

Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Board
Minutes of April 30, 2024 Board Meeting

Members Present: Rosemarie Bowman, Christopher Cotter*, Christopher Oliver, Ann Fernandes, Michelle Smith

Members Absent: Melissa Cordeira, Tiffini Reedy, Sara Rodrigues, Michael Shea

Vacancies: Fairhaven

Staff Present: Catherine S. Cooper, Executive Director
Christopher Haraden, Director of Business
Charles Farrell, Payroll Manager

Others Present: John Nunes, Treasurer

Mr. Oliver called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

*Mr. Cotter participated by conference call.

1. **VOTED** To approve the Minutes of the Board's March 20, 2024 meeting as submitted. Motion by Ms. Fernandes, Second by Ms. Bowman. Ms. Smith abstained.

APPROVED

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

APPROVED

3. **VOTED** Following a presentation by Mr. Haraden regarding updated projections to our FY24 revenue and expenses, the Board voted to approve the updated FY24 spending plan and revenue projection as presented on Agenda Attachments 2 and 3. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Ms. Bowman.

APPROVED

4. **VOTED** The Board voted to approve an increase to the classroom lease rates by 3% for FY25. Motion by Ms. Smith, Second by Ms. Fernandes.

APPROVED

5. **1st Reading** The Director of Finance and Operations presented the FY25 Proposed Collaborative Spending Plan and Revenue Projection as submitted on Agenda Attachments 4 & 5. An explanation was provided regarding the general projection of estimated overall revenue expectations based on current FY24 enrollment, expected FY25 starting enrollment, services and rates, historic and projected expenses and evolving fiscal guidance. The MA Collaborative Regulations require two

readings of the proposed spending plan before adoption so the item will be brought back for a vote at the May meeting.

APPROVED

At this point in the meeting, a quorum was no longer maintained. Therefore, no further votes were taken, but some agenda items were discussed for informational purposes. Business items that were not taken up will be moved to the May agenda.

6. **DISCUSSION** The Director explained that the proposed tuitions and fees would be presented at the next meeting and that the proposed school year member tuitions would be going up approximately 4.9%.
7. **DISCUSSION** The Director provided agenda items related to policy revisions and an employee retirement would move to the May agenda.
8. **DISCUSSION** The Director informed the Board that although she has one year remaining on her employment contract, she would like the Board to consider voting on a new contract term now due to the potential retirement of several long term members of the Board. The members present agreed and asked that it be brought back to a vote at the May meeting.
9. **DISCUSSION** The Director informed the Board that an additional member should be appointed to sign the Collaborative's warrants due to member McKenna no longer being on the Board. Mr. Shea had indicated in prior conversation with the Director that he is willing to take on the task until the next Board reorganization in September. Due to the lack of a quorum, this will be brought back for a vote at the next meeting.
10. **DISCUSSION** The Director informed the Board that the Collaborative will be initiating a Strategic Planning process over the summer utilizing the Planning for Success model facilitated by Ruth Gilbert-Whitner and that it is preferred that a Board member participate on the planning team. This will be brought back to the larger group at the May meeting.
11. **SCHEDULED** The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2024.
12. **Adjourned** The Board adjourned at 6:08.

APPROVED

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