



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
418 Bumps River Road, Osterville, MA 02655
January 13, 2021 – 5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

The January 13, 2021 meeting of the Cape Cod Collaborative Board of Directors was called to order at 5:18 PM by Mr. Furnari, Chair.

Mr. Furnari noted the meeting was scheduled to occur virtually through the Zoom application and that the recommendations associated with conducting a public meeting virtually had been shared with Board members as required.

The posting of this Board meeting included means for public participation through telephonic means. Attendees were able to join the meeting by calling:

Phone Number: 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 884 0823 9507
Password: CapeCod

Mr. Furnari noted the order of the meeting included the necessity for all votes to occur through a “roll call” process. He explained each member of the Board was required to verbally “sign in” as well as any other attendees.

Computer access, including video, was recommended for board members to allow for “sharing” of information on the screen if necessary.

Members, guests, and staff who attended the meeting remotely have “R” noted after their names.

In attendance were:

Falmouth	John Furnari, Chair (R)
Bourne	Maureen Fuller (R)
Brewster	Katie Miller-Jacobus (R)
Cape Cod Tech	Scott McGee (R)
Dennis-Yarmouth	Phillip Morris (R)

Mashpee
Monomoy
Nantucket
Orleans
Upper Cape Cod RTS
Wareham
Wellfleet

Don Myers (R)
Joe Auciello (R)
Zona Tanner-Butler (R)
Hank Schumacher (R)
Robert Fichtenmayer (R) (in at 5:35)
Michael Flaherty (R)
Jill Putnam (R)

Secretary

Elizabeth (Beth) Deck

Also in attendance were:

Executive Director
Business Manager
Admin & Finance Coordinator
Operations Manager
Director of Special Projects
Director of Special Ed Programs
Asst. Director of Special Ed Programs

Paul Hilton
Amy Lipkind
Marc Dupuis (R)
Anders Erikson (R)
Dr. Christopher Bogden (R)
Dr. Anita Woods
Christina Caputo

Mr. Furnari asked for a motion to suspend Provincetown, Truro, and Martha's Vineyard as representatives from these towns had missed two or more consecutive meetings.

Mr. Morris made the motion to suspend, which was seconded by Mr. Auciello.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes, Mr. Myers – yes,
Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes, Mr. Flaherty – yes,
Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.

The motion passed.

II. Executive Session

Mr. Furnari indicated that it would be necessary to enter into Executive Session and articulated the following reasons:

(Generally, a public body must identify the specific piece of property it plans to discuss before entering into executive session under Purpose 6. A public body may withhold the identity of the property if publicly disclosing that information would compromise the purpose for which the executive session was called. While we generally defer to public bodies' assessment of whether the inclusion of such details would compromise the purpose for an executive session, a public body must be able to demonstrate a reasonable basis for that claim if challenged.)

- a. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel; Leave Requests, Executive Director Evaluation

An executive session may be held only where an open meeting may have a detrimental impact on the body's negotiating position with a third party.

- b. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body

(Under this purpose, as with the collective bargaining and litigation purpose, an executive session may be held only where an open meeting may have a detrimental impact on the body's negotiating position with a third party. At the time that the executive session is proposed and voted on, the chair must state on the record that having the discussion in an open session may be detrimental to the public body's negotiating position.)

Mr. Furnari indicated the Board would return to Open Session following Executive Session.

Ms. Putnam made a motion that the Board vote to exit Open Session and enter Executive Session for the stated purposes. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes, Mr. Myers – yes,
Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes, Mr. Auciello – yes,
Mr. Flaherty – yes, Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.
The motion passed.

The Board exited Open Session and entered Executive Session at 5:23 PM.

The Board exited Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 5:49 PM. (Mr. McGee joined the meeting at 5:35 PM, during Executive Session.)

III. Minutes

a. December 9, 2020

VOTE

Ms. Putnam made a motion that the Board vote to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting. Ms. Miller-Jacobus seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes, Mr. Myers – yes,
Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus –yes, Mr. Auciello –yes,
Mr. Flaherty – yes, Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes, Mr. Fichtenmayer – abstain.
The motion passed.

