



**North River Collaborative Board of Directors**  
**Friday, February 5, 2021 9:00 AM Via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

*In response to Governor Baker's declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the North River Collaborative Board of Directors shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The **Meeting ID #889-6504-0721** provided through **ZOOM** and a **Passcode of R7Dei0** will be used for this purpose.*

**Present:** Mark Bodwell, Clarice Doliber, Mike Laliberte, Stephen Donovan, Lauren Enos, Julie Hamilton, Alan Cron, Christine Godino, Liz Legault, John Marcus, Peter Schafer, Derek Swenson, and Matt Ferron

**Absent:** Jeff Szymaniak

**Special Guests:** Sarah Spatafore, Esq., and Sarah Fay (Social Work Intern),

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Chair Liz Legault.

**Motion:** Peter Schafer made a motion to close the open meeting and open into executive session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or compliance or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and to reconvene back to open session. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mark Bodwell: yes, Julie Hamilton: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Christine Godino: yes, Liz Legault: yes, John Marcus: Yes, Peter Schafer: yes, and Derek Swenson.

**II. Approval of Minutes December 18, 2020 and January 7, 2021**

**Motion:** Peter Schafer made a motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2020 and January 7, 2021. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mark Bodwell: yes, Julie Hamilton: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Christine Godino: yes, Liz Legault: yes, John Marcus: Yes, Peter Schafer: yes, Derek Swenson: yes and Matt Ferron: Yes.

**III. Approval of Warrants**

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

**IV. Discussion/Action Items**

**A. FY22 Budget Presentation-First Reading-Enc. A** -Steve presented the FY22 budget.

- Salaries will increase by 1.7% for all staff except for drivers and monitors who will receive a 2.2% increase as per the agreement between NRC and the Teamsters Union.
- Reviewed Surcharge and tuitions compared to other collaboratives.
- Reviewed enrollment which has been affected by COVID-19 and spoke about the plan to add a social-emotional program at the current NRC Conference Center.
- School based Medicaid has been losing money.
- Transportation: Lost significant number of drivers due to COVID-19 and when back in full swing there is a concern that additional drivers may be difficult to hire.
- Utilities have had a reduction in cost.
- Total FY22 Budget will be \$14,883,284.
- Transportation costs for FY22 was reviewed.

**B. Treasurer Certification Letter for FY22 Budget-Enc. B**-Mike presented the Letter of Certification from the NRC Treasurer, Art Sullivan, certifying the FY22 budget.

**C. December Financials-** Mike reviewed the December financials and call the Board's attention to the general fund surplus balance of \$281,255. Mike advised the Board that the surplus will increase in value in January.

**1. Statement of Revenue and Changes in Fund Balance-Enc. C**

**2. Balance Sheet- Enc. D**

**D. Amended Transportation Billing Policy- Enc, E** -Steve reviewed the proposed amendment to the Transportation Billing policy. Steve recommended to the Board to vote to eliminate the 40% payment for all days beyond September 16<sup>th</sup> for the fiscal year 2021 for the following reasons:

1. The charges for continuity of service (the 40% of costs for school shutdowns) are complicating an already arduous transportation billing.
2. The latest budget projection forecasts a positive balance even without the revenue from these charges.
3. The billing for the first 10 PD days for continuity of service has been charged to districts already; however, the 40% for subsequent school shutdowns has not been charged yet.

**Motion:** Liz Legault made a motion to approve the suspension of the portion of the Transportation Billing Policy that calls for the Districts to pay 40% of the costs during any cessation of services from September 16 until further notice. Peter Schafer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mark Bodwell: yes, Julie Hamilton: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Christine Godino: yes, Liz Legault: yes, John Marcus: Yes, Peter Schafer: yes, Derek Swenson: yes, and Matt Ferron: Yes.

**E. Availability of Space for Classroom for FY22-** Clarice asked the board to confirm the spaces within their districts currently used by NRC will be available for next year. In addition, Clarice asked the Board if any district has high school space available for next year as there are several students that need to be in an age-appropriate space.

**F. Acceptance of Staff Resignations, Terminations and New Hires -Enc. F** -Steve informed the Board that District Services Coordinator Annie Robinson is leaving NRC for a new position for Abington Public Schools. Nancy Verseckes will be filling in through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** Liz Legault mad a motion to accept the staff resignations, terminations, new hires, and changes in contract. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mark Bodwell: yes, Julie Hamilton: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Christine Godino: yes, Liz Legault: yes, John Marcus: Yes, Peter Schafer: yes, Derek Swenson: yes, and Matt Ferron: Yes

**G. Other Matters of Interest to Board Members-** Steve advised the Board that there have been 12 responses to the RFQ. Steve asked the Board's permission to allow 3 members of the Design Committee (Steve Donovan, Mike Laliberte, and Clarice Doliber) to cut the RFQ 12 to 5 proposals to make it easier for the Design Review committee to move forward.

**Motion** -Liz Legault made a motion to allow 3 members of the Design Committee (Steve Donovan, Mike Laliberte, and Clarice Doliber) to cut the RFQ 12 to 5 proposals to make it easier for the Design Review committee to move forward. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mark Bodwell: yes, Julie Hamilton: yes, Alan Cron: yes, Christine Godino: yes, Liz Legault: yes, John Marcus: Yes, Peter Schafer: yes, Derek Swenson: yes, and Matt Ferron: Yes

**V. Informational**

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

**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

**Bridgewater-Raynham:** Derek Swenson

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Peter Schafer, Clerk  
Board of Directors**