



State Education Resource Center (SERC)

SERC
100 Roscommon Drive, Suite 110
Middletown, CT
Tuesday, April 3, 2018
3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SERC Board of Directors **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Present: Elizabeth Brown, George A. Coleman, Jeff Leake (Mr. Leake joined the meeting by telephone at 3:14 p.m. and left the meeting at 3:41 p.m.), Richard Porth (Mr. Porth joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.), Agnes Quinones, Charlene Russell-Tucker, Tom Swan (Mr. Swan left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.) and Jennifer Tooker (Ms. Tooker joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.).

Absent: Salvatore Menzo

Others Present: Ingrid M. Canady, Executive Director, Alice Henley, Director of Program Development, Carol Sullivan, Director of Library Programs and Services, Wendy Simmons, Director of Development, Community Affairs & Equity, Sonja Pasquantonio, Human Resources Coordinator, Michelle Weaver, Legislative Liaison, Kristy Giacco, Program Services Manager, and Jennifer LeBrun, SERC Executive Assistant.

I. Call to Order at 3:03 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by George A. Coleman, Interim Chair, at 3:03 p.m.

II. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

III. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the March 6, 2018 Special Board Meeting

“Motion to Approve the Draft Minutes of the March 6, 2018 Special Board Meeting”

Motion: Ms. Brown

Second: Dr. Quinones

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 5 (Brown, Coleman, Quinones, Swan, Russell-tucker)
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

IV. Debrief from Meeting with the Commissioner of Education and State Board of Education Members.

Mr. Coleman shared that a meeting was held on March 28, 2018 with Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, CSDE, Allan Taylor, Chair, State Board of Education, Estela Lopez, Vice Chair, State Board of Education, Joseph Vrabley, Member, State Board of Education, Elizabeth Brown, SERC Board of Directors, Jeffrey Leake, SERC Board of Directors and Ingrid Canady, SERC Executive Director. This meeting was held to discuss the future operations of SERC and its collaboration with the CSDE.

Mr. Coleman asked that Ms. Brown share her thoughts regarding the meeting.

Ms. Brown stated that there was a good representation at the meeting and that the conversation was open and honest. Ms. Brown stated that the Commissioner, committed to 4.2 million dollars for IDEA funding only for fiscal year 2018-2019. She shared that the CSDE expressed concern over the number of SERC staff and that the CSDE did not see that there will be funding for SERC as a Center in the future. Discussion centered on the IDEA operational costs and fee for service work. The CSDE spoke very highly of SERC and its mission and vision. There was continued conversation around the stated budget and SERC's programming.

Mr. Coleman followed the conversation by adding that he is hopeful for SERC's future funding and would like to see conversations happen more frequently between the CSDE and SERC. Mr. Coleman mentioned these conversations will allow SERC to know exactly what CSDE is expecting from SERC and how such work will occur. Mr. Coleman will be present in the future collaboration meetings between SERC and CSDE.

Mr. Coleman stated that it is apparent the State Board of Education is not fully aware of the current funding situation that SERC is facing. Mr. Coleman will suggest that the openings on the SERC Board of Directors be filled by State Board of Education Members.

Mr. Leake shared that he feels that there is a clear desire to have SERC continue its work with CDSE around IDEA. Mr. Leake is concerned about how the work will be completed with the current funding that is being discussed.

Ms. Russell-Tucker shared that she was not able to attend the meeting, but has been involved in internal conversations regarding SERC at the CSDE. It was stated that the Commissioner has implemented new procedures regarding future planning with SERC. Although 4.2 million is still the offer, a budget does not necessarily mean access to the funds should the agency remain open. During these meetings many questions were proposed around the 4.2 million dollar funding and the catch up that is needed around

programming. Ms. Russell-Tucker also informed members of the SERC Board that the Commissioner of Education is very concerned about the current rent that SERC is paying and that the CSDE is willing to assist SERC with obtaining a lower rent option. An additional meeting will be set up to continue conversations within the next couple of weeks.

There was general discussion.

V. **Executive Session to Discuss Future Operations of SERC**

“Motion to enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Future Operations of SERC”

Motion: Dr. Quinones
Second: Mr. Porth

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 8 (Brown, Coleman, Leake, Porth, Quinones, Russell-Tucker, Swan and Tooker)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

The Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:30 p.m.

Present were Board Members Ms. Brown, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Leake, Mr. Porth, Dr. Quinones, Ms. Russell-Tucker, Mr. Swan and Ms. Tooker. Ingrid M. Canady was also present for all of Executive Session.

“Motion to exit Executive Session at 4:53 p.m.”

Motion: Ms. Brown
Second: Mr. Swan

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 8 (Brown, Coleman, Leake, Porth, Quinones, Russell-Tucker, Swan and Tooker)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

VI. **Items for Discussion**

a. Future Operation of SERC

Discussed in Executive Session.

VII. **Action Item**

a. Approval of Resolution Regarding the Future Operation of SERC

The Resolution was read for the record by Elizabeth Brown.

Be it resolved that: “The Executive Director of the State Education Resource Center use the authority granted pursuant to CGS 10-357b to restructure the agency’s operations to include a significant reduction in workforce for fiscal year 2018-2019.”

“Motion to Approve Resolution Regarding the Future Operation of SERC”

Motion: Ms. Brown

Second: Dr. Quinones

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 5 (Brown, Coleman, Porth, Quinones, and Tooker)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 1 (Russell-Tucker)

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.