IV. Old Business

a. Treasurer Evaluation

Discussion

Mr. Furnari observed that Mr. Friel was not present at the meeting. He suggested that the Board table discussion regarding the Treasurer Evaluation for a future meeting.

Mr. Hilton indicated that feedback from the Board at the meeting would be helpful.

Mr. Hilton noted that he and Ms. Lipkind had met regularly with Mr. Friel during the course of the year, and that an annual evaluation would be completed as required by statute. Mr. Hilton indicated that he and Ms. Lipkind would complete the evaluation and submit it for consideration by the Board.

Mr. Furnari stated that Mr. Friel did a "fine job" communicating with the Board and that, through his actions, he sought to benefit the Collaborative.

Ms. Putnam noted Mr. Friel was invested personally and professionally in the Collaborative and that he offered clear, sound recommendations and guidance.

b. Executive Director Evaluation

Mr. Furnari explained that the Board must agree upon an instrument and process to conduct the evaluation of the Executive Director for Calendar Year (CY) 2020 as well as a format/instrument to be used for Calendar Year 2021. He indicated that an Evaluation SubCommittee meeting should be convened to discuss preparation for the evaluation of the Executive Director for CY20 (format as well as Goals / Objectives).

Members of this committee have been: Mr. Furnari, Ms. Lindahl and Mr. Schumacher.

Mr. Furnari tabled discussion on the Executive Director Evaluation until a future meeting.

c. Paycheck Protection Program

Mr. Hilton noted that Ms. Lipkind and Mr. Dupuis had been in contact with the TDBank regarding the forgiveness process. Ms. Lipkind provided an update regarding the status of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan and the preparation for an application for forgiveness of the loan. She explained that the Collaborative was in the process of completing the then current forgiveness application. She noted that qualified expenses had been calculated in accordance with the requirements of the application. Ms. Lipkind explained that TDBank had (temporarily) removed the forgiveness application from its website as the passage of the new stimulus act had impacted the process. She indicated that it was expected that the application was expected to be available once again in two weeks.

Mr. Myers noted that the passage of the most recent stimulus package included additional PPP funding and asked whether (or not) the Collaborative was likely to pursue another loan. Mr. Hilton indicated that the Collaborative was evaluating the situation. He observed that 80% of the funds earmarked for the State had been designated for Local Education agencies (LEAs), which in Massachusetts are local school districts and charter schools, but not educational collaboratives. He explained that, in the event that the Collaborative remained ineligible for other funding sources, it was possible that another PPP loan would be pursued. Mr. Hilton remarked that the rules were likely to change after January 20th.

Mr. Myers asked if the Collaborative would consider applying for another loan. Mr. Hilton said yes, as these funds could benefit member districts, but he noted that it would be necessary to assess the costs for Collaborative counsel and auditor advice weighed against the possible benefit.

d. Transportation

- Invoicing

Ms. Lipkind updated the Board regarding the invoicing status for FY21 invoicing to districts. She indicated that December 2020 out-of-district invoices were being calculated. She noted that the Collaborative kept several routes operational (no changes) while some students had been on periodic "hold". She explained that the

cost implications of maintaining the route were being evaluated in regards to the impact for invoicing districts that had placed students “on hold”.

Ms. Lipkind remarked that standard General Education and In-District Special Education transportation invoices had been issued for all periods through the end of the fiscal year.

- Reconciliation

Ms. Lipkind and Mr. Hilton noted that the costs associated with COVID cleaning and the route changes caused by COVID were being calculated. They explained that the Collaborative had been in discussions with each district regarding the option for invoicing these additional costs separately.

Ms. Lipkind discussed the need to seek a review of the camera systems in use on Collaborative vehicles. She indicated that no RFP was necessary and that she would be returning to the Board with a quote for the overall review of all cameras on all vehicles.

Mr. Hilton noted the overhaul of the camera systems was estimated to cost \$100 per vehicle and that this overhaul would require a separate contract.

