburse the funds through compensatory services to be provided by SMEC to DDS consumers in FY13 and FY14, pending approval by the OSD and/or the State Auditor's office. If OSD and/or the State Auditor disallows this repayment plan, the Board grants to the Executive Director the authority to negotiate with DDS/EOHHS to formulate an alternative plan that is amenable to the SAO and in the best interest of the Collaborative.

APPROVED

3. **VOTED** To receive, place on file and accept as submitted the SAIL funded staff appointments listed on Agenda Attachment 2 and also to accept the resignations and terminations listed on Agenda Attachment 2.
- APPROVED**
4. **VOTED** To declare the Collaborative's 2002 Ford Windstar, VIN# 2FMZA50412BA11980, as surplus property and dispose of the same in accordance with SMEC policy.
- APPROVED**
5. **VOTED** To approve an increase in the amount of \$57,000 to the SMEC FY12 LEA budget for staff contracted to the districts and to approve line item adjustments.
- APPROVED**
6. **VOTED** To approve the revised FY12 Adult Services Budget based on amendments to the Collaborative's DDS contracts.
- APPROVED**
7. **VOTED** The Director presented a recommendation for the formation of a SMEC budget subcommittee to work with the Executive Director on the FY13 budget proposal before the next Board meeting. The Board endorsed the concept of a budget subcommittee but decided to wait to address the appointments until the September 2012 Board meeting.
- TABLED**
8. **DISCUSSION** The Director presented the Board with an overview of the recently enacted Collaborative Legislation, MGL Chapter 43 and the impact to SMEC, the Collaborative Board and Educational Collaboratives in general.
9. **DISCUSSION** The Director gave an update on Professional Development activities being offered by the Collaborative including SEI training in various categories, a June graduate course in Multiple Intelligences, an upcoming IPAD workshop for educators and a DESE/Readiness Center presentation for district administrators on the Common Core Standards and PARCC.
10. **DISCUSSION** The Director presented a synopsis of the activities of the Southeast Collaborative Regional Organization and current activities on behalf of all member districts in MOEC Region V (SE MA).

SET

The date for the next scheduled meeting of the Collaborative Board of Directors is Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 6:00 P.M at the Collaborative's administrative office.

11. VOTED

To adjourn at 7:44 P.M.

APPROVED

**Respectfully submitted,
Catherine S. Cooper
Secretary to the Board**