



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
418 Bumps River Road, Osterville, MA 02655
February 14, 2024– Minutes

I. Cracker Barrel Discussion 5:00 PM

a. Local District Issues

Board members were invited to share concerns and challenges in the local educational arena

II. Call to Order 5:15 PM

This meeting occurred in person and virtually through the Zoom application. The recommendations associated with conducting a public meeting virtually were shared with Board members as required.

The posting of this Board meeting included means for public participation through telephonic means.

Chair Bent called the meeting to order at 5:15PM and chaired the meeting. She reminded the Board that the order of the meeting would include the necessity for all votes to occur through a “roll call” process. Each member of the Board had to verbally “sign in”.

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

There was an expressed need for Executive Session. Vice-Chair Moris reminded the Board that it was important that members of the Board have the capacity to ensure that others could not participate and/or access the “broadcast” of the meeting during the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

Guidance from Collaborative counsel (Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane) was shared with Board members.

Board members and Collaborative staff who attended the meeting virtually have “R” for “remote” noted after their names.

In attendance were:

Bourne	Maureen Fuller – R
Cape Cod Tech	MaryRose Grady
Dennis-Yarmouth	Phil Morris - R
Falmouth	Terri Medeiros – R
Martha’s Vineyard	Roxanne Ackerman- R (in @ 5:23PM)
Mashpee	Matthew Davis – R
Nauset	Cathryn Lonsdale
Nantucket	Laura Gallagher-Byrne - R
Orleans	Ian Mack – R
Sandwich	Christine Brown – R
Wareham	Brennan McKiernan - R
Wellfleet	Jill Putnam (in @ 5:25PM)

Also in attendance were:

Executive Director	Paul C. Hilton
Business Manager	R. Patrick Murphy
Waypoint Program Director	Dr. Kara Clyburn
Associate Business Manager	Amy Lipkind
Human Resources Coordinator	L. Troye Thompson
Operations Manager	Anders Erikson – R
Director of Special Projects	Dr. Christopher Bogden - R
Admin & Finance Coordinator	Marc Dupuis – R

Mr. Hilton noted that had indicated that there would need to be an election for Chairperson for the Cape Cod Collaborative Board of Directors at the next (March) Board Meeting as she had been elected as the Chairperson for the Barnstable School Committee and that Mr. Andre King would assume Barnstable School Committee representation of the Board. Mr. Morris, as the Vice-Chair asked Mr. Hilton to facilitate the meeting as he was not confident in the capacity to manage the meeting remotely.

Mr. Hilton, through Vice-Chair Morris convened the meeting at 5:15PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris to suspend the voting rights for Eastham and Truro as their Board Representatives had missed two (2) meetings. Ms. Hilton noted that the Board may reconsider reinstatement of the voting rights of these Board members immediately upon their attendance.

Mr. Mack asked if the suspension of voting rights was necessary to secure a quorum for the meeting.

Mr. Hilton noted that it was not necessary as a quorum had been reached; however, conducting the vote at this meeting, with a quorum, enabled achieving a quorum for the next meeting if additional members were unable to attend.

This motion was seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Mr. Morris – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – no; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

III. New Business

a. Programs/Services

- STAR Program / Osterville

Mr. Hilton provided an update regarding the STAR Program as Ms. Bryant and Ms. Caputo were unable to attend the Board meeting.

He noted that there were three active referrals for the program and two additional expected. He indicated that the enrollment for February was expected to be fifty-six (56) students.

He also noted that there was a flurry of activity in the program.

He explained that the program started two (2) hours late on the day of the Board meeting due to inclement weather, noting that the program followed the Barnstable Public Schools schedule for inclement weather purposes.

- Waypoint Academy

Dr. Clyburn indicated that the program had forty-three (43) students who attended the program regularly at the time of the Board meeting.

She explained that the program was currently scheduled in eight (8) cohorts with an “Academic Success Coordinator”, two (2) Behavioral Support Staff and a Culinary Teacher. She noted that the cohorts were for each grade, grades six-twelve, with two cohorts at grade eleven. She also indicated that staff shortages (varying illnesses) necessitated the combining of cohorts on some days, including on the day of the Board meeting.

Dr. Clyburn highlighted that the students had completed a program with the Maritime Museum in Hyannis and had built a functioning rowboat, which they christened the SS Sinkable. She noted that the boat is on display in the Waypoint cafeteria.