Mr. Schumacher questioned the need for this separate contract, asking if the Collaborative had installed cameras outside of those purchased and installed by 24/7 Security. Ms. Lipkind indicated the cameras were manufactured and installed by that company. She noted that the Collaborative had performed basic maintenance of the system; however, there needed to be a recommissioning of the systems as some systems were nearing ten (10) years old and that each system needed to be assessed for replacement. Mr. Erikson elaborated, stating basic training for maintenance had been received, but a full, comprehensive review of the equipment was necessary as several cameras appeared to be functioning normally, but later were found to have stopped recording. Mr. Hilton noted some buses are 10-11 years old and that the “new” Nauset buses were now 3 years old. He explained that it was time to check and recalibrate the entire system and to provide refresher training (for mechanics and drivers) designed to prevent user error (intentional or otherwise). He further noted that as technology changes and adapts to future technological development, it was likely that this type of overhaul would need to occur every 4-5 years.

Mr. Furnari asked if any of this work could be covered by an existing service contract with the installer, and whether (or not) any of the equipment issues could still be under warranty. Mr. Hilton observed the Collaborative had had equipment found to be faulty replaced through the warranty process. He also noted a cost / benefit analysis would indicate that there was need for a system to be consistent across all buses and easy to use – not only by Collaborative employees but also by districts.

Mr. Schumacher commented that this was not “rocket science” and that a local company should be able to provide maintenance. He indicated that highly technological cameras were everywhere, in schools, businesses and in school buses across the Cape. Mr. Hilton indicated that local expertise would be explored and that he would report back to the Board.

e. Transportation SubCommittee

The SubCommittee (Mr. Flaherty, Ms. Lindahl and Mr. McGee) met on December 15, 2020 to discuss and make recommendations regarding items impacting Collaborative Transportation Services. The Collaborative transportation services have been significantly impacted by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Items that were discussed included, but were not limited to:

- Efforts for effective driver recruitment/retention
- Review of Standard Hours Proposal
- Review of Hourly Rates for Remuneration for Employees
- Refinements to District Agreement

Mr. Erikson indicated that he would prepare draft policy items for further review and consideration, noting the importance of a consistent policy for all work locations (lots) and drivers.

f. Osterville Playground

Discussion

Mr. Hilton updated the Board regarding the need for replacement of the playground at the Osterville Campus (STAR Program). He indicated that Ms. Lipkind had been working on structural plans, which would be necessary to obtain quotes. He explained that the projected cost for the playground replacement was \$300,000. (The Board had previously voted to provide “seed” money (\$60,000) from the Board to elicit grant participation.)

Ms. Lipkind indicated that she would seek to work with contractors on the State list (vetted for 30B). Mr. Hilton noted when the Collaborative had a design, Ms. Putnam’s suggestion regarding the use of local Tech schools would be considered and evaluated with the regional technical schools.

V. New Business

a. FY21 Warrants

VOTES

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| • #24 | VOTE | • #26 | VOTE |
| • #25 | VOTE | • #27 | VOTE |

Mr. Furnari asked the Board to consider voting Warrants #24, #25, #26 and #27 as a slate. Ms. Putnam made a motion to do so, which was seconded by Mr. Myers.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes,
Mr. Myers – yes, Mrs. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes, Mr. Auciello – yes, Mr. Flaherty – yes, Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Fichtenmayer – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.

The motion passed.

b. FY21 Spending Plan

- Personnel

- Additions

VOTE

- Charles Lowder 7D Driver
 - Daron McLaughlin Paraprofessional STAR
 - Michael Ochoa CDL Driver Training
 - Jeanne Remmers RN Part-time
 - Aaliyah Roderick Paraprofessional STAR

- Reductions

VOTE

- Jada Henderson Paraprofessional STAR
 - Joanne Page Monitor
 - Martha Stranger Monitor Spare

- Changes in Status

VOTE

- Michelle Bradford From Spare Monitor to OOD

Mr. Furnari asked for a motion to approve all personnel additions, reductions and changes in status as a slate. This motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Ms. Putnam.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes,
Mr. Myers – yes, Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes,
Mr. Auciello – yes, Mr. Flaherty – yes, Mr. McGee – yes,
Mr. Fichtenmayer – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.

