

SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
(SECEP)
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2021

The Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP) held its Joint Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, via *Zoom* in Norfolk, Virginia.

PRESENT: Board Members: Mr. Thomas Mercer, Mr. Robert Holt, Mr. Carlos Clanton, Mr. Vernon Tillage, Jr, and Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck,

ABSENT: Mrs. Vicky Hulick and Mrs. Kimberly Melnyk

PRESENT: Committee of Superintendents: Dr. Jared Cotton, Ms. K. Norletta Edmonds, Special Education Director, representing Dr. Tamara Sterling, Dr. Sharon Byrdsong, Dr. Michael Cromartie, Chief of Schools, representing Dr. Eley Bracy III, Dr. John Gordon, III, and Dr. Roni Myers-Daub, Executive Director of Special Education, representing Dr. Aaron Spence

ABSENT: Committee of Superintendents: Dr. Tamara Sterling, Dr. Jim Thornton, Dr. Elie Bracy, III, Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon, and Dr. Aaron Spence

PRESENT: SECEP Staff: Mr. David Sadler and Mrs. Brenda Estes

The Joint Board Meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m.

NOTE: Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, Vice-Chairperson, signed in at 1:01 P.M. to complete the voting process and finish out the board meeting.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Mr. Thomas Mercer, Chairperson, welcomed Mr. Vernon Tillage, as SECEP's newest board member representing Portsmouth Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Thomas Mercer, Chairperson, asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2020, Joint Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Carlos Clanton, and seconded by Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck. Motion carried. (Ayes 5, Nays 0.)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

SECEP FY2020 AUDIT:

Dr. Jared Cotton, Executive Officer of the Committee of Superintendents, stated that the Audit for FY2020 will be delayed until the March 24, 2021 meeting. The delay is due to Norfolk Public Schools completing their audit.

ADDITIONAL REQUEST TO CARRY OVER FY2020 FUNDS INTO FY2021 (FY2020 UNAUDITED FUND BALANCE):

Mr. Sadler, Executive Director, requested of the Superintendent's Committee to support and recommend to the SECEP Joint Board the utilization of \$418,500 of FY2020 carryover funds for a one-time bonus in the amount of \$500 per SECEP employee. The bonus is in recognition of the tremendous work that the SECEP employees have accomplished in the 2020-21 school year despite the challenges they have faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Jared Cotton, Chairperson of the Committee of Superintendents, stated that the committee had met earlier and support this request, and recommend that the Joint Board approve the \$418,500 in FY2020 unexpended funds for the bonus. A motion was made by Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, and seconded by Mr. Vernon Tillage. Motion carried. (Ayes 5, Nays 0.)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH:

Mr. Sadler stated that February is School Board Appreciation Month and extended his appreciation to our school board members for their continued advocacy and support to SECEP staff and students. Certificates of Appreciation will be sent to each board member and also to the alternate board members.

PROGRAM UPDATE:

SECEP continues to follow each division's in-person instruction and testing plans. Each division is using their own metrics and plans for bringing students back in to the Hybrid Model.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT REPORT:

Mr. Sadler reviewed the information presented on each program.

FY2022 BUDGET TIMELINES:

SECEP will be developing the FY2022 Budget based on the parameters from Norfolk Public Schools. The largest influence on the budget will be what NPS will decide about salaries.

A proposed budget will be presented to the Joint Board at the March 24, 2021 meeting. The final vote on the budget will take place at the May 26, 2021 meeting.

RECOGNITION OF JOINT BOARD MEMBER DR. CAROLYN MODLIN:

Mr. Sadler recognized Dr. Carolyn Modlin, School Board Member from Southampton County Public Schools. Dr. Modlin passed away in October 2020. Dr. Modlin sat on the SECEP Joint Board from September of 2014 through October 2020. The resolution was read and recorded into the minutes.

Mr. Mercer commented that Dr. Modlin was a wonderful member of the SECEP Joint Board, but also a wonderful member of her community of Southampton County. She was the Mayor of Boykins, played the organ at the Methodist Church in Boykins, and was truly a leader. She will be missed by all.

The resolution was accepted and the motion was made by Mr. Robert Holt, and seconded by Mr. Carlos Clanton. Motion carried. (Ayes 5, Nays 0.)

JOINT BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Carlos Clanton asked Mr. Sadler on how the Hybrid Model is working for SECEP students. Mr. Sadler stated that SECEP is following each division's in-person instruction model. Currently, the SECEP students are attending 5 days per week in Chesapeake, and 4 days per week in Virginia Beach, and Norfolk is still totally virtual. It is a variance based on each division. As students come back in to the Hybrid Model, SECEP is providing in-person instruction, as well as virtual instruction at the same time. We are working closely with parents to make sure our students are active and engaged.

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck apologized to the Joint Board for having to wait for her to sign in to vote as she had to give a Police Report.

Mr. Thomas Mercer stated that we must all pray for the safety of all board members as we are living through a divided time in our history.

PERSONNEL DOCKET:


A motion was made by Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, and seconded by Mr. Robert Holt to accept the Personnel Docket as presented. Motion carried. (Ayes 5, Nays 0).

THE NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:

The next meeting of the SECEP Joint Board will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mr. David B. Sadler
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED:



Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairperson