



EDCO COLLABORATIVE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
 REMOTE MEETING
 Thursday, September 23, 2021 @ 9:30 AM

Present

BOARD MEMBERS

X	Peter Light	Superintendent	Acton-Boxborough Reg. School District
X	Bill Hayner	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
	Marguerite Connelly	Superintendent	Weston Public Schools

Also Present

EDCO Staff: Cyndy Taymore

TMS Staff: Marc Richard

Attorneys: Felicia Vasudevan, Blair Wigney, Peter McNulty

DESE Staff: Ruth Hersch, Paulajo Gaines

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Ms. Wong read a statement regarding public meetings being held remotely during the pandemic as per Governor Baker's order of March 12, 2020.

1.1 Public Participation

Nothing was included in the packet, but a letter from Mr. Mulligan, EDCO retiree, was shared with the materials from the 9.17.21 EFC meeting.

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. Charlpuski to move into Executive Session and seconded by Mr. Crozier. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote and the meeting moved into Executive Session at 9:32 AM.

Roll Call: Peter Light, Bill Hayner, Philip Conrad, Amy Checkoway, Helen Charlupski, Laurie Hunter, Rebecca McFall, Bella Wong, Tamika Olszewski, Brad Crozier, Brian Reagan, Deanne Galdston

After returning from Executive Session, the board agreed to address agenda items out of order.

6.1 Welfare Benefits Trust Update

There is a need to create a post FY22 Welfare Trust and Health Benefits Plan for retirees. Attorneys are exploring options and Ms. Taymore continues to keep DESE updated. Currently there is a system in place for reimbursement of retiree health insurance. Several complaints have been received from retirees about this process. Some did not understand that a cap was placed on the reimbursement amount and others are unhappy with the turnaround time for receiving reimbursement checks. EDCO attorneys are exploring two options. One is an annuity. Although most companies contacted did not have interest, one company has indicated it could potentially set-up an annuity. The second option is to continue with the current process and appoint a trustee and plan administrator. To move forward with this option, EDCO would need to issue two RFPs. One for the trustee and one for the plan administrator. Ms. Vasudevan hopes to present the RFPs to the board at the October board meeting. When questions arose regarding the possibility of a district taking on this responsibility, Ms. Vasudevan indicated that it would be unlikely that a district would be willing to agree. EDCO did not adopt OPEB, it is a VEBA Trust. If a district were to absorb current EDCO retirees prior to closing EDCO would need to convert to an OPEB which would cost an additional 1.1 million and the district would then take on the responsibility of retirees that did not work for the specific city or town. There was discussion regarding other organizations that may be able to help or assist with this process as well as the possibility of special legislation. The state does not have a mechanism to take on oversight of the trust or plan.

4.0 BUSINESS OFFICE UPDATE:

4.1 FY21 Budget Update

4.2 Sale of Assets/Surplus

4.3 FY22 Budget

4.4 FY 22 Closing Assessment

Mr. Richard reviewed the report provided by the Business Office. The FY21 projected loss includes the vacation payout and contributions to the VEBA Trust. Rockland Trust Line of Credit has been closed out. The payback of the Seefurth Funds in FY21 is so that the funds can be applied to the closing costs in FY22. Outstanding accounts payable has been reduced significantly. EDCO is working with MTRS and TIAA to make appropriate payments. The accounts receivable list includes two districts who still owe FY21 deficit assessments. ECDO asset sales resulted in just over \$135,000. To date five FY22 Membership Assessments have been received. Board members indicated that they support attorneys sending letters to vendors, not member districts, who still owe payments for FY21 that are over 90 days past due. Mr. Richard stated that at this time there is not a cash flow issue.

3.1 Board Meeting Minutes 6.3.21

A **motion** to accept the minutes from the 6.3.21 Board of Directors meetings was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Olszewski. The **motion passed** by a roll call vote.

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

Bill Hayner abstained from the vote

5.0 NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Records Update

Personnel records are in storage and are being culled and reduced. A member district will need to take on the records at the end of the year. The hope is that once the files are reduced they can be digitized. EDCO is required to keep the personnel records and can not distribute them to former employees. The financial records are in Lincoln-Sudbury.

5.2 FY21 Annual Report

Ms. Taymore asked members to review the report prior to the October meeting and send any comments to her directly. There will be a vote on the annual report at the October Board of Directors meeting.

5.3 Letter from READS Collaborative

The transfer of the CTE equipment with READS Collaborative went smoothly.

5.4 Advisory Board

EDCO needs notification of votes for Advisory Board members for the 2021-2022 year. Ms. Taymore requested that minutes that include these votes be sent to EDCO. Advisory Board representatives are not required, but representation on the Board of Directors is required. Also, board members are still required to complete BMMS training as needed even though EDCO will close in June of 2022.

7.0 NEXT MEETING: The next EDCO Board of Directors meeting will take place on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Shea and seconded by Mr. Conrad. The **motion passed** and the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary O'Regan, Executive Administrative Assistant
EDCO Collaborative
September 23, 2021