

Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Board
Minutes of March 29, 2023 Board Meeting

Members Present: Ann Fernandes, Christopher Oliver, Tiffini Reedy, Michael Shea, Michelle Smith, Jonathan Teves

Members Absent: Rosemarie Bowman, Christopher Cotter, Donna McKenna, Sarah Rodrigues

Staff Present: Catherine S. Cooper, Executive Director
Christopher Haraden, Director of Business
Kim Wilmot, Director of Student Services

Others Present: John Nunes, SMEC Treasurer

Mr. Oliver called the meeting to order at 5:33.

1. **VOTED** To approve the Minutes of the Board's January 31, 2023 and March 2, 2023 meetings as submitted. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Ms. Fernandes.

APPROVED

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

APPROVED

3. **VOTED** To authorize the Executive Director to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement, as shown on Agenda Attachment 2, for the purchase of 267 Samuel Barnet Boulevard in Dartmouth, for the price of up to \$1,495,000 pending appraisal, to apply for a mortgage with Rockland Trust of up to 80% of the final purchase price, and to make a down payment to be funded by SMEC's cumulative surplus, use of the Collaborative's credit line, or a combination of the two. Motion by Mr. Teves, Second by Ms. Smith.

4. **VOTED** Following a presentation by the Executive Director and Director of Finance and Operations, the Board voted to approve a 3% COLA increase for all employees in FY24 as well as additional adjustments to the Collaborative salary scales and direct care and supervisory salaries as shown on Agenda Attachments 3-5. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Mr. Shea.

APPROVED

5. **VOTED** To accept the provisions of MGL 200A, §9A for the Disposition of Unclaimed Property. Motion by Ms. Smith, Seconded by Mr. Shea.

APPROVED

6. **VOTED** To revise the Collaborative's sick leave policy as shown on Agenda Attachment 7. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Mr. Teves.

APPROVED

7. **VOTED** To utilize Capital Reserve Funds to make certain reimbursable HVAC improvements to Collaborative buildings and to subsequently reimburse the Capital Reserve Account with up to \$100,000 in DESE HVAC grant funds.

APPROVED

8. **DISCUSSION** The Executive Director and Director of Student Services gave an update on the status of the Collaborative's program operations and enrollment.

9. **DISCUSSION** The Director provided a brief summary of statewide legislation relevant to Collaboratives and reported a brief status update of an ongoing legal case.

10. **DISCUSSION** The Director reviewed the DESE responses to the Collaborative's FY22 Annual Report and Audit submissions showing full compliance.

11. **DISCUSSION** Mr. Teves notified the Board and Administration that he was not seeking re-election to the Acushnet School Committee and would be resigning his seat on the Board before the next scheduled meeting.

12. **SCHEDULED** The next scheduled SMEC Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 30, 2023 at 5:30 PM and is anticipated to take place in-person at the SMEC ADH building.

13. **VOTED** To adjourn at 6:52 P.M. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Mr. Teves..

APPROVED

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

