



**EDCO COLLABORATIVE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:15 a.m.  
36 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730

**Present**

X	Peter Light	Superintendent	Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
X	Kathleen Bodie	Superintendent	Arlington Public Schools
X	Jon Sills	Superintendent	Bedford Public Schools
X	Amy Checkoway	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 School District
	Julie Hackett	Superintendent	Lexington Public Schools
X	Rebecca McFall	Superintendent	Lincoln Public Schools
	Bella Wong	Superintendent	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District
X	Tamika Olszewski	School Committee	Newton Public Schools
X	Brad Crozier	Superintendent	Sudbury Public Schools
	George Frost	Superintendent	Waltham Public Schools
X	Deanne Galdston	Superintendent	Watertown Public Schools
	Marguerite Connelly	Superintendent	Weston Public Schools

**Present**

**ADVISORY MEMBERS**

	Tessa McKinley	School Committee	Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
X	Kathleen Bodie	Superintendent	Arlington Public Schools
	Jill Marquis	School Committee	Bedford Public Schools
	John Phelan	Superintendent	Belmont Public Schools
	Ben Lummis	Superintendent	Brookline Public Schools
X	James O'Shea	Superintendent	Carlisle Public Schools
	Heather Bout	School Committee	Concord Public Schools/CC Regional School District
	Kathleen Lenihan	School Committee	Lexington Public Schools
	Trintje Gnazzo	School Committee	Lincoln Public Schools
X	Ellen Joachim	School Committee	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District
	David Fleishman	Superintendent	Newton Public Schools
	Lisa Kouchakdjian	School Committee	Sudbury Public Schools
	Margaret Donnelly	School Committee	Waltham Public Schools
	John Portz	School Committee	Watertown Public Schools
	Dr. J. Kimo Carter	Assistant Superintendent	Weston Public Schools

**Present**

**EDCO MEMBERS**

X	Nadine Ekstrom	Executive Director
X	Thomas Markham	Business Manager
X	Ann Knapp	Special Education Administrator
X	Andrew Kelly	Director of Professional Learning
	James Sullivan	IT Director

Also present: Christine Lyons, Assistant Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools (for Julie Hackett)  
Tom Scott, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents  
David King, Treasurer of EDCO Collaborative

MEETING BEGAN AT 10:23 am

1. CALL TO ORDER:

1.1 Public Participation – None

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**Recommended Action:** To approve Consent Agenda Items as proposed:

2.1 Approve BOD meeting minutes of December 19, 2019

2.2 Accept EFC minutes of December 9, 2019

**A motion was moved by Jon Sills to approve and accept Consent Agenda Items. Motion was seconded by Becky McFall. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously to accept the Board of Directors Minutes of December 29, 2019 and Executive Finance Committee Minutes of December 9, 2019 as proposed.**

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Tom Scott – Chapter 70 Funding

- Kathleen Bodie introduced and thanked Tom Scott, Executive Director, of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents for attending the meeting to discuss Chapter 70 funding.
- Mr. Scott spoke about the concern with the teachers unions (MTA & AFT of Mass), and the collective bargaining unit. He urged the Superintendents to keep the Union Representatives close and build relationships with them. He has seen deterioration between the school unions and administration over the past few years.
- One of the major problems concerning unions is the lack of increases in salary. Teachers discuss with other school districts, and they compare their salaries. Teachers hear what other districts are receiving and want more than the 2% they currently are receiving.
- Other top issues facing schools is student behavior, mental health, and social/emotional behavior.
- DeDe Galdston requested a strategy from the MASS to combat the negativity when dealing with unions. Mr. Scott is looking at ways to bring everyone together. School Committees and Superintendents are very limited right now on what they can say publicly.
- Becky McFall stated that teachers pay scales are different in every school district, and the districts talk to each other. They need to stop talking about COLA increases, and need to work together.
- Mr. Scott addressed the Admissions Policy. There are major concerns of how students are being selected for the vocational/technical schools. Decisions will be made late in the spring on the Admissions Policy.
- Mr. Scott spoke on EDCO's Nursing Certification Program for 18-22 year old students. After touring the new facility, he was "blown away" by how professional it looked, and districts need to start thinking of programs such as these.
- Mr. Scott urged all the districts to come together, and not focus on money, as it is for those not given the level of support needed. This is being closely monitored on how funds are spent in the future.

