

**Collaborative for Educational Services
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
JANUARY 30, 2019
97 Hawley Street, Northampton, MA 01060**

Present from the Board: Daniel Hayes, Cathy Englehardt, Virginia Ahart, Suzanne Crawford, Maureen Nichols, Michael Foran, Chris Paul, Jonathan Schmidt, Margaret Stancer, Don Sluter, Michael Knapp, Jenn Eichorn, Haley Anderson, Craig Cohen, Matt Wilhelm, Stephanie Conrod, Michael Simpson, Carl Schlerman, Howard Moore, Ed Sturtevant

Present from CES: Allison Garriss, William Diehl, Barbara Siegel, Terry Senio, Chris Taggart, Kathy Levesque

Call to Order and Introduce New Members

Dan Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The Board did introductions.

Public Comment

Cathy Englehardt noted that in the 17 years on this board, this is her favorite configuration of people. Everyone is very engaged and here with a purpose.

Dan Hayes shared appreciation for everyone's thoughtful participation.

Don Sluter noted that he is glad that the counties are working well together.

MINUTE APPROVAL

11/14/18 Board of Directors Meeting

Cathy noted a couple of errors: Need to update so that Jonathan Schmidt is recognized in the heading as being a member of the Executive Committee. Also need to change the first motion to reflect that it was motioned by Jonathan Schmidt and seconded by Hussain Hamdan.

Cathy Englehardt moved that the Board approve the minutes as amended of the 11/14/18 Board of Directors meeting. Don Sluter seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

1/22/19 Finance Committee Meeting

Dan Hayes thanks Hussain Hamdan for chairing the event due to his absence.

Don Sluter moved that the Board approve the minutes of the 1/22/19 Finance Committee meeting. Howard Moore seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

CES Presentation - After School Department

Chris Taggart gave a presentation focusing on the 21st Century after school program located at Maple Elementary in Easthampton, MA. The presentation focused on the data and outcomes that are collected and reported to the funder (DESE). These programs focus on students who are struggling academically. Of note, students in the program achieve higher MCAS scores. Students identified as “high needs” who attend the program 5 times per week brought their scores up to 88%

CES FINANCIAL REPORT

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Howard Moore reviewed the Finance Committee meeting and discussed highlights. The committee approved pushing forward a 2% COLA that seemed reasonable to offer CES employees while being fiscally responsible. This is for non-contract staff employed by CES. This is also dependent upon available funds in this current year.

Barbara noted that she proposed the 2% COLA recommendation to committee based on Consumer Price Index published on 1/16/19. There was no COLA in FY19 due to fiscal challenges. This 2% is for FY20 and would be effective July 1, 2019. Barbara also noted that FY19 was the first year in 18 years that there was no COLA given to employees.

Craig Cohen asked if this would impact the districts and increase their membership fees. Barbara confirmed that fees have not changed in years and are not currently changing.

Don Sluter moved that the Board approve the proposed 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) effective July 1, 2019. Cathy Englehardt seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

HEC ACADEMY, MT TOM ACADEMY & NORTHERN BERKSHIRE ACADEMY SALARY SCALES AND HOURLY RATES

Barbara reviewed the documents provided to each Board Member in their packet. Barbara noted that this scale only affects employees in those programs. These scales include the 2% COLA that was just approved.

Cathy Englehardt moved that the Board approve the proposed scale for Teachers and Specialists and the hourly rates for Paraprofessionals, Assistant Teachers and Specialist Assistants effective July 1, 2019. Don Sluter seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

FY20 HEC ACADEMY SUMMER TUITION RATES

Barbara reviewed the documents provided to each Board Member in their packet. Barbara noted that normally these rates are presented in March, but districts have requested the information sooner for budgeting purposes. Barbara noted that the member and non-member rates are below the state average.

Don Sluter moved that the Board approve the proposed FY20 HEC Academy tuition rates effective July 1, 2019. Jonathan Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

Barbara reviewed the documents provided to each Board Member in their packet.

Howard Moore moved that the Board approve the statement of activities and changes in fund balance reports for the period ending November 20, 2018 and approve the FY19 adjusted budget. Don Sluter seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOR THE NORTH BERKSHIRE ACADEMY

Bill reviewed our current agreement in place in regards to Northern Berkshire Academy. The plan had always been for this program to help launch a Collaborative in the Berkshires. Of those 3 Superintendents involved in the project, 2 of those have retired. At this time, they are not positioned to set up their own Collaborative yet. We had requested that they come to a decision on their next steps by 2/1/19. Those involved have requested one more month to consider their options.

Michael Knapp moved that the Board approve an extension of the agreement by one month for the North Berkshire Academy. Carl Schlerman seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

REQUEST TO JOIN CES - GATEWAY REGIONAL AND WORTHING (RH CONWELL SCHOOL)

Bill noted that Gateway Regional used to be a member and have recently requested to join again. Worthington had always been considered part of the of the Hampshire Regional district (for CES purposes) but they have a desire to join formally on their own. CES is currently discussing the potential with the two districts and will come to the Board to vote on their membership towards the end of the school year if that is where the conversations progress.

HIRES AND SEPARATIONS (VOTE REQUIRED)

Bill reviewed the Hires & Separations report provided to each Board Member in their packet.

Michael Knapp moved that the Board approve the Hires & Separations from 11/1/18 through 12/31/18. Jonathan Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

ENDORSEMENT OF CHANGES IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (VOTE REQUIRED)

Bill reviewed the highlights of the changes to the collective bargaining agreement between CES and SEIU 509 which was provided to each Board Member in their packet.

Don Sluter moved that the Board approve the changes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement for DYS and SEIS educators in SEIU 509. Jonathan Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed.

NEW LEGISLATION FOR COLLABORATIVES

Bill reviewed the highlights of the new legislation affecting Collaboratives that were provided to Board Members in their packets.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Bill reviewed the 2019 CES Legislative Priorities document that was provided to Board Members in their packets. Bill also shared a powerpoint which is in draft form. Once it is finalized, it will be shared with members.

Bill also noted that we have 9 legislators (or their aide) joining us at an upcoming Superintendents meeting to discuss legislative priorities at the urging of some of our representatives.

Dan reminded the group that February 7th is Rural School Day at State House

Stephanie Conrod and Jonathan Schmidt provided a summary of recent events in their districts sponsored by the Massachusetts Teacher Association with community members and several elected officials. Topics of discussion included district funding formulas and budgets.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A resolution in support of full funding for our public schools was drafted and shared with all Board Members in their packets This resolution was drafted so that the CES Board of Directors can support and show legislators that we stand behind the initiatives to fully fund public schools.

Cathy Englehardt moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of full funding for our public schools. Stephanie Conrod seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Bill briefly reviewed the Executive Director's report to the Board of Directors dated January 30, 2019 which was provided to all Board Members in their packets.

TOPICS OF BOARD INTEREST AND OTHER ISSUES

Dan reminded all Board Members that if they ever want to add items to the agenda, please feel free to reach out to Dan, Bill or Allison.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Sturtevant moved that the Board Members adjourn their meeting. Cathy Englehardt seconded the motion. All board members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:00PM