



*Strength in diversity
Quality through collaboration*

Board of Directors' Meeting
EDCO Collaborative, 36 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730
Thursday, November 15, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

x	Peter	Light	Superintendent	Acton-Boxborough Reg, School District
x	Kathleen	Bodie	Superintendent	Arlington Public Schools
x	Jon	Sills	Superintendent	Bedford Public Schools
	Andrea	Prestwich	School Committee	Belmont Public Schools
x	Helen	Charlupski	School Committee	Brookline Public Schools
x	James	O'Shea	Superintendent	Carlisle Public Schools
	Laurie	Hunter	Superintendent	Concord Public Schools, CC Regional
	Julie	Hackett	Superintendent	Lexington Public Schools
x	Rebecca	McFall	Superintendent	Lincoln Public Schools
x	Bella	Wong	Superintendent	Lincoln-Sudbury Reg. School District
x	Diana	Fisher-Gomberg	School Committee	Newton Public Schools
x	Brad	Crozier	Superintendent	Sudbury Public Schools
x	Drew	Echelson	Superintendent	Waltham Public Schools
	Deanne	Galdston	Superintendent	Watertown Public Schools
x	Marguerite	Connelly	Superintendent	Weston Public Schools

Advisory Committee Members in attendance:

Margaret Donnelly, Ellen Joachim, Tara Mitchell, Patricia Mostue

EDCO Collaborative staff:

Nadine Ekstrom, Andrew Kelley, David King, Thomas Markham, Dana Mullaley, James Sullivan

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

1.1 No Public Participation

2.0. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 Approve Board of Directors meeting minutes [9.27.18](#)

A **motion** was made by Brad Crozier to approve the BOD meeting minutes 9.27.18, and seconded by Diana Fisher-Gomberg. The motion carried unanimously.

3.0. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 *FY18 Audit Presentation*: Daniel Schaffner, CPA from the audit firm Fritz DeGuglielmo, LLC presented a summary of the FY18 audit.

Dan Schaffner, Auditing Partner

In general, the audit was relatively clean with no findings. There has been a recommendation put forth in a Management Letter advising EDCO to utilize the existing budget software to its fullest extent to allow for more data in real time to assist the Board of Directors and Executive Finance Committees in evaluating numbers throughout the year.

BOD Closing Letter indicates no issues.

Trends:

- EDCO revenue up \$1 million mostly due to Title I
- Increase of costs \$1.6 million (includes capital investments)
- Small decrease in administrative expenses - \$60,000
- General deficit of ~ \$184,000 mostly due to capital investments
- Payroll expenses about same

Overall expenditures are down 68%. EDCO Collaborative is unique as it is heavily grant funded so generally skewed lower when compared to other collaboratives. There is a transportation spike which is due to transfer to LABBB but overall consistent.

The General fund surplus has decreased (12.5%) due to deficit but still well below the 25% ceiling.

Highlights from the Financial Statements:

- Clean audit
- Accounts Receivables in good standing
- Capital investments
 - McSwiney Partition
 - Kitchen Refrigerator
 - CASE rooms
- Liability section – ballooning this year
 - GASB 75 – new liability this year; There is enough money to cover retiree costs for several years and hope is that investments will build over the years but DESE is now requiring Collaboratives to disclose the full liability.

- Board will need to vote on cumulative general fund surplus (12.5% - still above DESE mandated 25%)
- Change in McSwiney this year from Seefurth fund to \$134,000
 - \$80,000 is annual allocation; other money used for partition and consultant
- Overall budget to actual - \$49,000 surplus changed to (\$233,000) deficit
- Federal funds - Title 1 major changed +\$1million
- Collaborative as a whole – no findings
- Individual programs – no findings

The UFR is due today.

Diana Fisher-Gomberg added that the Executive Finance committee did a deep dive on the financials and is comfortable with the audit. EFC recommends accepting the findings.

Helen Charlupski noted that the deficit is a concern but feels that Tom Markham and Nadine Eckstrom are working on it and moving in the right direction.

Tom Markham expressed thanks to the auditors for their work. He also indicated that he will be sending out a memo that explains down to the dollar that causes of the \$184,000 deficit which were mostly unplanned expenses and capital expenses.

He also noted that the previously planned construction of the NCA will not move forward at this time.

A **motion** was made by Jon Sils to recognize and accept the representations of management and the expression of the opinions by Fritz DeGuglielmo, LLC, as embodied in the basic financial statements, supplemental and subsidiary financial statements and schedules and independent auditor's report contained in the Uniform Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report (UFR) for the period ended June 30, 2018 and seconded by Helen Charlupski. The motion carried unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Diana Fisher-Gomberg to recognize and accept the representations of management and the expression of the opinions by Fritz DeGuglielmo, LLC, certified Public Accounts, as embodied in the financial statements, supplemental schedules and independent auditor's report for the year ended June 30, 2018 and seconded by Rebecca McFall. The motion carried unanimously.

Nadine Ekstrom expressed a need for an additional Board meeting in December to address some items on the horizon that needs direction from the Board including the Transportation program changing, CELC program deficit, a potential new partnership with BPS, potential expansion of the DHH program. Ms. Eckstrom will send some options to the BOD via email.

3.2 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Jeff Riley accompanied by Leldamy Correa, Chief of Staff met with the Board of Directors to provide updates from DESE and answer questions from Board members.

The commissioner indicated that there was going to be a shift in the department from “command and control” to “supportive”.

When asked about the future of assessment, Commissioner Riley responded that testing is always going to be part of what we do but emphasized a need to look at alternative forms of assessment. He indicated that Social Studies would probably be the best place to start although it is not clear what that might look like. He expressed a need to make it meaningful and is also open to all ideas. A question was raised about the possibility of shifting testing to every other year to help limit the costs. Although testing every year is a federal requirement there may be some leeway with waivers.

A committee is currently being put together to address the issue of assessment and feedback is welcome. Ms. Correa will forward the details to EDCO.

Everyone seemed to agree that the Accountability System has swung too far.

One district raised concerns about the challenge around the attendance indicator when it comes to chronic absenteeism. Particularly when there are students who often travel to country of origin during school year yet they are also the highest performing students. The commissioner agreed that chronic absenteeism may not be the best metric but unless there is public outcry the committee probably won't change it.

Another district noted the increase in Mental health issues affecting so many students. The commissioner agreed that this is indeed an issue of concern. Charlie Baker did recommend to have \$45 million allocated towards this issue which would include in-house Mental Health counselors but it was later decreased to \$7 million and did not include hiring Mental Health clinicians.

Commissioner Riley also expressed a need for districts to aggressively recruit teachers from diverse backgrounds. Only 7% of teachers are minorities yet 40% of students fall into that category. He talked about ways to incentivize teachers and gave some examples of how Lawrence Public Schools did this by tracking students who went to college and trying to get them to come back to the community after graduation. They were able to provide incentives in mortgages to offset salaries and tried to make coming back to the community more appealing in other ways.

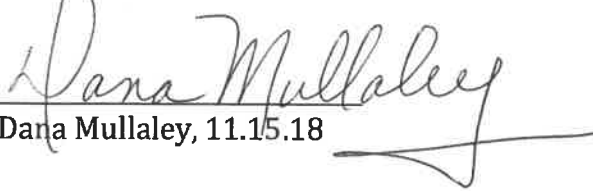
The commissioner encouraged Superintendents to complete the online survey and provide feedback as it is actually taken into consideration.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Rebecca McFall, and seconded by Bella Wong to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The EDCO [UPDATE](#) is provided in your [packets](#).

Respectfully submitted by:


Dana Mullaley, 11.15.18