Dr. Clyburn explained that the students were very proud of the boat and had been very respectful of it, noting that there had been no vandalism of horseplaying around the boat. She also indicated that the students and staff were very respectful of the new building, a marked change from previous buildings where the program had been located.

Dr. Clyburn highlighted the “Academic Success Room”, which had been implemented with the restructuring of the program into cohorts. She noted that this room was located in proximity to the cafeteria and could be accessed by students who were struggling in classes and needed more support to access their classroom curriculum.

Dr. Clyburn indicated that the Academic Success Room was implemented as an option on January 17, 2024. She indicated that this had been a very

productive alternative to “time out” including the alternative of students taking “chill breaks” or “energy breaks” when necessary (instead of going to “time out” spaces).

She explained that students had accessed the room ninety-six (96) times since January 17th (about four weeks prior)- 75 Middle School and 21 High School. She noted that 36% of the middle school students spending time in the Academic Success Room had requested to access the “Room” for assistance, and that 64% of the time, staff had requested that students access the Room for assistance.

Dr. Clyburn also highlighted that an English Language Arts (ELA) teacher had returned from a leave-of-absence and was focusing upon the alignment of curriculum (standards and pacing) to support the program staff and ensure closer alignment among teachers, especially new teachers.

Ms. Fuller asked about the activities that students were engaging in while accessing the Academic Support Room. Dr. Clyburn indicated that a thirty-year veteran teacher was supporting the students in the space and that the purposes and activities included:

- Students requesting One-on-One Support for academics.
- Students Requesting Quiet Space to Work
- Students seeking Guidance and Support with Catching up on work missed due to absences.
- Students spending time with the one-on-one support due to disruptive behaviors in their classrooms
 - Focus upon (same) academics occurring while students separated from classroom instruction
 - Focus upon ensuring that students are continuing to be aligned with instructional expectations if/when dysregulated
- One student seeking support for accessing Drivers Education
- Individual Education Plan support services
- Support for credit work for academics missed in previous settings.

Ms. Fuller also asked about the teacher who is working on curriculum alignment, and if this is an additional responsibility. Dr. Clyburn noted that the teacher was located within the Academic Support Room and assists as necessary with students accessing that service as well as in other classrooms/cohorts throughout the building. Ms. Fuller indicated that she wanted to ensure that the teacher was considered for additional remuneration if it was a responsibility that had been added.

Mr. Hilton noted that this instructor had taken an extended leave for personal reasons and that the current assignment for the teacher had been determined with consideration of the teacher's availability and capacity at the time of their return.

Mr. Hilton also highlighted the change in the use of “time-out” in the program and the marked decrease each year in the use of time-out spaces as well as the focus upon academics in the current model.

Ms. Brown asked about the alignment of the curriculum and asked if the curriculum was being aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks or an alternative.

Dr. Clyburn noted that the curriculum would be aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, with particular focus upon the “seasons” for the implementation of the various standards.

Mr. Hilton noted that the effort was focused upon an accessible, simplified model for accessing the standards and “seasons”/pacing, especially with changing populations of students and an increase in the need to “on-board” new staff, who need a “ready resource” as they begin their work in the program.

- Transportation

- District Operations

- Mr. Erikson updated the Board regarding the status of the Transportation services.

- District Operations Updates

- Nauset Regional - One route open for a driver that has been on medical leave since the start of the year. He noted that the open route was being covered by a spare driver and that there were drivers in training that would be seeking routes on the outer-Cape.
 - Monomoy – All routes currently covered with full time drivers
 - Nantucket – All current routes currently covered with full time drivers
 - Bourne – Mr. Erikson noted that there were two open routes being covered by two full-time spares. He noted that two (2) part-time drivers were spending the winter in Florida and were expected to return in late March/ early April.
 - Mashpee – Mr. Erikson noted that there were two open routes being covered as one employee was on extended leave. He noted that a Dispatcher had been covering one route and a spare was covering another.
 - Truro – All routes currently covered with full time drivers

- Mr. Erikson noted that there had been a driver who had recently been licensed (Outer-Cape). He indicated that this driver would become available at the same time that another driver needed to take an extended leave (4-6 weeks).

- Mr. Erikson also noted that there were three more drivers-in-training that were expected to test for their licenses in the coming month and that the addition of these drivers should relieve some of the stressors in the staffing for the outer Cape.

Mr. Erikson also noted that the State Police testing process had become increasingly challenging, likely due to the allegations of fraud in the testing for some of the areas.

