



Strength in diversity
Quality through collaboration

EDCO COLLABORATIVE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, January 17, 2019, 9:30 am
36 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730

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 |
| x | 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 |
| x | Deanne | Galdston | Superintendent | Watertown Public Schools |
| | Marguerite | Connelly | Superintendent | Weston Public Schools |

Advisory Committee Members in attendance:

Tara Mitchell, Lincoln; Patricia Mostue, Lincoln Sudbury; Christine Lyons, Lexington

EDCO Collaborative staff:

Courtney Dunne, Nadine Ekstrom, David King, Thomas Markham, Jim Sullivan, Dana Mullaley

Paulajo Gaines, DESE

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

1.1 Public Participation

Christine Lyons, Assistant Superintendent will be attending meetings in an Advisory role for Lexington.

2.0. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 Approve Board of Directors meeting minutes [12.12.18](#)

2.2 Accept minutes of the Executive Finance Committee meeting [9.18.18](#) & [11.6.18](#)

A **motion** was made by Jon Sills to approve consent agenda items, and seconded by Laurie Hunter. The motion carried unanimously with one request to change wording in BOD minutes from “members are not interested in supporting private schools” to “I am not interested in supporting private schools”.

3.0. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 EDCO [Amended Agreement \(Revisions as requested by DESE\)](#)

Paulajo Gaines originally approved language but collaborative law has changed since process started. Commissioner will no longer appoint voting member (change to liaison).

Membership: phrase change was approved (P.18, #6)

School committees still need to approve by April 30th before producing the final copy.

A **motion** was made by Diana Fisher-Gomberg to approve revised amendment as recommended by DESE, and seconded by Drew Echelson. The motion carried unanimously.

Bedford requested a copy with highlighted changes (historical) that have already been approved by school committees. Two sets: original and one with newest changes.

3.2 LABBB/EDCO Transportation [Cost Analysis](#)

Some members will have impact depending on membership in LABBB and EDCO.

LABBB started transportation network approximately 10 years ago. LABBB handled all the networking and programming and EDCO provided all the business-related services. LABBB is proposing that they take over that function now that EDCO and LABBB has physically separated and LABBB has a fully functioning business office.

The impact on EDCO concerns the 2 FTEs with salary split between LABBB and EDCO. Because it would cause a problem for EDCO if they split during FY19, LABBB proposed to continue contributing for FY19 and ceasing in FY20 to allow for EDCO to do budget planning.

The network itself is not being dismantled, the management is just being re-structured. EDCO and LABBB are still partners as far as the network is concerned and there will be no interruption of services.

Every 3rd year when the contract is renewed, existing member districts have opportunity to join if they are not currently part of the network. If a new district joins, it would be at the discretion of LABBB.

A **motion** was made by Bella Wong to approve Business Director's recommendations as amended and presented, and seconded by Diana Fisher-Gomberg. The motion carried with the agreement of 10 members and Kathy Bodie and Jon Sills abstaining.

3.3 CASE Collaborative Lease

CASE's lease with EDCO is ending on June 30, 2019 and they are not renewing because there is an opportunity to move that program to Colebrook High School and subsequently allow CASE to add programming. The costs of lease are comparable.

3.4 [Program Proposals:](#)

3.4.1 Suspension Program

The program would run at EDCO between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and students would receive academic support as well as psychological support. There will be an emphasis on working with families and getting them involved. EDCO would hire a psychologist and possibly consult with psychiatrist.

The timing of program might alleviate some of the transportation issues. EDCO might also be able to provide some transportation.

3.4.2 Substance Abuse Program

EDCO is applying for a grant through the Department of Health that is due February 12th to possibly fund this program.

One proposal is for districts to pay a daily rate of \$130. Students who attend a minimum of 3 hours would count as full day (in terms of attendance). Another possibility could be to contract with districts (i.e. \$3,000 for 30 hours) and work closely with Special Education Directors.

Jon Sills raised concerns about fiscal viability of the program, transportation costs in particular. Mr. Sills also suggested the possibility of hiring a licensed MSW with substance abuse experience as opposed to a Psychologist alleviate costs.

If EDCO wins the grant, it would be awarded \$180,000 per year to support the program and fund the new hires.

EDCO will conduct a needs assessment from districts.

