



Jeanne Sullivan, Executive Director

397 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038
Tel: 508.520.1998 • Fax: 508.520-1445
www.bicounty.org

Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2023

Meeting was held in person at the BICO Central Office.

Members

In attendance: Dr. Peter Marano, Bellingham
Dr. Jason DeFalco, Blackstone-Millville
Dr. Amy Berdos, Foxborough
Mr. Lucas Giguere, Franklin
Ms. Karen Crebase, Hopedale
Mr. Paul Zinni, King Philip
Dr. Ingrid Allardi, Norfolk
Dr. John Antonucci, North Attleboro
Dr. Joseph Baeta, Norton
Ms. Jennifer Parson, Plainville
Dr. Michael Baldassarre, Uxbridge
Dr. Cameron, Wrentham

Absent: Mr. David Sawyer, Attleboro
Dr. Lisha Cabral, Easton
Ms. Teresa Murphy, Mansfield
Dr. Kevin McIntyre, Milford
Mr. John Robidoux, Swansea
Dr. Karen Maguire, Tri-County
Dr. Bridget Gough, Walpole

Present: Ms. Jeanne Sullivan, Executive Director
Dr. Lincoln Lynch III, Interim Director of Finance and Operations
Mr. Joseph Meichelbeck, Treasurer
Ms. Holly Buttrick, Budget Manager
Ms. Anna Jewell, Executive Assistant

Mr. Marano called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Action Matters

Approval of Board Minutes from December 15, 2022

Motion by Dr. Baeta, seconded by Mr. Zinni to approve the regular session board meeting minutes dated December 15, 2022. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Dr. Cameron and Dr. Baldassarre were not present to vote.

Approval of Facilities Subcommittee Minutes from January 19, 2023

Motion by Dr. Baeta, seconded by Dr. Berdos to approve the facilities subcommittee meeting minutes dated January 19, 2023. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Dr. Cameron and Dr. Baldassarre were not present to vote.

Approval of Budget Subcommittee Minutes from January 31, 2023

APPROVED 4/13/2023

Motion by Mr. Zinni, seconded by Dr. DeFalco to approve the budget subcommittee meeting minutes dated January 31, 2023. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Dr. Cameron and Dr. Baldassarre were not present to vote.

Employee Appointments/Resignations/Leaves of Absence

Motion by Dr. Berdos, seconded by Dr. Allardi, to approve Employee Appointments/Resignations/Leaves of Absences as written. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Dr. Cameron and Dr. Baldassarre were not present to vote.

Amendment to Collaborative Agreement

As discussed at previous meetings it is necessary to amend the Collaborative Agreement to include Seekonk as a Member District as of July 1, 2023. The attached document reflects the addition as well as updates to clean up typos and bring language current and update dates. At the Board Meeting on Thursday, February 9, the BICO Board of Directors is requested to vote to approve the changes to the Collaborative Agreement. Provided that the Board of Directors approves the proposed Amendment to the Collaborative Agreement, the next steps are: BOD Members will present the Amended Collaborative Agreement to their School Committees for approval and vote. Motion by Mr. Zinni, seconded by Ms. Parson, to approve the Amendment to Bi-County's Collaborative Agreement. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Dr. Cameron and Dr. Baldassarre were not present to vote.

FY24 Budget - First Read

The budget subcommittee met on January 31, 2023 to review the financial status of BICO and develop a proposal for the FY24 budget. A summary of the FY24 Budget Proposal that was endorsed by the Budget Subcommittee is below:

- ❖ Budgeted Average # of Students is 190
- ❖ Increase in tuition and fees for service for Member School Districts is 10%.
- ❖ Differential between Member and Non Member School District tuition and service rates will be 25% .
- ❖ Implementation of a minimum commitment of 45-Days when placing a student (Comprehensive evaluation fee)
- ❖ Implementation of a 20-Day Notice of Student Withdrawal from BICO.
- ❖ Staff will receive a COLA increase. The increase represents the average of the increase for our Member Districts.
- ❖ Staff will receive a one-time payment to compensate for not paying COLA in FY23, to be paid in October of FY24, not to be included in the base salary schedule.
- ❖ Health Insurance and other benefits increase by 6.7% .
- ❖ Reinvest in Enhancement/Expansion of Programs, Capital Reserve, & OPEB

Jeanne Sullivan and Dr. Licoln Lynch, with the support of the budget subcommittee, requested that the Board:

- ❖ Vote to approve increase in tuition and services rates for FY 24 by 10% for Member Districts.
- ❖ Vote to approve the minimum 45 Day commitment (Comprehensive Evaluation Fee).
- ❖ Vote to approve the required 20 day notice to withdrawal of a student from BICO.

After a long discussion ensued, it was agreed that the language for the two policies proposed would be revised. Overall, the Board was very happy with and supportive of the first reading of the FY 24 Budget. Motion by Dr. Cameron, seconded by Mr. Zinni to approve increase in tuition and services rates for FY 24 by 10% for Member Districts. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Motion by Dr. DeFalco, seconded by Dr. Cameron to approve the minimum 45 Day commitment (Comprehensive Evaluation Fee) with revised language. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Motion by Dr. Cameron, seconded by Mr. Zinni to approve the required 20 day notice to withdrawal of a student from BICO with revised language. The roll call vote to approve was unanimous.

Informational Matters

FY23 Referral / Enrollment Update

Jeanne Sullivan provided an update on enrollment and referrals. Current enrollment as of February 9, 2023 was 197, which included 10, 45-day assessments and 187 placements in BICO Programs.

The Bi-County Collaborative does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs, and activities, on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, homelessness, disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, age, veteran or military status, ancestry, or genetic information.

APPROVED 4/13/2023

FY23 Budget Update

Dr. Lynch provided a Financial Update as of the month ending December, 2022. He provided a breakdown of the Revenues and Expenses. Dr. Lynch said that BICO is in a healthy financial position.

Facilities Update

Dr. Lynch presented the board with various updates around the collaborative facilities. There has been an updated security swipe system installed at Summit in Walpole. Updated cameras were also installed. The main office also installed a security camera after checks were intercepted from the BICO mailbox. As far as potential new facilities, Jeanne and Dr. Lynch have toured many venues and are working on reviewing a few frontrunners.

Routine Matters

Approval of Payroll Warrants

Approval of Bill Warrants

Adjourn

Motion by Mr.Zinni, seconded by Dr. Cameron, to adjourn the open meeting at 10:23 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.