The motion passed.

c. Minimum Wage Increase

VOTE

Mr. Hilton noted the Collaborative had based the Transportation “Operations Rate” on the Massachusetts minimum wage. He explained that the minimum wage increased on January 1, 2021 to \$13.50 / hour.

Mr. Hilton recommended that the Board vote to increase the “Operations Rate” to agree with the Massachusetts minimum wage, noting that such a vote would memorialize the change which took place January 1, 2021.

Ms. Miller-Jacobus made a motion that the Board vote to increase the Operations Rate to \$13.50. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Mr. Schumacher suggested the motion should be amended to raise the rate to \$15.00 per hour. Mr. Hilton observed this rate was paid to employees who must wait for vehicles to be serviced (for example, during an oil change), and for new driver training as well as mandatory training. The motion was not amended. He also noted that a more significant increase would necessitate revising projected service costs with districts.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes, Mr. Myers – yes, Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes, Mr. Auciello – yes, Mr. Flaherty – yes, Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Fichtenmayer – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.

The motion passed.

d. OPEB Transfer

VOTE

Mr. Hilton and Ms. Lipkind recommended that Board consider a vote to transfer the FY2019 OPEB accrual of \$180,000 to the OPEB Trust Fund.

Mr. Hilton explained that these funds had been accrued as obligated for “OPEB” in FY19; however, the Board had previously recommended that the actual transfer of the OPEB funds to the *irrevocable* trust not occur until the completion of the following fiscal year (FY20) audit process. (The audit was accepted and voted at the December meeting).

Mr. Fichtenmayer made a motion that the Board vote to approve the transfer of the \$180,000 OPEB accrual to the OPEB Trust Fund. Ms. Tanner-Butler seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes, Mr. Myers – yes, Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes, Mr. Auciello – yes, Mr. Flaherty yes, Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Fichtenmayer – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.

The motion passed.

e. Planning Legislative Breakfast for 2021

Discussion

Mr. Hilton updated the Board regarding planning for a meeting with Legislators from the region. He explained that this meeting was scheduled to occur on February 12, 2021, with Legislators participating from 9:00AM-10:00AM. He noted that this date was chosen to allow for integration of the budget proposals from the Governor and consideration of the budget debates of the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives. He explained that the Governor’s Budget was expected to be released during the week of January 22, 2021.

Mr. Hilton had sought assistance from the Board and MASC Division VII in planning this virtual event. Ms. Bartlett, Chair of Division VII, had been involved in the discussion regarding the proposed agenda. It was noted that topical areas included funding for collaborative facilities, Chapter 70 challenges, COVID-19 relief funds, school choice, educational challenges and planning for the future of education in the region.

Mr. Hilton explained that a facilitated discussion was planned to be held in Zoom “break-out” rooms. He noted that it was expected that creative, energetic conversation could occur in this meeting which directly involves school representatives, town representatives, and regional governmental representatives. Ms. Putnam asked if school committee members would be able to attend, and how facilitators for the break-out sessions would be chosen. Mr. Hilton indicated school committee members would be welcomed, and the choice of facilitators would depend on the expected attendance.

Mr. Furnari commented that it was a “good call” to wait for the budget release. He expressed hope that good discussion could occur in the break-out sessions. Mr. Morris credited Mr. Furnari with the idea of break-out sessions, which had generated more concentrated conversations at the last Legislative Breakfast. Ms. Miller-Jacobs asked whether, in addition to State legislators and representatives, county representatives and local selectmen also attended. Mr. Hilton noted attendance often depends on the community and indicated the involvement of the Board was important. He noted that important and meaningful conversations occur when school, town, county, and government leaders get together – with none of them in charge – and each had a chance to talk with each other. Ms. Tanner-Butler encouraged Board members to “hype up” the event and encourage attendance.