A **motion** was made by Jon Sills to approve Executive Director's authorization to send proposal to DESE for Fall 2019 implementation, and seconded by Helen Charlupski. The motion carried unanimously. **Amendment:** Subject to grant approval by Dept of Public Health

3.4.3 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Expansion

EDCO is proposing an expansion to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program to include elementary students with a staggered opening of grade bands (K – 5). Space is an issue at Newton North High School so EDCO is currently working with Superintendent in Newton about other options. Any new space would need the same level of acoustics as Newton North. Staffing considerations would be based on age and needs of students and may serve students with higher needs or students who have moved from another country. Depending on the student population, there may be a need for an OT or Literacy Specialist. SEEM currently has a PreK and K program and this could be a feeder for an EDCO program.

Hiring teachers is a state-wide and national issue as there is a shortage and some people are not passing MTEL. Having a year and a half lead time would allow time to problem solve such issues.

The bulk of the program costs are currently coming from non-member districts. EDCO would like to include it in the 20-21 budget proposal but would do needs assessment to be sure there is enough of a need to merit it.

A **motion** was made by Diana Fisher-Gomberg to approve Executive Director's authorization to send proposal to DESE for Fall 2020 implementation, and seconded by Drew Echelson. The motion carried unanimously.

3.4.4 Transition 18-22 Program

EDCO is proposing a program serving the 18 – 22 population. Because of its location, EDCO has a lot of capacity to work with companies in area. EDCO currently has a partnership with Middlesex Community College and staff are already working with EDCO students to enroll there.

EDCO could possibly become a satellite office for Becker College which could allow students to take classes here. There are also vocational opportunities and a connection with current tenants, NuPath. This program could support districts that might have low incidence.

EDCO has heard from Special Education Directors that there is a need and they would support it. If approved to go forward, EDCO will put forth a cost proposal to board.

A **motion** was made by Helen Charlupski to approve Executive Director's authorization to send proposal to DESE for Fall 2019 implementation, and seconded by Peter Light. The motion carried unanimously.

3.5 [FY19](#) Budget Update

Thomas Markham provided a mid-year update as well as requested an amendment. Numbers are more accurate mid-year. Currently predicting a modest FY19 surplus.

The biggest shift is Budget 20 and 21 (BPS/Title I) – no revenue and no expenses. Reduction in budget ~ \$16 million change to ~ \$11 million mainly due to loss of Boston contract. There is also a reduction in Migrant grant (Federal cut) and Wrentham.

EDCO is no longer moving forward with expansion so costs related to facilities and a new hire for 45-day program also accounts for reduction in budget.

A **motion** was made by Bella Wong and seconded by Laurie Hunter to approve FY19 Budget Update as recommended and amended. The motion carried unanimously.

3.6 Assessments [for FY20](#)

The EFC is recommending to not adjust the assessments for FY20. Thomas Markham indicated that the recommendation is meant to bring stability to the base for FY20.

Rebecca McFall noted that the Lincoln enrollment is still wrong and it appears that Hanscom is not included.

The plan was made with FY 16 numbers so EDCO is questioning whether we need to look at October 18 numbers or leave the formulas intact and adjust the enrollment numbers (per pupil)?

Bella Wong suggested that there may be a need for a long-term plan to reduce assessments. The reason they were looked at to begin with was because they were so out of line. May need to think about recruiting other districts but assessments may still be too high.

Jon Sills agreed that there are too many moving parts this year so it makes sense to freeze it unless we re-adjust the formula by using 18 numbers but keeping bottom line the same as suggested.

Recommendation to keep base and freeze budget with proposal to come up with a long-term plan.

A **motion** was made by Diana Fisher-Gomberg and seconded by Jon Sills to discuss recommendations as provided by Business Director and to give guidance to EFC for next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3.7 Upcoming Events for EDCO

3.6.1 Potential presenters

- Paul Andrews, MASS
 - New changes, updates, voice as a collaborative

- Joseph Sawyer, Shrewsbury Public Schools, Superintendent
 - Portrait of a Graduate

- Alice Peisch, Massachusetts Legislature

Recommendation to have speaker at February 28th BOD meeting, possibly on finance issues.

Brookline requested EDCO to supply numbers about what it is costing districts for medically fragile students as it should be an insurance cost not educational cost.

3.6.2 50th Anniversary of EDCO Collaborative (2019)

2019 is EDCOs 50th anniversary. EDCO is assembling a committee to plan a celebration.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Drew Echelson, and seconded by Brad Crozier to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Dana Mullaley, 1.17.19