3.2 DESE Treatment of Chronic Absenteeism

- Jon Sills does not think the Department of Education is helping to resolve the absenteeism problem. Absenteeism is beginning to take its toll on the students with many absences as it is effecting their achievement. Tom Scott spoke to Rob Curtain at DESE who told Tom, that there are no changes happening right now to fix this problem. Regarding attendance, Mr. Curtain said if a student is provided services that are not school based, that student is considered present. Mr. Scott will send Dr. Ekstrom a completed Chapter 70 Overview PowerPoint presentation that she can forward to all District Superintendents.

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Update FY20 Budget

**Recommended Motion:** to approve FY20 Budget Update as recommended.  
**The Board decided that No Motion was needed as this was just an update.**

4.2 Assessments for FY21

**Recommended Motion:** to discuss recommendations as provided by Business Director, and to give guidance to the EFC for the next meeting.  
**Motion moved by Jon Sills and seconded by Becky McFall as an Amendment by the Lincoln Public Schools. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously to accept the recommendations provided by the Business Manager and to give guidance to the EFC for the next meeting.**

- Mr. Markham distributed copies of the budget with attachments which provided the recommended staff cuts and reduced hours, and also the savings from the spending freeze.
- Dr. Ekstrom told the Board that EDCO Collaborative is the recipient of an IEP Development Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for 3 years with a revenue increase of \$76,000 to offset salaries.
- Dr. Ekstrom referred to the handout on Tuition Revenue regarding the EDCO Programs. Below is a breakdown of how many students are needed in each program to increase revenue as of January 27, 2020:

North Crossing Academy	Needs 3 students
45 Day	Needs 12 students
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Needs 1 student
Partners	Needs 1 student
ABCD	Needs 2 students
Career Pathways (Vocational)	Needs 9 students

This will create a revenue of \$482,169.50.

- EDCO Collaborative held an Open House on January 28, 2020 for the Career Pathways program. Many districts are showing interest in sending students to the programs.
- Dr. Ekstrom thanked the Member Districts for sending students to EDCO Collaborative and for thinking of EDCO for their special education needs.
- Dr. Ekstrom is putting together a Newsletter that will detail how EDCO Collaborative is changing.

- Dr. Ekstrom explained that with the cuts of the teaching staff, students and parents were not happy. Parents in the Partners program were nervous for their children to merge with North Crossing students, and said if there are anymore changes, they are going to withdraw their children.
- Ms. Checkoway stated that she was having a hard time understanding the FTE staff reductions, and how it is impacting the students. Dr. Ekstrom replied that she will gather together the information for the next Board Meeting for her.
- EDCO students will be holding a Silent Auction for Artwork they created on February 14, 2020. The goal is to raise funds for future field trips.
- Ms. Bodie told the Board that the goal is to have no deficit by the end of the year.

#### 4.3 PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Dr. Ekstrom explained to the Board that she has been meeting with the Special Education Directors from the Member Districts and asking what challenges they are experiencing. Several replied they have problems with their Grades 3-5 students. She has reached out to Matt Nixon, at the Department of Education to inquire about including these students at EDCO. Mr. Nixon stated he could get this done in 2-3 weeks. One recommendation he would make, would be to install a fence so the students have a play area. The cost of a fence would be approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000. Dr. Ekstrom will be asking for donations from other Member Districts for equipment that is ADA approved. Also needed will be a part-time school psychologist, and a clinical psychologist will be consulted. The bathroom facilities are sufficient at this time for younger students.

**A motion was made by Jon Sills and seconded by James O'Shea to have Dr. Ekstrom move forward on including grades 3 - 5 into the EDCO program. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Ekstrom offered to take the Board Members on a tour to see the new facilities.

**A motion was made by Christine Lyons to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Brad Crozier. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Megna  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
EDCO Collaborative  
January 30, 2020