f. Waypoint Program Relocation **Discussion**

Mr. Hilton updated the Board regarding the planning for the relocation of Waypoint Academy. He indicated that the Collaborative continued to explore alternatives and to actively work with the consulting broker. He explained that it would be important to consider the impact upon staff and students as locations were discussed. Mr. Hilton indicated he would seek to call a SubCommittee to assist with relocation decision-making. Mr. Hilton noted that the BSU-Cape Cod facility had not been videoed, but it was anticipated that this would be completed prior to the next Board meeting.

g. Programs/Services

- Administrative Restructuring

Mr. Hilton discussed the status of planning for the retirement of Dr. Anita Woods. He reviewed the planning process and explained that the meetings were occurring regularly with Ms. Caputo, Ms. Bryant and Dr. Peterson participating.

Mr. Hilton provided an overview of the proposed administrative structure for Collaborative Special Education, which was expected to include one Director of Special Education and two “Program Administrators” (similar to Principals). He noted that Dr. Woods’ were tough shoes for the Collaborative to fill.

Ms. Caputo indicated that she and Dr. Woods were working closely together to assure a smooth transition and capitalize on the time available prior to Dr. Woods’ retirement.

- Waypoint Academy & STAR Program / Osterville

Ms. Caputo provided an overview of the current and projected enrollments and programming for both school programs. She referred Board members to the enrollment reports which were included within the materials for the Board meeting. She noted that there was one active referral for the STAR Program at the time of the Board meeting.

Ms. Caputo noted the CPR review with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education would continue during the week following the Board meeting with a virtual tour of Collaborative facilities as well as remote interviews with staff and class observations.

Ms. Caputo expressed her thanks for the significant support provided to students and families by Bags of Hope and My Brother's Keeper as well as the continued support (food) provided by the Falmouth Service Center.

She explained that "community-based justice" meetings were held on December 15th. She indicated that counselors from both school programs had participated in these meetings with agencies from throughout the region.

Ms. Caputo noted a meeting with the Family Resource Center provided good information on no cost resources, with simple referral processes, which are available.

Ms. Caputo also indicated the Collaborative had been approved for a 274 Grant in the amount of \$8,222.

- Transportation

- Revisions to District Agreements Discussion

Mr. Hilton and Ms. Lipkind provided an update regarding current issues and opportunities with Collaborative transportation. Mr. Hilton noted that the Collaborative continues to address issues associated with minor warranty issues with the new and newer buses in Bourne, Monomoy and Mashpee.

Ms. Lipkind discussed feedback associated with a DRAFT addendum to the Memoranda of Agreement with Member School Districts regarding payment for services during periods during which districts may opt for remote only instruction. She indicated there had been positive responses from districts, and that the Collaborative was still awaiting a response from one district. She explained that it was expected that a MoA/MoU revision would need to be considered by the Board for approval at a future meeting.

- District Operations

Mr. Hilton discussed global challenges associated with the continuity of student transportation services. He explained that the impact of COVID-19 had continued to deplete the cadre of available drivers. He noted that the situation was exacerbated by the impact of illness and or quarantine/isolation where and when necessary.

Mr. Hilton explained that the Collaborative had been coordinating closely with districts served by the Collaborative and continuing to hire and train drivers to keep up with the demand; however, he explained that the demands continued to increase as the resources (drivers) continued to decrease (retirements, Leaves-of-absence, resignations).

Mr. Hilton indicated that he and Ms. Lipkind had met with each of the districts at the start of the school year to discuss these challenges and advised districts to consider scheduling athletics (and other trips) outside of home/school transportation periods to minimize the impact to home/school transportation services during the pandemic period. He explained that the recent advisory(ies) from the state allowing for increased athletic contests was expected to create increased challenges for student transportation services.

