

Executive Board of Directors of the
FLLAC Educational Collaborative
Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2018

Voting Members Present:

Dr. Maureen Marshall (Chair)
Ms. Loxi Jo Calmes
Ms. Paula Deacon
Dr. Joan Landers
Dr. Gary Mazzola
Dr. Steven Meyer
Mr. Mark Pellegrino
Dr. Elizabeth Schaper

Non-Members Present:

Dr. Richard Murphy
Ms. Terri Burchfield
Ms. Marsha Januskiewicz

Dr. Marshall called the board meeting to order at 8:30 am.

An announcement was made that this meeting was being recorded.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Landers motioned to approve the minutes of December 14, 2017. Mr. Pellegrino seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda taken out of order to accommodate an early departure of Ms. Burchfield.

Action Item:

Vote to approve revised fiscal policies-

Dr. Murphy explained that this revised fiscal policies included recommendations from the recent audit. Dr. Marshall motioned to place this revised fiscal policies on hold for 30 days for a public comment period and present it again at the next board meeting.

Mr. Pellegrino seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ms. Calmes recommended that members bring this document to the attention of their school committee.

Dr. Murphy mentioned that the Budget to Actual and the Warrant documents were placed on the table for anyone's examination.

Return to agenda order.

Discussion Items:

Footsteps to Brilliance Update-

Dr. Murphy explained that the Footsteps to Brilliance paperwork is complete and incurred approximately \$4500 in legal fees for the collaborative.

Dr. Mazzola arrived at 8:35 am.

Mental Health Supports-

Dr. Murphy polled the board as to interest in joining Interface through FLLAC. Dr. Murphy explained that those who wish to join will be able to enter at this year's rate. Some districts were not sure if they are interested. Dr. Murphy said that he will send out a survey to superintendents to confirm who wants to participate. The board agreed that they are not interested in FLLAC hiring a full time collaborative case management position that would be available to districts at a service related fee.

Space Update-

Dr. Murphy explained that after much research he does not feel the Caldwell Alternative building in Fitchburg is worth the expense necessary to bring it up to compliance. Dr. Murphy met with the Space Committee and they agreed to begin a search for a new location. Dr. Murphy agreed to bring a RFP to the next meeting.

Dr. Meyer arrived at 9:08 am.

Middle School Reconstruction-

Dr. Murphy informed the board that based upon an increase in Middle School referrals at both Caldwell Alternative and Caldwell Elementary he would like to add an additional classroom at Caldwell Elementary. Dr. Murphy explained that some renovations will

be necessary. Dr. Murphy clarified that Caldwell Alternative would continue to take students in 7th grade but the additional classroom at Caldwell Elementary would allow students to stay there if they are unable to move up due to less restrictive settings. Dr. Marshall asked that Dr. Murphy bring cost details associated with this expansion to the next board meeting.

Bay State Reading Institute-

Dr. Murphy inquired if anyone would be interested in learning more regarding Bay State Reading Institute. The board requested that Dr. Murphy research the cost and other details.

VGo sale and warranty transfer-

Dr. Murphy reported that a member district purchased a Vgo that they had been renting from FLLAC for \$4000. Dr. Murphy suggested using the funds from the purchase of this Vgo to purchase another Vgo. Dr. Murphy explained that the remainder of the 3 year warranty would be applied to a new Vgo and the district purchasing the Vgo will receive a discounted rate for a warranty. Dr. Schaper motioned to purchase a new Vgo. Dr. Landers seconded the motion. All in favor.

Blizzard Bags-

The board agreed to take no action at this time.

Action Items:

Vote to approve MH referral support from Project INTERFACE-

Dr. Landers motioned to approve FLLAC to enter into negotiations with Interface for those districts that are interested. Mr. Pellegrino seconded the motion. Dr. Schaper voted no. Motion passed, 7-yes, 1-no.

Vote to approve RFQ for Caldwell Alternative Feasibility Study-

No action taken until March 15th meeting.

Vote to approve new hires-

Dr. Landers motioned to approve the list of new hires. Mr. Pellegrino seconded the motion. Dr. Schaper abstained. Motion passed, 7-yes, 1- abstained.

Executive Director's Report:

Financial-

Dr. Murphy reported that although the FLLAC programs started the year under-enrolled they will continue to hold down staffing and associated costs until referrals pick up. Dr. Murphy referred to the Budget to Actual report distributed earlier and said that FLLAC is expected to finish in the black.

Professional Development-

Dr. Murphy informed the board that the annual Legal Workshop would be rescheduled due to another training on that date.

New Business:

Dr. Murphy distributed information regarding the need for Special Education Surrogate Parents. Ms. Calmes requested that Dr. Murphy send her this information electronically so she can forward it to her staff.

Ms. Calmes announced her upcoming retirement as Superintendent of Lunenburg Schools. The board expressed best wishes for her upcoming retirement.

Dr. Murphy explained that the state released information regarding the number of restraints by districts and that FLLAC was on the list. Dr. Murphy explained that due to the population of the students that restraint is often necessary. The board members understood the reasons for the data.

Adjournment:

Dr. Marshall motioned to adjourn at 10:01 am. Dr. Schaper seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Januskiewicz

Recording Secretary