Mr. Erikson also noted that there were two drivers-in-training for the Upper-Cape and that they would be approaching their mandated training hours in the coming month and would be able to test for their School Bus Licenses.

Mr. Erikson highlighted that there were additional individuals who were preparing to take their CDL (Commercial Drivers License) permit tests so that they might begin training.

He indicated that the recruitment efforts were productive and indicated that a renewed effort in the late Spring would be recommended to develop a pool of candidates who might be available to drive buses in the Fall.

Mr. Hilton indicated that the Collaborative had been meeting with districts to discuss and review changes and challenges anticipated for the 2024-2025 school year including:

- Renewal of MoAs

- i. Nauset Regional, Brewster, Eastham, Orleans & Wellfleet

VOTE

Mr. Hilton noted that consideration for a vote was necessary for the Memoranda of Agreement (MoA) for Nauset Regional, Brewster, Eastham, Orleans, Wellfleet. Mr. Hilton indicated that the MoA had been under review and with revisions being made by Collaborative counsel and District(s) counsel for a considerable period. He also noted that the MoA would be retroactive to July 1, 2023.

Mr. Hilton noted that the agreement would be for an initial term of July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2025. He indicated that the school buses lease would be complete at that time. He indicated that there would be three (3) Option Terms for the subsequent fiscal years.

Mr. Mack made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Putnam.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Mr. Morris – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms.

Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

ii. Monomoy Regional

Mr. Hilton noted that the Monomoy Region was assessing their needs and considering a Request for Proposals (Bid) for FY25.

Mr. Murphy provided an update regarding the discussions with the Business Manager for the Monomoy regional Schools. Mr. Murphy indicated that the District felt the need to seek proposals for the service as the next service period was considered. He further noted that the cost for the capital (buses) and financing were considerable factors in the consideration for seeking competitive pricing.

Mr. Murphy also noted that superintendents throughout the state were experiencing significant increases in costs for new service proposals and/or renewals, with one situation experiencing a forty-five percent (45%) increase in the first year of the new contract.

Mr. Hilton noted that the service provision through the Collaborative enabled districts to secure long term stability in pricing after the initial lease(s) for the initial fleet(s) were completed as replacement of vehicles could be gradual and ensure some control of this primary price factors for the service provision ... keeping the districts in the “drivers’ seat” regarding their pricing.

Mr. Hilton also noted that the Business Office and associated staff had not been part of the implementation of the Monomoy service. He explained that the Collaborative became involved when the District received no responses to their Request for Proposals (RFP) five years previous. He explained that the Monomoy Regional service was a significant challenge with implementation and continued to be a challenge for the initial three years. Mr. Hilton complimented the evolution of the service for the region, noting the remarkable progress made during the past two years, with kudos to the District and Collaborative staff in developing a clearer understanding of the service needs, service provision and service coordination.

Mr. Erikson indicated that the service provision and service quality had stabilized with increased coordination between all parties.

Mr. Hilton noted that the Bourne Public Schools would experience a “savings” of approximately \$300,000 for transportation services for FY2025 as the majority of their fleet lease would be completed. He also highlighted the need to financially plan for the replacement of the fleet as the fleet aged.

- Projected Changes in cost templates

Mr. Hilton reviewed the factors associated with the “template associated with the provision of transportation service.

- i. Fuel Price Changes – the escalating costs for fuel have resulted in increased costs for this service in recent years after a period of savings with low(er) fuel prices
- ii. Labor – Mr. Hilton noted the increased challenge of securing appropriately licensed staff (nationally) as well as ensuring that staff are paid competitively. This (labor) factor resulted in significant increases in costs for the service as wages were adjusted significantly in 2021.
- iii. Maintenance Costs Per Mile – the Maintenance costs associated with vehicles has increased significantly due to the significant increase in the cost of parts/equipment as well as the increased costs for labor that has permeated the marketplace
- iv. Changes in Routes – the costs for increases in hours for consolidated routes often results in minimal savings, or increased cost per route, as the hours associated with each route result in increased cost per route.
- v. Changes in Mileage - the costs for increases in mileage for consolidated routes often result in minimal savings, or increased cost per route, as the miles associated with each route result in increased cost per route.

Mr. Murphy highlighted that the challenge in securing staff and equipment would result in continued increases in costs. He noted districts considering the “savings” achieved when fleets leases are fully paid must also consider the inevitable replacement costs for the vehicles to avoid the exponential increase in costs when the vehicles need to be replaced. He noted the increases in the cost of vehicles of \$40,000+ as well as a doubling of the financing rates for leases.

