

Regional Board of Superintendents' Meeting

Northern Rhode Island Collaborative

Main Office

2352 Mendon Road

Cumberland, RI 02864

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Regional Board of Superintendents was held at the Main Office, 2352 Mendon Road, Cumberland, RI 02864, on **Tuesday, October 5, 2004**. The meeting was called to order at 1:16 p.m. by Mr. Joseph Nasif, Chairman.

In addition to Mr. Nasif, the following board members were present: Mrs. Hanley, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Ottoviano, and Dr. VonVillas, as well as, Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, Robert E. Fricklas, Assistant Director, and Eugene LaBonte, Business Manager.

Routine Matters:

Mr. Nasif entertained a motion to approve Items 1 - 4, which was moved by Dr. VonVillas, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of September 7, 2004

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. VonVillas	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Hanley
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. O'Brien		Mr. Nasif
			Dr. Ottoviano

2.0 Bills for the month of September 2004

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. VonVillas	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Hanley
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. O'Brien		Mr. Nasif
			Dr. Ottoviano

Executive Session:

The Board agreed to take Executive Session out of order.

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Nothing to report

Appointments:

4.0 Appointment of Elizabeth Mulligan, Instructional Assistant in the RAP Program

The Executive Director recommended the appointment of Elizabeth Mulligan as a new Instructional Assistant in the RAP Program.

Moved: Dr. VonVillas
Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

Approved: Ms. Hanley
Mr. Nasif
Dr. Ottoviano

New Business:

5.0 Annual Meeting Date

The Executive Director reported that due to a problem last year with the date of our Annual Meeting with the Woonsocket School Committee, we are asking that the districts advise us the dates they are not available by indicating such on the March 2005 calendar provided to them. We will discuss at the November meeting.

6.0 2003 Financial Review

Mr. LaBonte, Business Manager, reported that the 2003 financial audit is almost complete and at this point shows a deficit of \$107,000. Mr. LaBonte attributes the deficit to a combination of two things – applying prior years' surplus to reducing tuition and not reaching the budgeted amount of students until January/February.

Mr. LaBonte advises that no action is required by the Board. The deficit will be handled by a reduction of the surplus account. Mr. LaBonte indicated that we are well ahead of our budget this year for student population, however, it is still early.

7.0 St. James Lease - Revised Draft 2005/08

The Executive Director reported that Fr. Dick Desaulniers of St. James Church contacted us to advise that Mt. St. Francis Daycare, the other tenants at St. James School, will not be occupying that space for next school year as the Diocese will no longer be funding that program. Fr. Desaulniers offered those classrooms to the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative, which would increase from the current eight (8) classrooms to fourteen (14). Fr. Desaulniers submitted a draft of a revised lease for 2005-2008 for the Board's review.

The Executive Director reported that a review of our programs would take place to determine how best to consolidate classrooms. After discussion of our leases at our other sites, Mr. MacDonnell requested the Board's approval of the revised St. James Lease for 2005-08 increasing our number of classrooms to 14.

Moved: Ms. Hanley
Seconded: Dr. VonVillas

Approved: Mr. Nasif
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Ottoviano

Old Business:

8.0 Nothing to report.

Informational Matters:

9.0 School Committee Leadership Seminars

The Executive Director provided information received from Lizann Gibson, Executive Director of the Southern R.I. Collaborative. SORICO is sponsoring a series of six school committee leadership seminars and would like to share this information with the Superintendents for the possibility of offering these seminars across the four collaboratives. Ms. Gibson will contact Mr. MacDonnell for a future date for the seminar to be held at Northern R.I. Collaborative. Mr. MacDonnell will keep the Board informed.

10.0 Virtual High Schools

The Executive Director provided an information packet on Virtual High Schools and reported that there is a grant underway for high schools that have a 40% reduced lunch enrollment. The intent is to offer AP classes to students in eligible high schools that may not be offered due to budget constraints. The grant will fund the school for two years.

The Collaboratives as a group are working to develop a network for Rhode Island, whereby student slots could be purchased by any local district. Students may access the course from school or at home through the internet. Central Falls has indicated an interest in the program.

Liz Pape is in charge of the program in Massachusetts and is currently doing presentations on the program. Mr. MacDonnell indicated that if the Board is interested, he could invite Ms. Pape to a future Board meeting. After discussion, the Board indicated they would be interested in a presentation by Ms. Pape.

Round Robin:

Mr. O'Brien brought forward information on professional development opportunities being offered by the East Bay Collaborative and questioned if Northern R.I. Collaborative could get involved in such opportunities. After discussion of the need for professional development and the possible use of Mr. David Kane, it was agreed to add this item on to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5(a) 1&2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, Mr. Nasif entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, which was moved by Dr. VonVillas, seconded by Ms. Hanley, carried by all.

The closed session ended at 1:50 p.m.

- Back in Open Session, Mrs. Hanley asked the new Executive Director, Mr. MacDonnell, regarding the status of the new building as far as its vision and fund raising efforts.

Mr. MacDonnell responded that nothing has been done at this point. He expressed concern with segregating students as a result of a recent RIDE OSEP visit and RIDE's desire to educate students in the least restrictive environment. Mr. MacDonnell indicated the new site has the potential for a new preschool/kindergarten center and that an inclusive program is paramount. He will be meeting with Tom DiPaola on this issue and will place this item on next month's agenda for discussion.

Dr. VonVillas asked how the Collaborative creates inclusive situations. Dr. Fricklas gave examples of our current inclusive programs at the Monastery with the KinderPals Program integrating with Cumberland students; our preschool program at Child Care Connection; our elementary RAP program at North Smithfield Elementary School; our RAP & SAP programs at St. Teresa's School; and any other classes that are currently housed in district schools. Dr. Fricklas noted that each site promotes inclusion as it benefits both students and teachers.

Also discussed was the possibility of utilizing the new site for a specialty area. Dr. Fricklas noted that our Apartment site simulates life skills and that program could be expanded into developing a transition academy for community-based learning.

- Due to the importance of these discussions, Mr. O'Brien expressed his concern with Board meeting attendance and barely reaching a quorum. He suggested that a possible change in meeting time may help attendance. Mr. MacDonnell will survey the Board regarding their preference in changing the meeting dates and will place on the agenda next month.

With no further information to report, Mr. Nasif entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 p.m., which was moved by Dr. VonVillas and seconded by Mr. O'Brien, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Jannetta