



North River Collaborative Board of Directors

Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2024 - 9:00 AM

In Person with Remote Option (if required)

198 Spring Street, Rockland, MA 02370

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rvq-vqau-iny>

Or dial: (US) +1 347-916-3473 PIN: 548 721 822#

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law an extension of the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this further extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "ad equare, alternative" access to remote meetings.

Present: Paul Tzovolos, Marie Grable, Ellen George, Kelli O'Brien-McKinnon, Joseph Baeta, Liz Legault, Mark Bodwell, Lori Jodoin, Felicia Moschella, Julie Hamilton, Alan Cron, Ryan Powers, and Matthew Ferron

Not Present: Jeff Szymaniak

I. Call to Order -Chairman Joe Baeta called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Chairman Baeta asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of approving the executive session minutes of June 7, 2024, and then reconvening into open session.

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of approving the executive session minutes of June 7, 2024. Matt Ferron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

II. Executive Session

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) "to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements."

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 7, 2024

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to approve the executive session minutes for June 7, 2024. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote with two abstentions.

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to close the executive session and re-convene into open session. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

III. Approval of Minutes for June 7, 2024

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to approve the minutes of June 7, 2024. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried with two abstentions.

IV. Approval of Warrants – Ellen George summarized the new warrant system for the Board and how successful it has been to date. Ellen thanked the Board members for their support with the new system.

Motion: Matt Ferron made a motion to approve the warrants. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. **New Board Member Recognition and Reminders of Responsibilities**-Paul Tzovolos introduced the new Board members for the 2024-2025 school year. Superintendent Felicia Moschella of Abington Public Schools and Interim Superintendent Lori Jodoin of Avon Public Schools. Paul Tzovolos also reviewed the responsibilities of the Board members:

- All board members must complete the online training through DESE every six years or if they are newly appointed superintendents. Reminders will be sent to the Board members from DESE Board Management to remind them as well as to the Collaborative.
- All board members must be appointed to represent their school districts by their school committees. A letter of appointment from each district from the respective member district's school committee acknowledging their appointment must be sent to Ms. O'Brien-McKinnon.
- Paul Tzovolos will send NRC quarterly reports to the Board to share with their school committees. The next quarterly report will be sent in mid-October.

B. FY25 Budget Update- Ellen George updated the Board on the FY25 budget- Ellen reviewed student enrollment and advised the Board that the Learning Center is doing well and is ahead of the enrollment projection. North River School is under the projected enrollment but there are several referrals pending. The new SAILS Program currently has three students with a projection of five. The North River Collaborative summer programs all did well.

Motion: Ryan Powers made a motion to approve the FY25 budget update. Matt Ferron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Summer 2024 and School Year 2024-2025 Update- Paul Tzovolos reviewed the NRC summer programs:

- The new SAILS program start was a great success with several job sites available for the students.
- An Administrative Team retreat was held for three days in July and was well received. The purpose was to focus and enhance the strengths of the team and let them know how much they are valued as the team worked on the Action Plans for the Student Success Plan.
- The opening of the school year was very successful. Mr. Tzovolos was excited to share that North River School is at full capacity with three clinicians. The team at North River School also conducted a summer workshop for staff that helped them to prepare for the coming school year and hit the ground running..

D. Acceptance of Staff Resignations, Hires, Terminations, and Changes in Contract – Paul Tzovolos explained to the Board that there were three additions to the list, two terminations and one new hire. Mr. Tzovolos told the Board he would forward the new listing to them via email.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve the acceptance of staff resignations, hires terminations and changes in contract. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of the Financing of Two 8 Passenger Ford Transit Vans and One Ford Transit Wheelchair Van - Ellen George asked the Board for their approval to purchase two 8 Passenger Ford Vans at a cost of \$74,951 each and one Ford Transit Van at a cost of \$76,563. The total leasing cost will be \$226,465. The terms of the lease are an annual re-payment for 3 years at a rate of 5.77%. Ms. George advised the Board that choosing to make annual payments versus monthly payments on the lease will result in savings of about \$7,000.

