



**North River Collaborative Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 18, 2020 9:00 AM via Zoom**

**Present:** Stephen Donovan, Clarice Doliber, Mark Bodwell, Jeff Szymaniak, Mike Laliberte, Julie Hamilton, Alan Cron, Liz Legault, Christine Godino, Matt Ferron, Ryan Morgan, Kim Beck, Eileen Millett, John Marcus, Peter Schafer

**Absent:** Derek Swenson

**Call to Order: 9AM:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by a motion from Jeff Szymaniak, seconded by Mark Bodwell. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

**I. Approval of Minutes November 13, 2020**

**Motion:** Liz Legault made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2020. Jeff Szymaniak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

**II. Approval of Warrants**

**Motion:** Liz Legault made a motion to approve the warrants. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Scahfer-yes.

**III. Discussion/Action Items**

**A. Recovery High School DESE Report and Plan-Enc. A, B, C-** Ryan presented the Recovery High School Study and reviewed what he feels is the key take away: DESE sees the value of the recovery high school program and that they are underutilized. DESE wants to continue to fund the Recovery High School programs and put even more resources into the program and make them more accessible to students.

Ryan reviewed Independence Academy's strategic plan for the future of IA. Ryan stated that he feels confident that DESE will continue to back IA and encourage districts to allow more students to use the recovery high school resources available.

**B. Approve Changes to the NRC Handbook of Personnel Policies and Procedures-Enc. D, E**

**Motion:** Alan Cron made a motion to accept the changes to the Discrimination Policy in the NRC Handbook of Personnel Policies and Procedures. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

**C. Approve the Annual Report-Enc. F**

**Motion:** Peter Schafer made a motion to approve the NRC Annual Report. Jeff Szymaniak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

**D. Approve the UFR-Enc. G, H-** Mike explained the purpose of the UFR which is required by the Operational Services Division when an agency receives more than \$50,000 in revenue and grant funding. Mike offered that next year NRC may not have to do a UFR as DESE has taken over the DPH Grant which is funding for Independence Academy.

**Motion:** Liz Legault made a motion to approve the FY20 UFR. Peter Schafer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

**E. Transportation Billing-Enc. I, J, K-**Steve reviewed the recent transportation billing sent to the districts and explained to the Board the issues surrounding the cost of the transportation and the resolutions for each district. Included in the resolution is the suspension of the 40% billing policy passed by the Board back in June of 2020.

- Liz Legault summarized the reasons that led to the transportation billing issue. She went on to say that she was pleased that the business administrators were invited (EB, Hanover, and Stoughton) to review and understand how the billing is done.
- Peter Schafer commented that he was pleased with the process and considers Mike a world class business manager
- Eileen apologized to the Board and explained that the COVID pandemic created so much chaos with routing.

**Motion:** Liz Legault made a motion to suspend the 40% billing policy. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

- Dr. Donovan requested that the Board approve the formation of a budget sub-committee made up of Business Managers and Special Education Directors. He explained that he feels that this will give an opportunity for input from the districts and lead to a better budget.
- John Marcus stated that it is very important that a budget subcommittee is established and that we all work together.
- Dr. Donovan offered other action steps needed to tighten up the structures of the billing such as ride share tiered routes and one-off routes.

**Motion:** Liz Legault made a motion to approve the formation of a budget sub-committee made up of Business Managers and Special Education Directors. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

#### **F. Acceptance of Staff Resignations, Terminations and New Hires -Enc. L**

**Motion:** Alan Cron made a motion to accept the staff resignations, terminations and new hires. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

#### **G. Other Matters of Interest to Board Members**

### **IV. Informational**

**A.** Professional Development Offerings-Enc. M

**B.** Collaborative Board Member Training Reminder-**Bodwell** and **Hamilton** (please contact the DESE Board Mgmt. Paulajo Gaines at [pgaines@doe.mass.edu](mailto:pgaines@doe.mass.edu))

**C. Reminder\_ Letters of Appointment to the Board needed from the following:**

**Abington:** Peter Schafer

**Holbrook:** Julie Hamilton

**Avon:** Christine Godino

**Rockland:** Alan Cron

**Bridgewater-Raynham:** Derek Swenson

**Hanover:** Matt Ferron

**Motion:** Jeff Szymaniak made a motion to adjourn. John Marcus seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Jeff Szymaniak-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, John Marcus-yes, Matt Ferron-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Alan Cron-yes, and Peter Schafer-yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:28 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

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Peter Schafer, Clerk  
North River Collaborative Board of Directors