Mr. Hilton noted that the equipment issues associated with fleets and maintenance must also be considered. He highlighted the situation with the propane buses in the Nauset Region, which had recently been requiring increased

maintenance due to unforeseen “exhaust manifold” issues. He indicated that the flexibility of the “template” enables the Collaborative and the district(s) to modify the factors based upon trends experienced (saving and additional costs).

- Therapies

Mr. Hilton provided an update regarding the provision of services within the Collaborative and to districts (and others). He noted that the Collaborative was interviewing two (1) Occupational Therapists, one of whom is also a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI). Mr. Hilton also noted that the topic of recruiting and retaining staff in areas such as Speech/Language Pathology, Occupational therapy and Physical therapy were among the focus topics for the Legislative Breakfast which occurred on January 26th. Mr. Hilton noted that there were various opportunities to address staffing challenges that were discussed with a particular focus by legislators upon the topic of housing.

- Special Projects

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

- ASLP

Mr. Hilton will discuss the status of planning for the Summer 2024 ASLP Program.

Mr. Hilton noted that the applications for the program were in process within districts and staffing was being secured for the scheduled program in July 2024.

He explained that there had been exciting developments associated with the planning and operation of the program.

- AD Makepeace had committed to providing \$10,000 in support for the Summer 2024 ASLP Program.
- Mr. Hilton noted that Ms. Susan Akins (Program Nurse) would not be returning for Summer 2024. He indicated that her considerable contributions would be missed as she (also) retires from her School Nurse position with the Wareham Public Schools. He highlighted that was a current critical need to secure a Registered Nurse to support the program.

- Bridgewater State University (BSU) & Emergency Licensure Support Grant

Mr. Hilton noted that the recent award of a substantial grant to BSU to support individuals teaching with an “Emergency Teaching License”. Had resulted in over five hundred (500) individuals seeking consideration for participation in the programming. He noted that the strategic value of this initiative continued to expand as the development of the regional center has improved communication in support for individuals pursuing careers in public education including the expansion of articulation agreements for individuals seeking to develop into teachers through the Community College system.

Mr. Hilton shared that a flyer had been included with the Board materials for an event that would occur at the Cape Cod Community College that would include participation with BSU staff.

The development of networks to facilitate access to the “Regional Centers” (see attached flyers) has resulted in improved coordination of activities between the various stakeholders (districts, colleges, state) towards development of an adequate and competent workforce to meet the critical needs in public education.

Dr. Bogden highlighted the articulation of agreements with BSU and Cape Cod Community College to support individuals seeking individual guidance toward development as educators regardless of the post-secondary status from which the individual was starting.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop – January 31st

Dr. Bogden discussed the workshop which had occurred on January 31, 2024. He explained that there were fifty-six (56) registrants for this course from districts throughout the region.

He highlighted the activities and focus of the workshop and remarkable opportunities and challenges that Artificial Intelligence brings to the classroom(s). He note the astounding impact that AI will have on the workplace and the educational system.

- Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Courses

Dr. Bogden discussed the third opportunity for individuals to participate in SEI courses.

He also noted the current development of a post-SEI course that would provide opportunities for teachers to refine and enhance their instructional practices. He noted that the course is still in discussion and development with interested districts.

- CoFFEE – Dr. Bogden noted that the CoFFEE course continued to be offered through the Collaborative.

- Monthly Curriculum Directors Meeting

Dr. Bogden discussed the increasing focus of a group of administrators to develop meaningful and high-quality professional development to support educators throughout the region in developing and/or refining effectively engaging English Language Learners (ELLs) in the classroom. He indicated that the next Curriculum Directors meeting would occur on the day following the Board meeting (February 15th).

b. Strategic Planning

Discussion

Mr. Hilton updated the Board regarding the continuous need for regional Strategic Planning, not only for the Collaborative programming and services, but to ensure the capacity of districts to meet the demands evolving challenges of the contemporary public school environment.

He noted that the focus of a significant amount of activity throughout the past few years had been on highlighting the demographic shifts that have occurred, and continue to occur, throughout the region.

Mr. Hilton reviewed discussions regarding the strategic items that were the focus of discussion at the Annual Legislative Breakfast (Special Education and Workforce Development). He explained that these topics represent significant challenges in securing the necessary human resources (staff) to meet the instructional and operational needs of the Collaborative and districts throughout the region, now and in the (near) future.

