



EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – January 6, 2015

In attendance:

Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent, Weston, Chairperson, EDCO Board of Directors
Diana Fisher Gomberg, School Committee, Newton
Paul Ash, Superintendent, Lexington
Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Arlington
William McAlduff, Superintendent, Winchester
Helen Charlupski, School Committee, Brookline (10:45 am via conference call)
Colleen Dolan, Executive Director, EDCO Collaborative
Judith Vaillancourt, Associate Executive Director, EDCO Collaborative
Thomas Markham, Director of Business Management, EDCO Collaborative
Dean Poirier, Chief Financial Officer, EDCO Collaborative
David King, Treasurer, EDCO Collaborative
Ed Heller, School Committee, Weston Public Schools

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Maloney at 10:10 am.

A motion was made by Mr. McAlduff and seconded Ms. Fisher Gomberg to approve the minutes of the Executive Finance Committee meeting 12.12.14. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dolan reported the EDCO Leadership Team has met several times since the last EFC meeting to review the year to date budget numbers and determine where cuts might be made. The team had two goals on mind: balance present cuts aimed at a balanced budget, and to preserve the integrity of the North Crossing therapeutic day program. She explained the process allowed the team to take a close look at how we are currently doing business and where we need to make changes. She anticipates a change in the business office model for next fiscal year.

Mr. Markham presented recommendations for three tiers of budget cuts. The first was approved by the EFC in December. The second involves further cuts: 1.4 central office staff and several non-salary line item cuts. The third would require additional staff cuts and potential furlough days. In addition, the tuition rates for the Alternative West and Interim Alternative have been reduced.

Ms. Vaillancourt noted she and Ms. Dolan plan to continue aggressively marketing the programs by visiting special education administrators from our districts and providing an opportunity for principals to view the program. The EFC praised the efforts of the Leadership Team and noted this is an opportunity to make changes that will serve the organization well in the long run.

A motion was made by Dr. Bodie and seconded by Dr. Ash to recommend to the Board of Directors to approve tier one and two reductions. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dolan presented a letter from David Lussier, superintendent of Wellesley Public Schools, requesting to withdraw from EDCO as of June 30, 2015 for financial reasons and due to the distance from Wellesley to Bedford. She explained the process required to approve the withdrawal and noted it is unlikely that the process could be completed by the deadline of April 30th. Several members of the group expressed disappointment over Wellesley's decision, noting Wellesley is a respected member of EDCO and adds value to the organization. It was noted that Wellesley had voted in the affirmative on the move to Bedford and did

not express any reservations at the time. Members agreed there is no practical way to get this done for FY16. The committee directed Dr. Maloney and Ms. Dolan to meet with Dr. Lussier, prior to the Board meeting if possible, to explain the time constraints and to express their disappointment over this request. In addition, the committee wished to know what Wellesley is not getting from EDCO. It may be possible fro EDCO to demonstrate the benefits of membership over the next year and one-half. Ms. Dolan will set up a meeting and report back to the committee.

Ms. Dolan noted she has been asked to meet with a sub-committee of Board members from CASE Collaborative and their attorney to explore the possibility of a merger or consolidation. The meeting will take place on January 15 and she will report back to the EDCO Board.

A draft agenda for the January Board meeting was shared.

A motion was made by Ms. Fisher Gomberg and seconded by Mr. McAlduff to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiating with the executive director and not return to open session. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The committee adjourned open session and went into executive session at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Dolan, 3/3/2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.