



**Executive Director Report  
September 17, 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update**

**Roundtables and Meetings for FY 21**

We hope to provide roundtable opportunities to non-membership districts for a fee, as discussed in May and June of 2020. Due to the current pandemic, we have delayed further outreach in this manner. However, we will continue to pursue this additional service in September. With an initial inquiry, we learned of interests in roundtables for athletic directors and diversity. The Board will receive an update at the next Board meeting on the progress.

Below is a list of other roundtables providing dates and times for FY20. We will continue to provide more roundtable information as the dates are finalized.

Board	EFC	Sup't. (potential)	PAC	SC Members	Sp. Ed. Admin.	BCBAs	Team Chairs	K-8 ELA	K-5 Soc. St.
Th	Th	W	Th	W	F	Th	Th	F	M
9:30 – 11:30	9:30-11:00	3:00-4:30	8:30-10:30	9:30- 11:00	12:00- 2:00	8:45- 10:45	12:30-2	12:30- 2:30- pm	9:00- 11:00am
9/17/20	9/10/20	10/14/20	9/17/2020	10/14/20	10/16/20	10/8/20	10/15/2020	10/2/20	10/5/2020
11/12/20	11/5/20*	11/18/20	10/15/2020	11/18/20	11/20/20	11/12/20	12/17/2020	11/6/20	11/2/2020
1/21/21	1/14/21	1/13/21	11/19/2020	1/13/21	1/22/21	1/14/21	1/21/2021	12/4/20	1/4/2021
3/4/21	2/25/21	3/17/21	12/17/2020	3/17/21	3/19/21	2/25/21	3/18/2021	1/8/21	2/8/2021
4/15/21	4/8/21	4/28/21	1/21/2021	4/28/21	4/30/21	4/1/21	5/20/2021	2/5/21	3/8/2021
5/13/21	5/6/21	6/2/21	2/25/2021		6/4/21	5/20/21		3/5/21	5/3/2021
			3/18/2021					4/9/21	
	*11:30 AM start		4/15/2021					5/7/21	

K-12 Math	K-5 Science	Tech Leadership	Instr. Tech Spec.	Network Mgrs.	Data Managers	Library
F	M	F	T	Th	T	F
1:00-3:00 pm	9:00-11:00am	9:00-11:00am	1:00-3:00pm	9:00-11:00am	9:00-11:00am	8:30 - 10:30
10/16/20	10/19/20	9/18/20	9/22/20	9/24/20	10/27/20	10/2/20
11/20/20	12/14/20	10/9/20	10/6/20	10/22/20	1/26/21	11/6/20
1/15/21	1/11/21	11/13/20	11/10/20	1/21/21	5/18/21	12/4/20
3/19/21	3/15/21	1/8/21	1/12/21	3/25/21		1/8/21
5/21/21	5/10/21	2/12/21	6/8/21	6/10/21		2/5/21
		3/12/21				3/5/21
		4/9/21				4/9/21
		5/7/21				5/7/21

**New employees**

EDCO New Personnel as of 9/4/20

**Kathrine Gilman – Math Teacher Youth Alternative Program** Kathrine Gilman joins EDCO Collaborative as our new math teacher for the Youth Alternative program in Boston. Prior to joining us, she was the high school math teacher at Chelsea High School, an 8th grade math teacher for Trinity Education in excellence program in Boston, and a math/science tutor in West Virginia at WVU Upward Bound. Kathrine holds a master’s degree in teaching from BU, and a bachelor of arts in history with a minor in mathematics and German from WVU.



**Eileen Laband – School Nurse, Bedford Programs** Eileen Laband was hired in March as our school nurse, just in time for COVID to hit our schools. Prior to working at EDCO Collaborative, Eileen was a manager for patient and family-centered care at Beverly Hospital, a patient safety and quality manager, project manager, and a nurse manager for medical-surgical intensive care unit for Boston Children’s Hospital. Eileen has her master’s degree in healthcare management from BU, a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Hunter College. Since her tenure, Eileen has been pivotal at EDCO in establishing protocols, reviewing and providing recommendations in our re-entry plans, and has been working with the nursing association for the state of Massachusetts to ensure we are setting up required protocols. She has gone above and beyond in assisting our administration and staff in ensuring our safety.



**Jena Mazzetti – Transitions Specialist, Bedford Programs** Jena is our new transitions specialist for our Bedford programs. Prior to joining EDCO Collaborative, Jena worked as the school to career coordinator at Waltham high school, a college and career counselor at Dearborn Academy in Newton MA, and a literacy Lab teacher for Arlington High School. For those of you interested in sports, beware, Jena is competitive. In fact, she was a successful JV softball coach in Arlington. Jena is also certified as a school counselor, and cooperative education coordinator. She received her master's degree in school counseling, from Assumption College, and a bachelor of art degree majoring in Psychology and a minor in secondary education from Salve Regina university in Newport.



