



North River Collaborative Board of Directors Minutes
Friday, December 14, 2018, 9:00 AM

Attendance: Peter Schafer, Alan Cron, Jeff Szymaniak, Liz Legault, Mike Laliberte, Stephen Donovan, Clarice Doliber, Patty Oakley, Matt Ferron, Attorney Geoff Wermuth
Absent: Christine Godino, Maggie Rizzi, Derek Swenson

I. Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and to re-convene into open session.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to convene into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Peter Schafer: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Jeff Szymaniak: yes, Patty Oakley: yes, Liz Legault: yes, Matt Ferron: yes

Motion: Patty Oakley made a motion to adjourn the executive session and to return to open session. Jeff Szymaniak seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Peter Schafer: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Jeff Szymaniak: yes, Patty Oakley: yes, Liz Legault: yes, Matt Ferron: yes

II. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Chairman Peter Schafer.

III. Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2018:

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2018. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Financials and Warrants:

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to approve the financials and warrants. Jeff Szymaniak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. FY19 General Fund Revenue and Expense Projection (Enc. A)-Mike reviewed the improvement in the deficit from (\$322,900) to (\$209,573) but advised that Independence Academy is still under the enrollment needed.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve the FY19 General Fund Revenue and Expense Projection. Jeff Szymaniak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. November Financials (handout at meeting)- Mike reviewed the November financials.

Motion: Jeff Szymaniak made a motion to approve the November Financials. Patty Oakley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of 2018 North River Collaborative Annual Report (Enc. B)- Steve presented the 2018 NRC Annual Report to the Board.

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to accept the 2018 North River Collaborative Annual Report. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of NRC Treasurer Evaluation-FY18 (Enc. C)- Mike reviewed the NRC Treasurer, Arthur Sullivan's FY18 evaluation.

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to accept the NRC Treasurer's FY18 Evaluation. Matt Ferron seconded the motion. Motion Carried unanimously.

E. Approval of financing of two 2019 Ford Transits for a total cost of \$78,946 (Enc. D)-Mike reviewed the prior approval of funding of capital projects and purchasing and the current proposed financing of two Ford Transits.

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to approve the financing of two 2019 Ford transits for a total cost of \$78,946. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F. NRC Preliminary Tuition Rates for FY20-handout at meeting- Steve presented the proposed FY20 Tuition Rates. Steve advised one area of concern is with Independence Academy and the major impact transportation costs are having on the IA budget along with the fact that tuition rates cannot be raised to compensate for the deficit because the rates are set by the state. Steve reviewed options for IA: stay at a deficit, cut teachers, lower budget, and/or remove transportation. Mike Laliberte asked the Board how long they would support a deficit balance for Independence Academy.

- Peter Schafer said NRC shouldn't give up on the program and his thought is to support a deficit for a while.
- Patty Oakley offered that the budget for IA should be built for a smaller number of students with more counselors and on-line learning.
- Matt Ferron asked if NRC's choice is to change IA or lose it. He went on to ask if there are any benefactors out there to support it?

The Learning Center is slated to lose a few students due to aging out.

North River School is not up to the number of students budgeted for. Steve posed the question: is it because of losing the differential? Steve advised we must look at the variables with the non-member rates. Do we need to be the Collaborative that takes the students that are more difficult cases?

- Peter Schafer asked what the Circuit Breaker threshold is? Mike advise it is \$45,000 Steve reviewed the service rates basically a 3% to 4% service rate.
- Steve discussed whether the districts are keeping more students in district than sending them to the Collaborative because of programs that they are required to provide for their students.

G. Approval of Changes to the Collaborative Agreement (Enc. E) -Steve reviewed the new changes to the Collaborative Agreement; the addition of the language for Holbrook Public Schools and some grammatical changes.

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to accept the changes to the NRC Collaborative Agreement. Peter Schafer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Letters of Appointment to the NRC Board of Directors still needed
Stoughton-

I. Acceptance of Staff Resignations, Terminations, and New Hires- (Enc. F)

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to accept the staff resignations, terminations, changes in work agreements and new hires. Matt Ferron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Other Matters of Interest to the Superintendents

1. Peter Schafer brought up the needs of Collaboratives to be part of the MSBA process when looking at new construction. Public school students' needs are not being met at public school buildings. Collaborative leaders need to meet with MOEC and the MSBA to investigate the future and look at the statute that covers regional schools, charter schools, etc. Need to get them engaged

VI. Informational

- A. FY19 Medicaid Eligible Students-(**Enc. G**)
- B. Independence Academy -Upper Course Pilot Program
- C. Professional Development Offerings (**Enc. H**)
- D. Board Training -Ethics and Conflict of Interest-Pending
 1. Ethics Training Certificate- Szymaniak and Godino, *-please email cert. to Kelli*

Motion to adjourn: Patty Oakley made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Szymaniak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM

Respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Legault, Board Secretary