

RIVESP Advisory Board
9-9-08
5:00PM – 6:30PM
TechACCESS of RI
110 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Minutes

Present:

Paul Loberti
Elizabeth Frampton
Greg Waldorf
Chris Butler
Gloria Stuart
Stephanie Russo excused
Themmi Evangelatos excused
Judi Lundsten
Terrance Chapman

Ex Officio members

Clare Irwin
Phyllis Lynch excused K Swanson RIDE
Linda Hughes
Deb Garneau (Dept of Health)
The Guests:
Jayne Rabideau, and Bob Wall Northern Collaborative
Linda McMullen, RIPIN
Judi Hamerlind Carlson, TechACCESS
Al Williams, Grandparent

Call to Order:

meeting was called to order by Paul Loberti, Elizabeth Frampton at 5:03 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes:

6/10 and 8/12 Unanimous approval

Old Business

Paul gave update of homework assignment.

#1 Assignment: Members can have another month to review and prioritize the RI Agenda. **At the next meeting devote considerable time to this prioritization. Members please be ready with your priorities for this.** Al and Linda spoke of the need for documenting stories. Linda mentioned RIPIN may be able to assist by documenting these individual stories.

#2 Assignment: How do we keep the AB going? Elizabeth began with a briefing of a meeting she and Phyllis had last week. Paul was scheduled to attend, but could not. Elizabeth and Phyllis wondered if the members of the RIVESP AB are keeping up with the volume of materials and concepts and Elizabeth asked the group how that was going. Members were asked to participate by giving us their ideas. Al said he liked the idea very much that we all take a goal (of the RI Agenda). Elizabeth agreed and felt that our Strategic Plan was well accepted by national partners. Linda from RIPIN mentioned it may be a good start to simplify the Strategic Plan for parents, simplify. Linda suggested narrowing down the

goals by priority as suggested and then try to capture those for parents in a simpler form (e.g., brochure).

Judi Carlson suggested we start to be specific and formulate workgroups and acknowledge those who actually have begun implementing the RI agenda. RIVESP should invite the individuals to participate in the work groups. Bob Wall suggested that we create an action plan with 4-5 goals then I'd the top issues, then formulate workgroups, and the specifics of all the RI Agenda. All agreed to formulate workgroups. All agreed that a diversity of individuals on the workgroups is needed (e.g., professionals from LEAs, parents, TVIs, etc). **Elizabeth, Paul and Clare will meet to discuss workgroup formation and then email folks as to the proposed structure.**

#3 Assignment: Parent's group revival: Linda made specific recommendations to advance the parents group and mentioned that RIPIN had significant resources built into their agency functions to assist. Also mentioned was to publicize a meeting of the parent's group in the RIPIN newsletter. Focus on LEA Advisory Committees (LACS). Creation of a brochure for the parents' group was suggested by Elizabeth per a discussion with Phyllis to be published by RIDE. Ken mentioned that we need to be specific regarding what is in the brochure...e.g., unique IEP recommendations, website resources, RI resources, etc... **Elizabeth asked folks to email us regarding their perspective on how to communicate with parents and ideas regarding reformulating the parents' group.** Dr. Waldorf mentioned he will begin to mention the RI Parents of the Blind and Visually Impaired Children in the introductory letter he sends to parents. Please email Phyllis (Phyllis.Lynch@ride.ri.gov), within the next couple of weeks so we can formulate ideas for the next meeting. Linda asked of parents group was willing reach out statewide, and Elizabeth and Paul agreed this is important. Linda mentioned the program called Circle of Parents which is a support group and perhaps RIPVIC. We will share all ideas with the members. Judi mentioned that the concept of the parents group is a task level and perhaps we should consider this as another workgroup issue.

New Business:

#1 Northern Collaborative: Bob outline the process of the Northern Collaborative (NC) regarding roll out of NIMAS. Bob met with LEAS and has sought needs form them. Bob has found that schools have struggled with meeting the timelines regarding materials, purchase, etc. Bob's goal is to make this a paperless process and LEAS can submit forms electronically. This may expedite the ordering, etc. RIDE has insured that blind and visually impaired children are a priority to receive materials. An overview regarding aggregate numbers of children involved at LEAs was given.

Paul asked the question regarding the repository. There are some misunderstandings regarding the purpose and the functionality of a repository. The 38 LEAs are independent and text books vary widely across the state. Bob mentioned there is a physical place at NC where there are books (e.g., Braille, etc.) and other materials. Jayne mentioned the complexities associated with the files and readable conversions. It was mentioned there are 7,000 individual books in RI alone across districts. Al mentioned if ordering of books can be more consistent by mandating titles. Ken mentioned the notion of a statewide curriculum is political and LEAs traditionally have selected and determined their curriculum. The matrix that was circulated reviewed those LEAs that have accessed NIMAC. It does not tell the whole story regarding the need for electronic and/or accessible text.

Paul asked the question relating to the comprehensive nature of thinking about IMAA and accessible materials regarding non-electronic materials. Large print books, enlargement of

worksheets. He asked what the thinking has been regarding these materials and trying to create a system that works for LEAs so that these non-electronic materials are accessible. Bob spoke of how large print books are more efficient than enlargements, per se.

A good discussion was had regarding the process of identifying, ordering and receiving materials. The point surfaced regarding the responsibility of LEAs to provide accessible materials that may be elicited in the classroom. This is still a challenge for LEAs. Also training regarding technology, electronic access is necessary for teachers, administrators, parents, etc. to create a better understanding of the how and what of appropriate learning and accessibility.

The question was asked what is needed to make NC grow.

Next meeting October 14th 2008, 4:30PM – 6:30PM @ TechACCESS

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

PGL recorder