**Mary O'Regan – Central Office Executive Administrative Assistant** Prior to joining EDCO Collaborative, Mary was the Executive Assistant to the President at the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, the principal/financial secretary at Blanchard Middle School in Westford, and an administrative manager for The Engineering Center in Boston. Mary has a bachelor's of arts degree from UNH, completed graduate work at Metropolitan College at Boston University and for some additional interests, completed her real estate licensing course through Delaware Technical College. Mary began working for us in the Central Office in August.



**Sunrey Reis – Culinary Arts Instructor/Food Services Director, Bedford Programs** Sunrey Reis is our new culinary arts instructor and food services director. Prior to working at EDCO Collaborative, Sunrey was an operations manager for Chica de Gallo in Boston, a bakery production manager at Stone and Skillet, and a production manager for Boston Cookies. Sunrey has a bachelor's degree in photography from Massachusetts College of Art, a certificate of study in culinary arts at the Cambridge School of Culinary Art, and a certificate of study in artisan bread baking from San Francisco Baking Institute.



**Fernando Santos – History/Humanities and Special Education**

**Teacher, Youth Alternative** Fernando Santos is our new history/humanities and special education teacher for the Youth Alternative Program in Boston. He will be working at Brighton High School this year. Prior to joining our program, Fernando work as a 7th grade social sciences teacher for Putnam Avenue Upper School in Cambridge, a Postgraduate Transition Coordinator for Boston Public Schools and a 6th grade geography teacher and 7th grade history teacher at Boston Preparatory Charter Public School in Hyde Park. Fernando was also a varsity head coach. His teams had 4 consecutive playoff appearances in 5 years. Fernando has a master’s degree in education from the UMASS Boston, and a bachelor of arts degree in history from UMASS Amherst.



**Dylan Scott – Counselor, Bedford Programs**

Dylan Scott is our new counselor who will be working in our Bedford Programs. Prior to joining EDCO Collaborative, Dylan was a paraprofessional at Woburn Public Schools. During the interview process, Dylan quickly impressed not only Program Director Will Verbits with his lesson, but the students as well. Dylan has a master of education in School Counseling from Merrimack College and a bachelor of arts in human development and human services and communication and media, also from Merrimack College.

**Interns**

**William James College** - We will continue to partner with William James College this year and have begun our partnership with Harvard University. We will have two (2) counselor interns throughout this school year, who will be assisting in our Bedford programs. They will be attending two (2) days a week. The names of the two interns are:

- Alex Smoolca
- Emily Martin

We had an amazing experience last year with our partnership and look forward to another great year.

**Harvard University** - In addition, we will have an intern from Harvard University who is focusing on school leadership. The name of this intern is:

- Phillip Nguyen - [resume](#), [bio](#), [program fieldwork guidelines](#)

He will be attending for seven (7) weeks in September and October, for up to ten (10) hours per week, and will be supporting the senior leadership in rebranding our

programs/organization, supporting the strategic plan, and assisting with identifying recruiting strategies to support diverse populations in the workforce.

### **Vacancies**

We have the following vacancies:

- 1. Executive Director as of November 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- 2. ELA Teacher – Bedford Programs**
- 3. CAD/3-D Printing Teacher – Bedford Programs**
- 4. Interpreter – DHH Newton Program**

### **Organizational chart**

Due to the changes that have occurred since FY 20, you will see an updated organizational chart to reflect the changes in central office. Specifically, we have moved Dana Mullaley into a new role as the Coordinator of Professional Learning and Special Projects. Andrew Kelley, the former Director of Professional Learning and Community Education has taken on a position at University of New Hampshire and we have decided not to fill this position. Additionally, we have hired The Management Solution as our business consultants. We no longer have MMEP as part of our organizational chart, and we have changed the executive assistant role to be more inclusive of central office, now identified as the Central Office Executive Administrative Assistant.

### **Grant recipients**

Workforce skills grant - EDCO has received \$115,000 to support the 18-22 Career Pathways program, by creating a state of the art test kitchen for the culinary program.

CCTE Grant – EDCO has received \$200,000 to support gateway communities in attending the 18-22 Career Pathways program, providing funding for salaries and transportation.

### **Grant loss**

MMEP – On August 24<sup>th</sup>, EDCO was notified by DESE that the MMEP grant was transferred to CES Collaborative, in Western, MA. Therefore, we had to provide notice to all MMEP staff they were no longer employed by EDCO Collaborative. This included a payout of their vacation days, eliminating the lease in New Bedford and Springfield locations. DESE denied the payout of staff vacation days, which is being reviewed by legal counsel.

### **Educator Leadership Institute**

We will begin cohort 18 in January 2021 with a new partnership. In the past, we provided a master's degree program in partnership with Endicott College. However, this new cohort will begin a new partnership with Fitchburg State University (FSU). The Director of the program, David Castelline, and the Executive Director, Nadine Ekstrom, have been working collectively with FSU in aligning the program's coursework with the expectations of FSU. Last Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Dean from FSU approved EDCO's proposal to waive some requirements to ensure the high quality instruction from EDCO will continue to provide the success rate of their candidates. David

Castelline and Nadine Ekstrom will continue to develop the new special education course which is now required as part of this program.