Mr. Hilton noted that the Superintendents had been meeting throughout the year and in the Fall had created three sub-regional groups:

- Outer-Cape & Islands – Provincetown, Truro, Nauset, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard
- Mid-Cape – Cape Cod Tech, Dennis-Yarmouth, Barnstable, Monomoy
- Upper-Cape – Mashpee, Sandwich, Falmouth, Bourne, Wareham, Upper Cape Cod Tech

He noted that these group anticipated meeting separately from the larger group to share common strategies and common opportunities. He explained that the Outer-Cape group had already established meetings.

Mr. Hilton noted that a full Regional Strategic Planning opportunity would be considered for the Summer.

c. Virtual High School

Dr. Bogden will discuss the status of the consortium for Virtual High School that has existed through the Cape Cod Collaborative since 2001. Mr. Hilton noted that the 2023-2024 School Year utilization through the consortium was considerably lower than in previous year, which had resulted in less savings (higher cost per seat) than in most previous years. He noted that there had been an increase in participation from 139 “seats” to 160 “seats” as the second session registration closed. It was noted that the Consortium has secured 200 seats on behalf of the participating districts.

Dr. Bogden noted that the incredible opportunity for savings through a collaborative effort (Consortium).

IV. Old Business

a. Treasurer Evaluation

Mr. Hilton asked the Board to postpone/table discussion and voting until the March meeting as Mr. Friel was unable to be present at the meeting.

b. FY24 Reconciliation and Update

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Lipkind shared an overview of the status regarding the FY24 reconciliations to-date regarding revenue and expense related to the Spending Plan and Budget. He noted that the forecasting was considered through various lenses. He indicated that it continued to be expected that it would be necessary to support the supplementing of the expenditures for the bond payment as indicated at the start of the year.

He noted that revenues were less than expected and that expenditures were also trending less than anticipated.

Mr. Hilton rephrased the situation as the Collaborative continued to “right size” programming and services as demands change(d). He indicated that the nature of educational collaboratives was to be “nimble” in their capacity to respond to changes in needs (increases and decreases).

Mr. Morris indicated that he needed to leave the meeting at this point (6:01PM) in the agenda.

V. New Business

a. FY24 Warrants

VOTES

Ms. Grady made a motion to consolidate the voting for FY24 Warrants 28, 29, 30 & 31. Ms. Putnam seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

- | | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| • #28 | VOTE | • #30 | VOTE |
| • #29 | VOTE | • #31 | VOTE |

Ms. Putnam made a motion to consolidate the voting for FY24 Warrants 28, 29, 30 & 31. Ms. Grady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

b. FY24 Spending Plan

Discussion & Vote(s)

- Personnel

Ms. Putnam made a motion to Bundle the Additions, Reductions & Changes in Status as indicated. Ms. Grady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

- Additions

VOTE

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Delaney Clyburn (rehire) | Paraprofessional – Waypoint |
| • Maureen Darcy | CDL Bus Driver Training |

- Kevin Spies Paraprofessional – STAR
- Michelle Walsh CDL Bus Driver Training
- Reductions **VOTE**
 - Kathryn Andreoli (resignation) Teacher – Waypoint
 - Garry Lauck (resignation) Teacher – Waypoint
 - Thomas Solecki Paraprofessional – Waypoint
- Changes in Status **VOTE**
 - Dennis Morel Avila Facilities to CDL bus driver
 - Andrew Hunt Position & Remuneration

Ms. Grady asked if Delaney Clyburn was related to Kara Clyburn. Mr. Hilton indicated that Dr. Clyburn had disclosed the relationship at a previous meeting. Dr. Clyburn noted that Delaney was her step-daughter and that she was not the direct supervisor for her step-daughter.

Ms. Grady also asked why everyone seemed to be resigning at Waypoint. Mr. Hilton indicated that particular information could be shared in Executive Session at that there was nothing untoward associated with the resignations. Dr. Clyburn noted that there had been only one recent resignation. Mr. Hilton noted that the other teacher had left the program a few months previous due to personal (not professional) reasons and that the resignation was tendered effective during the recent period. She also noted the other recent resignation had been associated with an employee seeking a significantly different career.

Dr. Clyburn noted that the employees in education needed to be committed to wanting to be working with the population in the program. She noted that the desire to be working in that type of program was critical to ensuring the viability of staff and success of students.

