



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 9, 2020

MINUTES

On January 9, 2020, EdAdvance's Board of Directors held a meeting during which a quorum was present. Vice President Michelle Ku called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and recorded the following members in attendance:

1. Roll Call:

Name (District):	Michelle Ku, Newtown	Melissa Johnson, Plymouth
	Deb Bell, Region 7	John Kissko, Torrington

Guest: Patrice McCarthy, CABA

**EdAdvance
Personnel:** Jeffrey Kitching, Executive Director
Richard Carmelich, III, Chief Operations Officer

2. Approval of November 7, 2019 Minutes:

Upon a motion by John Kissko, duly seconded by Deb Bell, the Board approved the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting with 3 in favor and 1 abstention.

3. Questions and Comments from the Public: None

4. Communications:

a) Written:

Jeff passed around the Board Communications. He highlighted:

- ✓ Annual service report – List of things EdAdvance does for each individual district
- ✓ Article about Plymouth program (Partnership Learning Academy)
- ✓ Rankings of Birth-to-Three proposals showing EdAdvance had the highest ranking in the state. Learn and CREC lost part of their region. EdAdvance gained service area.

5. Old Business: None



6. New Business:

a) Presentation: Patrice McCarthy from CABA

Jeff introduced Patrice McCarthy to the Board. She talked about the legislative meeting held in Newtown this morning and that it went very well. She talked about being focused on priorities, special education/shared services will be a very big issue. CABA legislative priorities include strengthening support for social and emotional learning, removing the cap on the Special Education Excess Cost grant, attracting and retaining quality educators from diverse backgrounds and investing in programs that promote cultural competency for all educators.

Patrice spoke to Special Education Funding taskforce. There is legislation being drafted to support legislation; it creates a whole additional level of bureaucracy.

She also spoke to the issue of religious exemptions for vaccinations; this has interest of leaders at the Capitol. CABA is advocating for not leaving the deadline up to local boards of education.

Patrice asked if there are any other things CABA can be doing to support our boards. Jeff talked about how CES does a superintendent search process and EdAdvance does a lot on strategic planning. He said it would be nice for CABA to talk to some of the RESC people about a package that CABA and the RESCs could put together to help new superintendents and board members. Melissa Johnson mentioned that when there is a change in board membership, there is a perception that the Board is split; but it's okay that people come with different points of view. Patrice mentioned CABA is doing more work on civility.

Melissa asked about parents who want to delay their children vaccinations. If religious exemptions were removed, parents would not be able to delay vaccinations upon age of school entry.

b) Presentation: District Data

Jeff shared a document "How has EdAdvance Served your District in 2018-2019" that was tailored specifically for each district. He also reported that he will start another tour sometime in the fall to come out to see Boards again.

c) Update: Facilities

Jeff reported that we are very close to getting out of our lease at Mountainview Terrace in Danbury. Space is very expensive and not flexible.

Jeff talked about visiting potential spaces in Danbury. He will be working with the Danbury Superintendent to see if there are any available spaces in the city. We also need appropriate space for staff displaced by the Mountainview Terrace exit. Jeff discussed the other potential sites also.

In our northern districts, Jeff talked about the growth of the Steps program. The legislative proposal we are submitting is for \$2.5 million, for a combination of purchasing and



renovating school space in Torrington, if we can successfully work with the Board, Mayor and City Council.

Jeff mentioned that the Litchfield building is aging, not flexible, and there are restrictions to this location. Real value to the Litchfield site is the property. If things do happen with the legislature, we may look at options for the Litchfield property. There is not a lot we can do in this building to help our communities. Our goal is to have a solid presence in Torrington, Plymouth, Waterbury and the Danbury areas.

d) Discussion: Legislative Agenda

Jeff combined discussion of facilities (above) with discussion on legislative agenda. EdAdvance, along with the other five RESC's, has developed proposals requesting the legislature to fund Regional Special Education programs with "incentive funds".

e) Approval: Personnel Reports for November and December 2019

Upon a motion by Kissko, duly seconded by Deb Bell, the Board unanimously approved the Personnel Reports for November 2019 and December 2019 as submitted.

7. Reports/Updates

i. Executive Director's Report – *Dr. Jeffrey Kitching*

- Jeff handed out his presentation that he shared at the Legislative Breakfast meetings. He talked about how RESCs can be solutions.
- Went over the RESC legislative agenda which includes funding proposals for specific projects. EdAdvance is requesting funding for a transportation database system (\$100,000). He also discussed a proposal for a special education facility in the southern part of our region and partnering with CES to find a facility and staff a facility in the Danbury area.
- Jeff reported there will be a full financial report in February including budget and audit.
- Jeff spoke of working with Northwestern Hills COG on OPM grants. Said we are the only RESC that is working with the COG. We are putting in for \$500,000 for boiler at East School. We are also putting in money to work with Farm Hub – a collaborative in Torrington.

ii. Business and Operations - *Rich Carmelich*

- Rich discussed the reorganization of the transportation department and reported that everything is going well.
- Announced we will be bidding on some Newtown runs tomorrow.
- Held the annual training of drivers over Christmas break.

8. Adjournment

With the agenda completed and no further business to discuss, Vice President Michelle Ku adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

*Minutes recorded by:
Richard Carmelich, III,
Chief Operations Officer*

Deb Bell, Secretary