### **Construction**

The construction on the school side will begin in the middle of September, to enhance the test kitchen for the culinary program. This is grant funded through the workforce skills grant. James Amara is leading this project and working closely with The Management Solution on the requirements of this work.

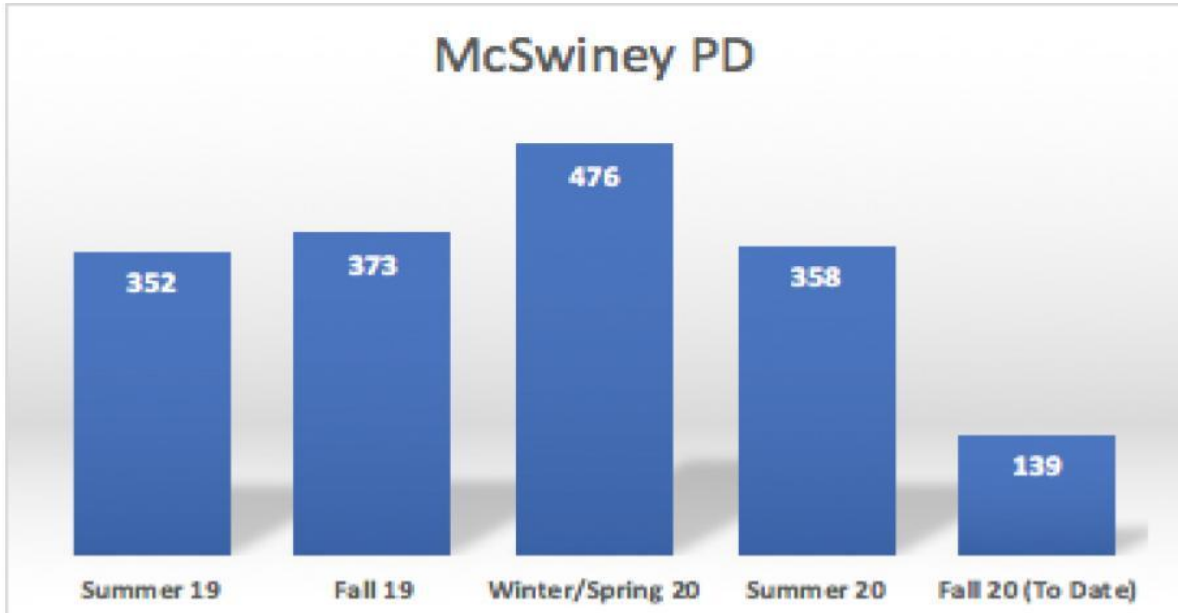
### **New Initiatives**

Remote Learning - EDCO partners with Edgenuity in providing remote learning. After reviewing DESE's proposal and comparing it with EDCO's offerings, it's important to recognize that the cost for EDCO members to participate in this offering is LESS EXPENSIVE than that of DESE's proposal and the services are more thorough with follow through on behalf of EDCO.

Homeschool Liaison – EDCO has offered to support districts across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as they are experiencing an increase in homeschooling demands. Although there have been many questions from many districts across Massachusetts regarding homeschooling, the services have not yet been provided.

### **McSwiney Training Comparisons**

It's important to realize that the trainings have changed significantly since last year. This is due to the COVID pandemic. EDCO shifted the trainings from face-to-face models to remote professional development models. You will notice that there was a large population during the fall/spring season. We are pleased to report that we had more attendees in our professional development this summer than last summer. However, it is important to note that the majority of this participation is due to the IDEAS instructors and their capacity of creating remote trainings so quickly. Although the fall is currently lower than last year, please keep in mind this is only the month of September and our fall season is just beginning.



#### Student Enrollment as of September 17, 2020:

Our student enrollment includes a combination of students from member districts and non-member districts. We are seeing an increase in interest in our school programs, including our 18-22 Career Pathways program, as we are now reaching out to Gateway communities to create partnerships in providing learning opportunities for their students.

ENROLLMENT AS OF 9/10/20							
NCA ENROLLM	20 students (13 - NM / 7 - M)	45 Day	2 students (NM)	DHH	10 students (7 - NM / 3 - M)	Career Pathw	2 students (1 - NM / 1 - M)
Grade	District	Grade	District	Grade	District	Age	District
8	Littleton	8	Framingham	6	Bedford		19 Newton
8	Framingham	11	Cambridge	7	Lincoln		18 Barnstable
9	Framingham/Boston			8	Woburn		
9	Lawrence			9	Salem		
10	Waltham			10	Tyngsborough		
10	Natick			11	Stoneham		
10	Belmont			12	Lincoln-Sudbury		
10	Arlington			12	Somerville		
10	Littleton/Ayer Shirley			12	Salem		
10	Arlington			Post-grad	Salem		
11	Belmont						
11	Newton (prg)						
11	Lawrence (prog)						
11	Leominster						
11	Boston						
12	Framingham						
12	Framingham						
12	Acton/Boxborough						
12	Billerica						
SP	Groton/Dunstable						
<b>REFERRALS:</b>	<b>16 (12 - NM / 4 - M)</b>						

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nadine G. Ekstrom, Ph.D.