



North River Collaborative Board of Directors
Friday May 7, 2021 Minutes-9:05 AM

*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 #82872587628** provided through **ZOOM** and a **Passcode of qkDZM8** will be used for this purpose.*

Present Mark Bodwell , Alan Cron, Art Sullivan, Christine Godino, Steve Donovan, Jeff Szymaniak, Liz Legault, Clarice Doliber, Mike Laliberte, Derek Swenson, Matt Ferron, Julie Hamilton, John Marcus, Marc Wright,
Absent: Peter Schafer **Special Guest: Attorney Matt Feeny, MHTL**

I. Call to Order

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to call the NRC Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron-yes.

II. Approval of Minutes March 5, 2021

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to accept the minutes of March 5, 2021. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

III. Approval of Warrants

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

IV. Discussion/Action Items

A. Adoption of MGL Chapter 32B Section 20 and additional votes for potential amendments and restatements of Health Insurance Retirees Trust. Attorney Matt Feeny presented the process for creating an OPEB Trust for the current Health Insurance Retirees Trust, the reasons for the recommended changes and the options and process to moving forward.

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to accept M.G.L. c. 32B s. 20. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to appoint the NRC Treasurer to be the Custodian of the OPEB Trust as per the statute. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson-yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to designate the Custodian as the sole Trustee of the OPEB Fund. Derek Swenson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to authorize investment under the prudent investor rule established in Chapter 203C. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson-yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion authorize the Clerk to provide notice to DLS of the NRC Board acceptance of M.G.L. c.32B s. 20. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Attorney Feeney explained that after all of the motions to accept the statute there will be two trusts, the one currently in place right now and now the new OPEB Trust. He explained that the two trusts will be merged, amended and re-stated. The declaration of trust tells how the trust will be run. At the next meeting of the current trustees, they will vote to amend and restate the trust and then the new trustee (NRC Treasurer) approve the new OPEB Trust. At the June Board meeting, the new declaration of trust will have to be filed with the clerk of the board and the executive director and then after 91 days the new OPEB trust will be in place.

B. Acceptance of Staff Resignations, Hires, Terminations, and Changes in Contract- Steve welcomed the new Director of Business, Marc Wright who will be taking over for Mike Laliberte upon his retirement. He also advised the Board that Keith Guyette will be the new District Services Coordinator beginning on July 1, 2021.

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

C. FY21 March Financials-Mike reviewed the FY21 March financials for the Board.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve the FY21 March financials. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

D. Transfer to Capital Reserve-Steve explained to the Board that in year's past, the OPEB amount in the budget was automatically transferred to the Health Insurance Retirees Trust. The automatic transfer occurred because the money was already set aside in the budget which the Board approved. This year the auditor has advised NRC that the Board formally vote to approve the transfer. In addition, the auditors have asked that the Board approve the transfer of \$20,000 approved in the budget for the NRC Capital Reserve Fund.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve the transfer of \$175,000 to the Health Insurance Retirees Trust as per the FY21 approved budget. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve the transfer of \$20,000 to the NRC Capital Reserve Fund. as per the FY21 approved budget. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

E. Transportation Update-Steve updated the Board about the ongoing campaign to get new drivers and monitors through advertising (postcard mailing to the surrounding towns, billboards, job fairs and recruiters. Steve reviewed the proposed change to the MOU to enhance existing sign on bonuses in order to compete with other special education transportation providers in the area.

- Matt Ferron asked what the exposure would be to the Collaborative. Steve presented the numbers to the Board.

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to approve the extension of the MOU with the new sign on bonuses for drivers and monitors. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Steve went on to ask the Board for permission to possibly allow for vehicles to be taken home midday, this could possibly be an incentive to work here at NRC.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to give Steve the authority to move forward with allowing midday use of the van if this could possibly attract and retain drivers. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

F. Calendar of Meetings for 2021-2022-Enc. C- Steve reviewed the calendar of meetings for next year.

G. Architect Selection- Enc. D- Derek Swenson and Marc Bodwell, members of the Design Selection Committee summarized the interviews of the 3 architect finalists. Derek talked about his experiences with RDA for roof replacements and a new school. All projects finished on time and under budget and RDA is always available and has a great lens to designing special education spaces. Marc added that RDA stood out as the firm that would offer the best service and they were accessible and credible.

Motion : ll john m

Liz Legault and Christine Godino had two concerns:

- The price one of the firms gave a price of \$850,000 and RDA did not give a price or estimate of cost which will have an impact on the design.
- Special Education Directors should be involved with the plans and the design.

Clarice offered that Keith Guyett, the new District Service Coordinator, comes with a background of dealing with students with social emotional students.

Derek said we will have to work with RDA to let them know what the needs are.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to select RDA as the firm to design the new social emotional classrooms. John Marcus. seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote: John Marcus-yes, Alan Cron-yes, Mark Bodwell-yes, Julie Hamilton-yes, Liz Legault-yes, Christine Godino-yes, Derek Swenson- yes, and Matt Ferron- yes.

Other Matters of Interest to Board Members

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Schafer, Clerk
NRC Board of Directors