- District Operations Updates

- Monomoy Regional Schools

Mr. Hilton noted that the operations of the transportation for the Monomoy Regional Schools had continued, albeit with some staffing challenges. He indicated that the driver who had been injured in early September continued to be unable to work. He explained that additional challenges continued to occur with necessary quarantine of staff as well as increasing requests for Athletic Transportation. He indicated that athletic transportation was compounded with private (school bus) company solicitations of drivers to cover routes (other school athletics, private trips, and additional coverage). Mr. Hilton noted that “distance learning” continued for most Monomoy students during the week following Winter Break.

He commented that the communication between the district and the Collaborative had allowed for rapid response to situations and planning to address issues.

- Nauset Operations & High School Opening

Mr. Hilton noted that the quarantine of some staff as well as increasing requests for Athletic Transportation, had increased the challenges in coverage for the Nauset Regional Schools. He explained that there had been several challenges with student/staff COVID-19 quarantine/isolation; however, the frequent and timely communication between the Collaborative and the District had been integral to ensuring that challenges associated with operational changes in the school are effectively supported through transportation services.

- Mashpee Public Schools

Mr. Hilton noted that the Mashpee Public Schools also experienced a situation where the quarantine of some staff as well as increasing requests for Athletic Transportation had increased the challenges in coverage.

- Bourne Public Schools.
Mr. Hilton explained that there had been recent challenges with private (school bus) contractor solicitation of Collaborative staff, the necessity of leave for some staff and the quarantine of other staff. These issues had created additional challenges in coverage for the Bourne Public Schools.
He noted that “distance learning” continued for most Bourne students during the week following Winter Break.
- Nantucket Opening
Mr. Hilton noted that “distance learning” continued for most Nantucket students during the week following Winter Break.
He explained that the newest driver to the island had been “on island” since October 19, 2020 and actively working each day. He also noted that recruitment efforts continue to secure additional drivers for the island.

- Therapies

Mr. Hilton provided an update regarding the provision of services within the Collaborative and to districts (and others). He explained that one Occupational Therapist (OT) was out for an extended medical leave. He explained that this absence necessitated contracting with a consulting OT to provide coverage.

- Special Projects

Dr. Bogden and Mr. Hilton provided updates regarding items considered as “Special Projects” of the Collaborative.

- Professional Inter-District Collaboration

Dr. Bogden described weekly Curriculum Administrator meetings which continued to occur. He noted that discussions had evolved to focus upon supporting staff, who were becoming exhausted. He indicated that instructors carried hope that things would return to “normal” soon, but concerns were being raised about what school schedules would look like in the future. He indicated that Curriculum Administrators were assessing the need for professional development to help address the (potentially large) learning gaps caused by the impact of the pandemic.

Dr. Bogden stressed the need for planning to address these educational needs. He noted planning must begin immediately and that August would be too late.

Ms. Putnam noted in her work experience observing childhood classes throughout the state, children were distanced and in smaller classes

due to COVID precautions. She noted that conflict resolution was not being observed/experienced in the classrooms. She stressed that students were not being able to practice necessary interpersonal skills as precautions instituted because of the pandemic required greater spacing and forbid the sharing of materials.

Dr. Bogden suggested that educators and support staff seize the opportunity to establish themselves as “experts” in education and to take the lead in social/emotional and teaching/learning planning. He again stressed the need to plan now for actions to be taken post-pandemic.

Mr. Hilton observed that there could be no assumptions that a first-grade student moving into second grade would be prepared for second grade in the same fashion as previous students matriculating into the second grade. He explained that these students had not experienced the typically structured school classroom since the third quarter of the Kindergarten year. He noted that instruction must begin where the “student is”. He explained that previous “norms” may not be relevant for students returning to fulltime in-person learning post-pandemic. He indicated that educators must start with each student and be sensitive to each student’s particular needs

Mr. Hilton noted that dealing with the pandemic was operationally “simple”. He explained that dealing with what comes after the pandemic would be extremely difficult. He also stressed the need to start planning now and suggested the Legislative Breakfast may provide an excellent opportunity for strategic planning regarding the challenges on a regional basis.

