



MINUTES
Virtual Board of Directors' Meeting
February 24, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. William Fonseca. The following were present:

Board of Directors: Mr. Carmino Mineo, Agawam
 Mr. William Fonseca, East Longmeadow
 Ms. Michelle Emirzian, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional
 Ms. Bronwyn Monahan, Longmeadow
 Mr. Jacob Oliveira, Ludlow
 Ms. Pamela Petschke, Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional
 Mr. William Garvey, West Springfield

Collaborative: Mr. Roland Joyal, Jr., Executive Director
 Ms. Anna Bishop, Director of Finance
 Ms. Laurie Oyler, Director of Municipal Reimbursement

Guests: Ms. Suzanne Scallion, NSIP
 Mr. Jeffrey Laing, Ludlow School Committee

2. A public forum was offered. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Oliveira noted that this would be his last meeting and introduced the group to Mr. Laing who will be representing Ludlow on the Board.
3. Mr. Joyal reported that he is participating in the New Superintendents Induction Program offered through MASS and MASC. He introduced his mentor through the program, Ms. Suzanne Scallion, Superintendent at Provincetown. Ms. Scallion reported that this program was developed to increase the success rate of new superintendents and build relationships. She and Mr. Joyal thanked everyone for their support.
4. Mr. Mineo moved to approve this evening's consent agenda as presented. Ms. Petschke seconded. On a roll call vote, the following voted YES: Mr. Garvey, Ms. Emirzian, Ms. Petschke, Mr. Oliveira, Mr. Mineo, and Mr. Fonseca. Motion carries.
5. Mr. Joyal noted he has approached the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation and we will be participating in the Excellence in Teaching Awards program which recognizes a teacher every three years.

LOWER PIONEER VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE
174 BRUSH HILL AVENUE, WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089 PHONE 413-735-2200 FAX 413-735-2280

6. Mr. Joyal noted that he will be serving on the legislative liaison committee for the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives as well serving as regional liaison representative.
7. Mr. Joyal expects that all collaboratives will be affected by the dissolution of the EDCO Collaborative. The possibility of malfeasance at EDCO could trigger scrutiny but Mr. Joyal is confident in our business practices and adherence to regulations.
8. Mr. Joyal reported that although the Board had previously agreed that CTEC students be allowed to return to a full time five day schedule. That will now not be possible as member districts have changed their Wednesday schedules.

Mr. Joyal reported that the Department of Ed has issued new transportation guidelines which lifts restrictions on busses.

Mr. Joyal also noted that the special education coordinated program review has been completed and he expects a favorable report.

9. The Director of Municipal Reimbursement, Ms. Laurie Oyler, reported that changes to the federal Medicaid program and the pandemic's impact on students receiving reimbursable services have had a detrimental effect on revenues being collected by the LPVEC program. This has resulted in a deficit for the program. Immediate action has been taken by instituting staff lay-offs and furloughs. Mr. Joyal noted that we will keep the Board informed as we determine how to proceed in the coming months as we identify trends and options.

Ms. Monahan joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Mr. Joyal noted that superintendents were made aware of the importance of reporting services which can be reimbursed by the federal government. The group discussed state legislation that will mandate participation in the program. Ms. Oyler left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

10. Ms. Bishop reported that the portable classroom renovation should be substantially completed by mid-March for the new social-emotional elementary program. The Board had previously voted to subsidize the program for the first year and this will require an appropriation from fund balance.
11. Mr. Joyal reported that we have received notification that our audit has met DESE requirements for FY20.
12. Ms. Bishop reviewed February revenue and expenditures noting nothing extraordinary to report. Projections on credits due back to districts will be calculated as hybrid and remote learning resulted in a reduction in the number of busses being used.
13. Updated special education revenues were distributed this evening and Ms. Bishop noted that strengthening relationships with districts should further boost enrollments.

**LPVEC
Board of Directors' Minutes
February 24, 2021
Page Three**

14. Ms. Bishop noted that Board approval is required for any budget transfers involving salaries or items above \$25,000. Ms. Bishop is requesting transfer of funds to cover stipends for special education staff. Mr. Oliveira moved to approve transfer within the Special Education Coordination budget the amount of \$25,000 from the Special Education "Coordinator/Supervisor Salary" line item to "Other Salaries" line item as presented. Ms. Petschke seconded. On a roll call vote, the following voted YES: Mr. Garvey, Ms. Emirzian, Ms. Petschke, Mr. Oliveira, Mr. Mineo, Ms. Monahan, and Mr. Fonseca. Motion carries.
15. Ms. Bishop reported that the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust has final approved health insurance rates for FY22. They subsidize the 10 to 15 percent increases to reduce rates to only a five percent increase across all plans.

Mr. Joyal presented Mr. Oliveira with an award for his years of service and the group wished him well in his new role as State Representative.

Mr. Mineo moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Petschke seconded. On a roll call vote, the following voted YES: Mr. Garvey, Ms. Emirzian, Ms. Petschke, Mr. Oliveira, Mr. Mineo, Ms. Monahan, and Mr. Fonseca. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

March 25, 2021

(date)

William Garvey

, Clerk