



EDCO COLLABORATIVE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
 REMOTE MEETING
 Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.
 36 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730

Present BOARD MEMBERS

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| X | Peter Light | Superintendent | Acton-Boxborough Reg. School District |
| X | Kathleen Bodie | Superintendent | Arlington Public Schools |
| X | Philip Conrad | 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 |
| 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 | Tamika Olszewski | School Committee | Newton Public Schools |
| X | Brad Crozier | Superintendent | Sudbury Public Schools |
| X | Brian Reagan | Superintendent | Waltham Public Schools |
| X | Deanne Galdston | Superintendent | Watertown Public Schools |
| X | Marguerite Connelly | Superintendent | Weston Public Schools |

Present ADVISORY MEMBERS

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Tessa McKinley | School Committee | Acton-Boxborough Reg. School District |
| X | Kathleen Bodie | Superintendent | Arlington Public Schools |
| | Ann Guay | School Committee | Bedford Public Schools |
| | John Phelan | Superintendent | Belmont Public Schools |
| | James Marini | Superintendent | Brookline Public Schools |
| X | Sara Wilson | Superintendent | Carlisle Public Schools |
| X | Sara Wilson | School Committee | Concord Public Schools, CC Regional |
| | Kathleen Lenihan | School Committee | Lexington Public Schools |
| X | Trintje Gnazzo | School Committee | Lincoln Public Schools |
| X | Ellen Joachim | School Committee | Lincoln-Sudbury Reg. School District |
| | David Fleishman | Superintendent | Newton Public Schools |
| | Lisa Kouchakdjian | School Committee | Sudbury Public Schools |
| X | Margaret Donnelly | School Committee | Waltham Public Schools |
| | John Portz | School Committee | Watertown Public Schools |
| X | Marguerite Connelly | Superintendent | Weston Public Schools |

Also Present

EDCO Staff: Cyndy Taymore, Sonia Braga, Shirley Brady, Cindy Carter, Bridgette Casey, Courtney Dunne, David King, Ann Knapp, Mike LeMay, Lina Mateus, Mary O'Regan, Megan Ronzio, Karen Thomsen, Ajay Trivedi, Yildiz Tolentino, Will Verbits, Lynn Watras, Danielle Wildrick, Nicole Wood
TMS Staff: Marc Richard, Allen Himmelberger
Attorneys: Felicia Vasudevan, Katherine Hesse
DESE Staff: Ruth Hersch, Paulajo Gaines

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. Ms. Bodie read a statement regarding public meetings being held remotely during the pandemic as per Governor Baker's order of March 12, 2020.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, sect. 21 (3) to: discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Potential Litigation around dissolution

A **motion** was made by Ms. Wong to move into Executive Session and seconded by Mr. Conrad. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote and the meeting moved into Executive Session at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call: Peter Light, Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston, Marguerite Connelly

A **motion** was made by Ms. Wong to return to open session and seconded by Ms. Charlupski. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote and the meeting returned to open session at 10:34 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston, Marguerite Connelly

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A **motion** to accept the minutes from the 3.4.21 Board of Directors meetings as well as the 2.25.21 Executive Finance Committee meeting was made by Mr. Crozier and seconded by Ms. Charlupski. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston, Marguerite Connelly

4.0 BUSINESS OFFICE UPDATE:

4.1 FY21 Budget Update: The FY21 deficit assessments have been updated and the amounts have increased. The assessments now include the Rockland Trust line of credit, vacation buyout for staff members, and the restoration of funds to the welfare trust account. Mr. Richard reviewed the budget report noting that EDCO is up to date with retirement payments. Occasionally there is lag time between the recording of payments and the updating of the retirement websites that employees use to access retirement information. Districts will be sent an invoice for the entire assessment and can pay what they are able to at this time. Ms. Taymore stated that the expectation is that not all districts will pay their assessment in full in FY21. Districts that have withdrawn from EDCO will maintain some liability.

The FY22 costs are still being refined but estimated costs were shared in the Business Office report. It was noted these costs are higher than usual because there is no tuition income or indirect revenue from grants. There will be some required insurance payments, website costs, removal costs of items from Bedford offices as well as a stipend for the district maintaining EDCO files moving forward. Following discussion, it was determined that the repayment of the Seefurth funds used for operational costs in FY21 will be added to the assessment payments to reduce the FY22 assessments.

4.2 Enrollment Update: Enrollment numbers are holding steady. The hope is to make transition announcements soon but a few obstacles have come up with the ELI and SESP Program. IDEAS will be partnering with MASS. SPED Administrators Leadership Program has an option for a third year and Teachers21 will be picking up that option. The Wrentham WDC bids should be opened later this month. EDCO is dealing with the Office of Migrant Education regarding the HEP grant. Boston Public Schools will be absorbing the Youth Alternative program. The DHH program will most likely go to another collaborative once the transition is approved by DESE. Students in the Bedford programs are being placed in other programs.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Amendment to FY21 Budget: There was a review of what costs were included in the FY21 deficit assessment.

A **motion** to include restoration of Seefurth Funds used for operational costs in FY21 as determined by the executive director was made by Ms. Wong and seconded by Mr. Crozier. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston, Marguerite Connelly.

Laurie Hunter abstained as she had just joined the meeting and missed the discussion around the motion.

Further discussion involved how many years back to include in the repayment of the Seefurth funds used for operational costs. A decision was made to only repay the funds used in FY21 for operational costs. Attorney Vasudevan clarified that a vote on a proposed motion to amend the budget will be made at this meeting. District school committees will need to be notified of this proposed amendment and at the next board meeting there will be a vote to amend the budget. Board members will be sent the language for school committee notification as well as detailed invoice of their district's assessment.

A **motion** to propose an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget and thereby to increase assessments as outlined in Mr. Richard's April 15, 2021 Budget Update and to include restoration of Seefurth Funds used for operational costs in FY21 as determined by the executive director was made by Ms. Wong and seconded by Mr. Crozier. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Laurie Hunter, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston, Marguerite Connelly

5.2 Surplus List: A list of surplus items including furniture and IT equipment was distributed to the districts. A list of additional items, including vans, pictures, books, etc., will be compiled for the next board meeting.

A **motion** to authorize the disposal of all surplus as presented on April 15, 2021 in accordance with EDCO policy and Chapter 30B regulations was made by Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Ms. Wong. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Laurie Hunter, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston

5.3 Retiree Health Insurance Trust: Clarification was made that EDCO has a VEBA trust and not an OPEB trust. EDCO attorneys, insurance brokers and the actuaries have been working to determine how the funds in the trust may be used. As of July 1, 2021, EDCO will not have any active employees and will be unable to offer COBRA to former employees or insurance to retirees. EDCO is obligated to use the funds from the VEBA trust for retiree health insurance. The board will need to redefine the plan in order to have a motion ready for a future meeting to outline how funds will be used for retirees moving forward. The trust will not be changed, only the plan will change so only one board vote will be required. The EFC will meet to review options for retiree health payments.

Notification regarding EDCO closure has not been sent to retirees yet because information regarding health insurance options needs to be included in their letters. Staff are working on compiling lists of former students in order to send out notification letters to that group.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS:

Board members were reminded that in FY22 there will be a need for a board, a new board chair and a schedule of board meetings.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded Ms. Galdston.

Roll Call: Kathleen Bodie, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, James O'Shea, Laurie Hunter, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Deanne Galdston

The **motion passed** and the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary O'Regan, Executive Administrative Assistant

EDCO Collaborative

April 15, 2021