

Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Board
Minutes of March 29, 2022 Board Meeting

Members Present: Christopher Cotter, Donna McKenna*, Christopher Oliver**, Tiffini Reedy, Sara Rodrigues, Michael Shea, Michelle Smith, Suzanne Tseki

* Attended remotely

** Arrived during the FY22 Budget Update

Members Absent: Ann Fernandes, Jonathan Teves

Staff Present: Catherine S. Cooper, Executive Director
Christopher Haraden, Director of Business

Others Present: John Nunes, SMEC Treasurer

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35. The Board welcomed Ms. Sara Rodrigues as the new representative from Fall River.

1. **VOTED** To approve the Minutes of the Board's January 31, 2022 meeting as submitted. Motion by Mr. Shea, Second by Mr. Cotter.

APPROVED Ms. Rodrigues abstained

2. **VOTED** To receive, accept and place on file the LEA, SAIL and ADH funded staff appointments, transfers, promotions, salary adjustments, resignations, terminations, and/or reductions as submitted on Agenda Attachment 1. Motion by Mr. Shea, Second by Mr. Cotter.

APPROVED

3. **VOTED** Following discussion, the Board voted to approve the FY23 Teacher and Paraprofessional Salary Scales as presented on Agenda Attachments 2 and 3 and to grant a 3% COLA increase to all non-scaled staff for FY23. Motion by Mr. Cotter, Second by Mr. Shea.

APPROVED

4. **VOTED** To increase our SAIL/ADH Direct Care base rate to \$17/hour on July 1, 2022, to grant correlating increases to Direct Care/Supervisory/Support Staff currently above that rate and to provide 3% COLA increases to all other year-round positions not otherwise specified. Motion by Ms. Tseki, Second by Mr. Shea.

APPROVED

5. **VOTED** The Director of Finance and Operations provided an update on the FY22 Collaborative Spending Plan and Revenue projections. An explanation was provided regarding the general projection of estimated overall revenue expectations based on current enrollment, billing information and

evolving programmatic and fiscal guidance. The Board voted to approve the updated Spending Plan as submitted on Agenda Attachment 4 and to accept the updated Revenue Projection as submitted on Agenda Attachment 5. Motion by Mr. Shea, Second by Ms. Smith.

APPROVED

6. **VOTED** To approve the Emergency Authorization Policy for approving warrants in the emergency absence of the Treasurer as submitted on Agenda Attachment 6. Motion by Ms. Tseki, Second by Smith.

APPROVED

7. **VOTED** Following discussion, the Board voted to authorize the Executive Director and Director of Finance and Operations to make an offer of up to \$1.3 million for the Our Lady of Fatima property as described in Agenda Attachment 7; to follow the Ch. 30B procurement procedures required for a unique acquisition as described on Agenda Attachment 8; and if the offer is accepted, to follow the district notification requirements in Ch. 40 Section 4E and begin the process of acquiring the most favorable financing through MA Development and Rockland Trust for presentation and vote at a future Board meeting. Motion by Mr. Cotter, Second by Ms. Tseki.

APPROVED

8. **VOTED** To accept the retirement notices of Michelle Goettlich and Carolyn McKenna as submitted on Agenda Attachments 9 and 10 and to allow Ms. Goettlich to remain on the SMEC Insurance Policies until age 65 per our Retiree Health Policy. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Mr. Shea.

APPROVED

9. **VOTED** To declare the Collaborative's 2007 Dodge Caravan, VIN# 1D4GP24R07B261841 as surplus property and dispose of same in accordance with the SMEC Surplus Property Policy. Motion by Mr. Shea, Second by Ms. Smith.

APPROVED

10. **DISCUSSION** The Director provided a brief summary of statewide legislation relevant to Collaboratives and notified the members that there is an upcoming status update scheduled in Brockton Superior Court regarding a 4 year old legal claim by a former employee.

11. **DISCUSSION** The Director shared the DESE response letter to our FY21 Annual Report indicating that all required elements were met.

12. **SCHEDULED** The next scheduled SMEC Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 31, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

13. **VOTED** To adjourn at 7:04 P.M., Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Ms. Tseki.

APPROVED

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