



# North River Collaborative Board of Directors

Friday, May 2, 2025 - 9:00 AM

## Minutes

**Present:** Joe Baeta, Paul Tzovolos, Matt Ferron, Mark Bodwell, Jeff Szymaniak, Julie Hamilton, Marie Grable, Ellen George, Alan Cron, Felicia Moschella, Gina Williams, and Ryan Powers.

**Absent:** Lori Jodoin

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Baeta called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. He welcomed new member of the Board, Gina Williams, the new interim Superintendent of East Bridgewater

## II. Discussion/Action Items

A. **Approval of the Pursuit of a Second Independence Academy Location (Site/Location Scouting and Grant Funding Exploration)**-Paul Tzovolos explained to the Board that he is considering opening a second Independence Academy site in the mid Cape Cod area. Mr. Tzovolos went on to explain that he felt this was a good opportunity and a key time because grant funding was now competitive, and this would allow two portions of the DESE grant funding for Independence Academy. The initial program would start with the Upper Course format and eventually roll into the full-time model. Properties being looked at range in rent from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

- Alan Cron asked if the rent of \$10,000 was high or reasonable. Mr. Tzovolos responded that he felt it was right in line with commercial property.
- Jeff Szymaniak said that it sounds like a great opportunity to create revenue for the Collaborative.
- Joe Baeta asked if it has been considered as to where the revenue from the new program will be going and if long term planning is targeted for a revenue stream.

Paul Tzovolos told the Board the plan is to invest first in Academy programs and then capital expenditures for facility and then transportation.

**Motion:** Jeff Szymaniak made a motion to approve the pursuit of a second Independence Academy location. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B. **Acceptance of the FY25 Budget Amendment-** Paul Tzovolos presented the amended budget lines to the Board for approval:

1. **Administrative Budget Page-** a total of \$125,000 in non-capital and materials/supplies lines to support building maintenance, avoidance of capital fund expense, and investment in streamlined materials/supplies program bulk ordering.
2. **Autism SY Budget Page-** a total of \$50,000 in Instructional, non-capital and technology lines to support the addition of a new classroom and classroom moves.
3. **Multi-Disabilities SY Budget page-** a total of \$80,000 in instructional, non-capital and technology lines to support the addition of a new classroom moves and investment in the new adaptive equipment loan program.
4. **North River School SY Budget Page-** a total of \$200,000 in repair/maintenance supplies, furniture, and instructional lines to support investment in the facility and avoidance of capital fund expense.
5. **Speech Language SY Budget Page-** a total of \$20,000 to support forthcoming AT/AAC Evaluation Kit Program.

6. **Special Education Transportation Network Budget Page**-a total of \$925,000 in Driver salary, Monitor salary, Substitute salary, non-capital equipment, and repair and maintenance lines to reflect the increase in transportation department expenses given the higher volume of routes for FY25. The revenue for this budget page was increased by \$1,400,000 for a total of \$6,709,451 as well.
7. **Profit and Loss Budget Page**-an increase of \$250,000 to the Capital Expenditures revenue and expense lines for a total of \$850,000 earmarked for the purchase of additional vans in FY25.
8. **Profit and Loss Budget Page**-given the alterations above the new General Fund Revenue and Expense (not including capital expenditures) Balance changes from \$13,837,535 to \$15,237,538.

**Motion:** Alan Cron made a motion to accept the amendments to the FY25 Budget. Julie Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**C. Purchase of two wheelchair Dodge Promaster Vans and four eight passenger Dodge Promaster vans in the amount of up to \$500,000 .**

**Motion:** Julie Hamilton made a motion to approve the purchase of two wheelchair Dodge Promaster vans and four eight passenger Dodge Promaster vans in the amount of \$500,000. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**III. Other Matters of Interest to Board Members**

- Alan Cron asked the Board if members could meet with him to discuss the salary and retirement benefits of BCBA's, RBT's and ABA's. Paul Tzovolos offered to send the email addresses of the Board and Christine Godino to Mr. Cron to arrange the meeting.

**Motion:** Julie Hamilton made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:23 AM**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ryan Powers, Board Secretary  
NRC Board of Directors.