- Bridgewater State University

Dr. Bogden discussed coordination with Bridgewater State University in the development of a cohort of professionals completing graduate coursework towards special education teaching certification. He explained that ten to fifteen educators were moving through the process, semester to semester.

- Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Course

Dr. Bogden discussed coursework that has recently been approved for graduate credit through the partnership of the Collaborative with Bridgewater State University.

- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTTSS) -High Achievement for All Students

Mr. Hilton indicated that the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation had awarded an additional \$16,000 for the support of this project, with a particular focus upon engagement of additional districts in the region.

Mr. Hilton indicated that, after the last Board meeting, representatives from the Tower Foundation contacted him to indicate that the “Promoting High Achievement for All Students” grant would be

funded for an additional year (calendar year 2022). He explained that the grant liaison had also indicated that continued flexibility would be considered as the initiative continued to evolve.

- ASLP

Mr. Hilton discussed the status of for the Summer 2021 ASLP Program. He explained that applications for the 2021 summer program were due February 14, 2021.

Mr. Hilton informed the Board that refunds for the Alternative ASLP program had been issued to families that had committed to participation. He noted that tee-shirts and certificates had been mailed to all students who had been accepted into the ASLP Summer 2020 program but had been unable to attend due to the pandemic.

- Research for Better Teaching (RBT) coursework

Dr. Bogden discussed recent efforts to offer coursework in the region in concert with RBT. He explained that RBT had engaged in efforts to support fluctuating enrollment to ensure offerings are accessible to districts in the region. He indicated that virtual courses had taken the place of in-person instruction.

h. Strategic Planning

Discussion

Mr. Hilton explained that there was a critical need for a regional process of Strategic Planning, not only for the Collaborative programming and services, but to ensure the capacity of districts to meet the demands that have resulted from the pandemic. He indicated that legislators need to hear the concerns that had been raised in discussions which had occurred during this Board meeting. He explained that these challenges would continue to increase as districts (and the Collaborative) must address the challenges of the post-pandemic public school environment.

Mr. Hilton noted that the focus of a significant amount of activity throughout the past few years had been on highlighting the demographic shifts that had occurred, and continued to occur, throughout the region. He explained that these regional challenges had been exacerbated due to the impact of the pandemic.

Mr. Hilton noted that these challenges include, but were not limited to:

- Funding - concerns from state and federal sources;
- Staffing – capacity to recruit and retain appropriate staff;
- Demographics – funding associated with students not enrolled for FY2021;
- Demographics – increased needs of students due to lost instruction and connections (social-emotional and learning);
- Decreases (continued) in student population;
- Increased social/economic/emotional needs of students/families.

Mr. Hilton summarized that it was/is imperative that the Collaborative and districts evolve to meet the changed needs of the students and families throughout the region.

i. Virtual High School

Mr. Hilton discussed the status of the consortium for Virtual High School that had existed through the Cape Cod Collaborative since 2001. He noted that, for the first time in nine years, all available seats had been utilized. He indicated that the Collaborative was working to purchase additional seats to accommodate district needs.

VI. Cracker Barrel Discussion

a. Local District Issues

Mr. Flaherty informed the Board that he registered to take an introductory course to explore obtaining his private pilot license. He expressed that he was surprised and delighted to learn that Alpha One Flight Services was owned and operated by a former Board member, Chris Hyldburg.

b. Questions / Concerns

No questions or concerns were brought forward at this meeting.

VII. Other

No other items were brought up for discussion at this meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Morris made a motion that the Board vote to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Putnam seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schumacher – yes, Ms. Tanner-Butler – yes, Ms. Putnam – yes, Mr. Myers – yes,
Ms. Fuller – yes, Mr. Morris – yes, Ms. Miller-Jacobus – yes, Mr. Auciello – yes,
Mr. Flaherty – yes, Mr. McGee – yes, Mr. Fichtenmayer – yes, Mr. Furnari – yes.

The motion passed.

The January 13, 2021 meeting of the Cape Cod Collaborative Board of Directors was adjourned at 6:59 PM.