Ms. Putnam made a motion to Bundle the Additions, Reductions & Changes in Status as indicated. Ms. Lonsdale seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes;
 Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack –
 yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

c. Cape Cod Municipal Health Group Rates

Discussion

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Thompson discussed the most recent information regarding the health and dental insurance rates for FY25 through the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG).

Mr. Murphy indicated that the CCMHG Board was a large Board that supported the provision of health insurance programming for municipal entities throughout the region.

He highlighted the commitment to individuals on the Steering Committee, including: David Flynn- Dennis-Yarmouth; Michael MacMillan-Monomoy; and, Erin Orcutt – Caper Cod Tech. He noted their tireless work in ensuring that negotiated rates were considered and reasonable.

Mr. Murphy also noted that increased employer contributions by some municipalities would create the necessity for the Collaborative to reconsider the cost sharing with employees in the future.

Mr. Murphy noted that CCMHG was projecting an 8% increase in the cost for health insurance plans for FY25 and a 0% for contributory dental insurance plans for FY25.

d. Legislative Breakfast for 2024

Discussion

The Fourteenth Annual Legislative Breakfast was held on January 26, 2024.

Mr. Hilton provided a review of the topics discussed at this event and encouraged Board members to provide their feedback. He noted that there had been a “wrap-up” included with the agenda for the event; however, the timing and “flow” of the event precluded the capacity for a “wrap-up” discussion. He noted that Ms. Gallagher-Byrne and Ms. Putnam had participated in the event.

Ms. Gallagher Byrne indicated that she had participated in the discussion about Special Education. She noted that the funding cuts that had been made to special education funding were a central topic. She noted that the Legislators were very willing to listen and that she was awaiting email responses to some of the activity form participants in her group. She highlighted the appreciation that she had for the start of the session occurring with Legislators in a different session. She explained that this allowed for the coordinated regional conversations to be “fresh” as the Legislators began participation.

Ms. Putnam explained to the Board that the session started with Legislators involved in discussions in a different part of the building while regional representatives met regarding the identified topics with the Legislators to be join the group and to be included later in the discussions. Mr. Putnam was informed that the Legislators were involved in discussion regarding vocational technical school admission lotteries with vocational technical school representatives.

Ms. Putnam indicated that she had participated in the Educator Development group. She highlighted the focus upon recruiting and retaining staff. She noted that there was considerable discussion regarding the challenge of housing for employees. She explained the critical need for specialized employees including: speech /language pathologists; occupational therapists, language teachers as well as bus drivers and support employees.

She noted that there was considerable discussion regarding the need to DESE to allow for flexibility in waivers and alternative licensure to support these challenges. She indicated that the Legislators sought to realize how they could support schools in addressing these challenges.

Mr. Hilton noted that the Legislators were entering the forum as the Governors budget had just been released and that those participating in the session had the information shared with them regarding the impact of the Governor’s Budget Proposal.

e. Trash Removal -Consider Award of Contract

VOTE

Mr. Hilton noted that Mr. Lipkind had solicited pricing from local and regional companies for trash removal.

Ms. Lipkind indicted that the current provider had indicated a willingness to match the lowest pricing; however, that vendor sent a subsequent invoice included a substantial increase from the higher price.

Ms. Lipkind she recommended that the Board award the contract to Barrows Waste Systems in Harwich, MA, the lowest bidder.

Mr. Mack made a motion to award the contract to Barrows Waste Systems in Harwich, MA, the lowest bidder. Ms. Grady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – yes; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Mr. McKiernan – yes ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

VI. Minutes

a. January 10, 2024

VOTE

Ms. Putnam made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2024 with one correction as Ms. Lythcott had attended the meeting. Mr. Mack seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – abstain; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – abstain; Mr. McKiernan – no vote ; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.

VII. Executive Session

It was necessary to enter into Executive Session:

(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, Review of Professional Staff Salary Grid Proposals for

**FY25, Review of Potential Change in Employer Health Insurance Contributions;
Special Education Administrator Posting and Recruitment.**

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.

Mr. Mack made to enter Executive Session for the aforementioned purpose with the board adjourning from Executive Session, not to return to Public Session. Ms. Putnam seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Fuller – yes; Ms. Grady – abstain; Ms. Medeiros – yes; Ms. Ackerman – yes; Mr. Davis – yes; Ms. Lonsdale – yes; Ms. Gallagher-Byrne – yes; Mr. Mack – yes; Ms. Brown – abstain;
Mr. McKiernan – no vote; Ms. Putnam – yes;

The motion passed.