

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, June 7, 2005**. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Mr. Joseph Nasif, Chairman.

In addition to Mr. Nasif, the following board members were present: Dr. Chevrette, Dr. D'Acchioli, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Ottaviano, Dr. Tindall-Gibson, and Dr. Watkins, as well as, Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, Dr. Robert Fricklas, Assistant Director, and Craig Enos, Business Manager. Guest: Attorney Benjamin Scungio.

Mr. Nasif entertained a motion to approve today's agenda, which was moved by Dr. D'Acchioli and seconded by Mr. O'Brien, carried by all.

Routine Matters:

Dr. D'Acchioli motioned to approve Items 1 - 4 and Item 6, which was seconded by Mr. O'Brien, carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of May 3, 2005

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. D'Acchioli	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Chevrette
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. O'Brien		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Nasif
			Dr. Ottaviano
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

2.0 Bills for the month of May 2005

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. D'Acchioli	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Chevrette
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. O'Brien		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Nasif
			Dr. Ottaviano
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

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 at 1:22 p.m., which was moved by Dr. D'Acchioli, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, and carried by all.

The closed session ended at 1:55 p.m.

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Nothing to report.

Appointments:

4.0 Nothing to report.

New Business:

6.0 Rescind Employment Non-Renewals:

The Executive Director recommended the employment non-renewals for the following personnel be rescinded:

Teachers - RAP

Steve Auclair
Peter Hainsworth
Talia Leary
John Leeds

Teachers - SAP

Gretchen Crawford
Cynthia Kupiec
Joanne Moretti
Wendy Williams

Adapted Physical Ed

Ryan Barrette

Occupational Therapists

Erin Manchester

Moved: Dr. D'Acchioli

Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

Approved: Dr. Chevrette
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Nasif
Dr. Ottaviano
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. Watkins

7.0 Non-Union Salary Rates for 2005-06

Mrs. Jannetta, Secretary, stepped out of the meeting at this time for discussion of this item.

The Executive Director recommended a 3.5% salary increase for non-union personnel for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Moved: Dr. D'Acchioli

Seconded: Dr. Chevrette

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Nasif
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Ottaviano
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. Watkins

8.0 St. Teresa's Lease 2005-06

The Executive Director reported that negotiations are still taking place with Rev. Paquette at St. Teresa's Parish for renewal of our lease. Mr. MacDonnell will bring back to the Board when complete.

Mrs. Jannetta returned to the meeting at this time.

5.0 Operating Budget 2005-06

The Executive Director reported that after an analysis of private special education tuition rates obtained from RIDE, copies of which were distributed to the Board, the Collaborative's tuition rates would increase 4% for the RAP Program and 5% for the SAP Program. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the Collaborative's rates are still well below the other programs.

Mr. Craig Enos, Business Manager, reported on the following details of the budget:

- There was a 4% increase in salaries from last year
- 70% of last year's budget was for salaries; this year salaries are 65% of the budget
- Worker's comp rates increased 52% from last year due to the risk ratio in the last 3-4 years. There were 40 Worker's comp claims last year compared to under 15 claims this year.
- United Healthcare insurance rates will increase 21-25%; Delta Dental will increase 7%.

Mr. MacDonnell advised that last year we ended the year in a deficit; however, this year we will end the year in a surplus, which will then reduce the percentage increase in tuition rates to the districts.

Mr. MacDonnell advised that this year's budget represents a loss in the following positions: one Program Coordinator, one RAP teacher, one Teacher Assistant, and one Clerk. He advised that our student enrollments for 2005-06 are solid.

The auditors will be at the Main Office to conduct their audit some time in July.

Dr. D'Acchioli motioned to approved the NRIC Operating Budget for 2005-06 as presented, which was seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. D'Acchioli
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Chevrette
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Nasif
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. Watkins

9.0 Dr. Victor Pedro

Mr. Nasif, Chairman, reported that he requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Nasif advised that after a request from the former Cumberland Mayor McKee to enter into an agreement with Dr. Pedro to work with Cumberland children, he expressed mixed reaction to Dr. Pedro's work. Mr. Nasif felt Dr. Pedro was going to use Cumberland students as guinea pigs and expressed concern with his billing methods. Mr. Nasif felt there was no scientific data to support his claims to cure ADHD students and cautioned the Collaborative on getting involved. Mr. Nasif indicated that the new Mayor Iwuc wants to move forward with the project and is planning on utilizing space in town formerly promised to the Cumberland School Department.

Mr. MacDonnell reported that Dr. Pedro received a R.I. Legislative Grant for \$150,000. A report on the results of this grant was provided to the Board, "Infinite Potential Program: Cortical Integrative Therapy Pilot Summary". Mr. MacDonnell advised that the Collaborative was the fiscal agent for this grant.

Discussion ensued on Dr. Pedro's work and the possibility of offering Dr. Pedro's service to the districts. Dr. Fricklas suggested that the Collaborative do a pilot program with the students and indicated that there is a possibility of Dr. Pedro receiving a \$1.6M grant through the National Institute of Health.

Ms. Iacovelli left the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

10.0 Strategic Planning

The Executive Director reported that Mr. O'Brien requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion in light of his new Chairmanship, new Collaborative Administration, and new Board members, in order to set a direction for the future of the Collaborative.

Mr. O'Brien advised that he would like to bring together all Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Business Managers for a one-day planning session in order to determine where are we, what are our needs, what are the areas where we can reduce costs and provide better service. Other suggested areas of discussion are common professional development throughout the districts, collaborative purchasing, and the Epheta House property. Mr. O'Brien suggested a mission and a 5-year plan be determined and that a facilitator be brought in for a meeting in early August.

Old Business:

11.0 NRIC Main Office Lease

The Executive Director reported that as requested at the previous Board meeting, the Fire Marshal inspected the Main Office to ensure compliance before signing the two-year lease

with North Country Associates. The Fire Marshal identified two areas of concern and those items were corrected and we are now in full compliance. Dr. D'Acchioli motioned to approve the renewal of the Main Office lease for two years, seconded by Mr. O'Brien.

Moved: Dr. D'Acchioli

Approved: Dr. Chevrette

Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

Mr. Nasif

Dr. Ottaviano

Dr. Tindall-Gibson

Dr. Watkins

Dr. Watkins left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Informational Matters:

12.0 Virtual High Schools

13.0 Professional Development Academy - Summer II Session

14.0 East Grant

The Executive Director provided the above for information purposes.

Mr. Nasif reported the following votes took place in Executive Session:

- The Business Manager's contract was approved with revisions to be made by Attorney Scungio.
- The Executive Director was awarded a 4% salary increase and the implementation of a \$300 co-pay in the second year of his contract and a percentage increase in co-pay in the third year.

As this is Mr. Nasif's last Board meeting due to his retirement, he thanked the Board for their friendship and support and extended best wishes to Mr. O'Brien as the new incoming Board Chairman.

With no further information to report, Mr. Nasif entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m., which was moved by Dr. D'Acchioli and seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Jannetta