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to approve the financing of two 8 Passenger Ford vans and one Ford Transit Wheelchair van at a total cost of \$226,465 through a three year lease at a rate of 5.77% with a schedule of three annual payments. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Expenditures from the NRC Capital Fund

1. North River School Office Framing - Paul Tzovolos advised the Board that he received estimates to frame a new adjustment counselor office and hallway. Mr. Tzovolos asked permission to use up to \$11,500 for the project.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve up to \$11,500 for a capital expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund for the construction of a new office and hallway at North River School. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. North River School Land Surveying - Paul Tzovolos advised the Board that he would like to spend from the Capital Reserve Fund up to \$7,000 for surveying of the North River School property for the purpose of future additions to the school and/or the parking lot.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve up to \$7,000 for a capital expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund for the surveying of the North River School property for the purpose of future additions to the school and/or parking lot. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Approval of a \$20,000 Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund from FY24 Budget- Mr. Tzovolos asked the Board for a vote to allow the transfer from the FY24 Budget to the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20,000.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to approve the transfer from the FY24 Budget to the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20,000. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

H. DEI Consultant Update- Paul Tzovolos advised the Board that he is looking to receive project referrals from the districts. To date, he has only received one from Hanover. Mr. Tzovolos wants to create a schedule to pace the DEI Coordinator's services. Mr. Tzovolos will re-send the referral forms to the member districts.

I. Notification of Edits to North River Collaborative Handbooks- Marie Grable has updated the NRC handbooks ensuring consistency across the board. Ms. Grable advised that the mission statement of the has been updated all regulations as well including Title IX.

1. Transportation Driver/Monitor Handbook
2. Transportation Parent/Guardian Handbook
3. Independence Academy Handbook

Motion: Alan Cron made a motion to approve the edits and updates to the North River Collaborative handbooks: the Transportation Driver/Monitor Handbook, the Transportation Parent/Guardian Handbook and the Independence Academy Handbook. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Approval of the NRC 2024-2025 Student Success Plan Action Items- Paul Tzovolos reviewed the plan of action for each of the three pillars for the 24-25 school year.

Motion: Ryan Powers made a motion to approve the NRC 2024-2025 Student Success Plan Action Items. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Approval of Executive Director Goals for 2024-2025 -Paul Tzovolos reviewed with the Board his director goals for 2024-2025. Mr. Tzovolos noted that the North River Collaborative Student Success Plan Action Items for FY25 will serve as the benchmark for his performance. The action items included Student Learning, Professional Practice and Collaborative Improvements, all with applicable DESE Superintendent Rubric Standards and Indicators.

Motion: Julie Hamilton made a motion to approve the Executive Director Goals for 2024-2025. Liz Legault seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

L. FY25 OPEB Trust Fund Report – Ellen George presented the Odyssey Advisors actuarial report on the FY25 OPEB Trust Fund. The change in total OPEB liability from FY23 to FY24 was \$112, 872.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to accept the FY25 OPEB Fund Trust Report. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Informational

A. Professional Development Offerings

B. DESE Mid-Cycle Coordinated Program Review Final Report - No areas were found to be out of compliance and the full report was shared with the Board.

C. Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC) Updates

1. MOEC Annual Report

2. MOEC Leadership Academy - Marie Grable, Mark Wooding, and Andrew Manning will attend the MOEC Leadership Academy over three full days in the fall of 2024.

D. Donations

1. Lion Club of Hanover-\$300

2. Grant-Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association-\$6219

3. Grant-John W Alden Trust-\$5000

VII. Other Matters of Interest to Board Members

1. Matt Ferron reviewed his meeting with DESE and M.A.S.S with regards to the PRS Advisory Group and their search for a new supervisor.

2. Alan Cron expressed to the Board how nice it was to come into the Collaborative and feel and see the changes that have taken place over the year. A sense of community, great morale ,as well the sense of pride that is expressed in the environment with the many changes to the building, in particular the conference room and the new break room for transportation.

Motion: Liz Legault made a motion to adjourn. Alan Cron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Powers, Recording Secretary
North River Collaborative