

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 4, 2005**. The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Mr. Robert O'Brien, Chairman.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following board members were present: Dr. D'Acchioli, Dr. Dellith, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Morelle, Dr. Tindall-Gibson, and Dr. VonVillas, as well as, Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Business Manager. Guests: Nancy Lightbody of the University of Southern Maine, Richard Trembowicz and William Connors of EdNets.

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

Routine Matters:

Dr. D'Acchioli motioned to approve Items 1 -4, which was seconded by Dr. VonVillas, carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of September 6, 2005

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. D'Acchioli	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. VonVillas		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson

2.0 Bills for the month of September 2005

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. D'Acchioli	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. VonVillas		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Retirement of Raymond Comtois

The Executive Director recommended the Board accept the retirement of Raymond Comtois, Custodian.

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

Approved: Dr. Dellith
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Lindberg
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson

Appointments:

4.0 Nothing to report.

New Business:

5.0 Nancy Lightbody, EAST Grant Presentation

The Executive Director introduced Nancy Lightbody , Co-Director and Project Manager of the EAST Grant at the University of Southern Maine.

Ms. Lightbody began her presentation by giving an overview of EAST (Eastern Alliance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and distributing materials to the Board. EAST is funded by the National Science Foundation to promote the participation of individuals with disabilities in science, technology, and engineering in New England. Ms. Lightbody advises that the Northern R.I. Collaborative is their partner in Rhode Island.

Ms. Lightbody advised the Board that seed grant money is available to teachers for innovative activities that encourage and facilitate participation of students with disabilities in science, technology, engineering and math. The deadline for application is January 20, 2006. She also presented information and distributed material on their Peer Tutoring Program, which is currently in place in Maine but not in Rhode Island. Information on their programs along with grant applications are available on their website: www.Eastalliance.org.

Ms. Lightbody left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

6.0 EdTech Networks, Inc. Presentation

The Executive Director advised Mr. John Tindall-Gibson requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Mr. Tindall-Gibson introduced Richard Trembowicz, President and CEO, of EdTech Networks, Inc.

Mr. Trembowicz introduced his associate, William Connors, a former superintendent of schools in Massachusetts, and began his presentation to the Board with an overview of the company. Mr. Trembowicz advised his web technology program has been launched in Massachusetts and they would like to introduce the program into Rhode Island. The Lincoln School District has indicated an interest in the program, however, participation is needed

from additional districts. Mr. Trembowicz proceeded with the following PowerPoint presentation:

Web Platforms/The Need:

- Every school has a website
- Limited functionality
- Limited content
- Poor navigation schemes
- Maintained by volunteers or high school class

Sample school department web pages were shown.

Mission:

- Improve educational product
- Increase school funding
- Reduce operating costs - paperless
- No out-of-pocket cost for R.I. schools

Building Blocks:

- Schools: Rebates & Parent/Teacher interaction
- Ed Net Sponsors

Benefits for Students & Parents:

- Improved communication – grades, attendance, homework, news & sports announcements
- Personalized calendars – for school & child, parent can create a master calendar, master calendar for the school district

Benefits for Teachers:

- Elect grade book & attendance
- Administrative control
- Curriculum library

Protection for Student Members:

- Data privacy
- Data security
- Access to promotional info

Rebate Program:

Sponsor Rebates:

- 2-10% of amount of purchase
- R.I. schools receive 100% of rebates

School Website Promotional Revenue:

- R.I. Schools receive 50% of promotional revenue on school website

Easy to Use:

- Members register by credit or debit card
- EdNets captures interactive data & rebates
- Member can register limited transactions
- No cost to member

Broad Sponsor Base

Member Marketing Campaign

Launch:

- Approximately 2 months after contract is signed
- EdNets conduct member local sponsor enrollment in partnership with school district

EdNet Sponsor Training:

- Faculty training stipend
- Students
- Parents
- Training component includes live training
- Initial launch site costs deferred & recovered out of rebates only

Contract with EdNet would be 3 years. Mr. Trembowicz provided a Financial Analysis and indicated that EdNet makes its money by fees from the rebates, based on consumer spending.

Discussion followed on the issue of advertising in public schools, concern with releasing names and addresses of students, and the concept of school districts not allowed to make revenue.

Mr. Trembowicz indicated he would be available to meet with the districts to further discuss any questions and he left the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

7.0 Annual Meeting Date

The Executive Director reported that a date for the next Annual Meeting needs to be selected. A calendar for March 2006 was provided to the Board for their use in advising their availability.

8.0 No. Providence Housing Authority Lease 2005-07

The Executive Director requested the Board’s approval to renew the lease for Apartment C in North Providence for another two years with a minimal increase in rent and no change in conditions.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. D’Acchioli	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Dellith		Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O’Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. VonVillas

9.0 Beacon Charter School

Mr. O’Brien, Chairman, requested that this item be put on the agenda for discussion due to concerns expressed by northern Rhode Island Superintendents at the recent RISSA meeting. Mr. O’Brien reviewed the issue and the impact to the districts’ budgets of the Commissioner’s decision to close Beacon Charter School and then reversing his decision and allowing it to open.

Ms. Iacovelli left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding concern with communication from RIDE, the politics involved, the financial impact to the districts in northern Rhode Island, and the possibility of sending a letter to the Commissioner and the Governor in protest.

Dr. VonVillas motioned to send a letter from the NRIC Board of Superintendents to the R.I. Commissioner of Education and to the Governor regarding the Beacon Charter School.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. VonVillas	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. D’Acchioli		Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O’Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson

Mr. O’Brien indicated that he and Mr. MacDonnell will draft a letter.

Old Business:

10.0 Strategic Planning

Mr. O’Brien, Chairman, reported that teams need to be organized in order to develop action plans by November 1 to proceed with implementing the goals identified at the recent Strategic Planning Session. The Executive Director advised that meetings have taken place and the strategic plan has been presented to the districts’ Assistant Superintendents/Curriculum Directors, and Special Education Directors. The Business Managers will be meeting on Friday, October 7th. Mr. MacDonnell questioned what aspect would the Board want to become involved in. He advised that we are already working together on professional development and distributed materials on Harvard Research Group for possible consideration next year.

Mr. O’Brien suggested the Board proceed with looking at the new building/land usage issue. Mr. MacDonnell reported that he and Mr. Craig Enos, Business Manager, met with a representative from Citizens Bank regarding the Collaborative’s financial picture and advised there has been a 25% increase in the cost of building with steel. He also advised that because the land consists of ledge, he is considering the possibility of looking at other property.

Mr. Tindall-Gibson left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued on the new building/land issue. Mr. O’Brien indicated that this issue needs to be discussed further and suggested a separate meeting with the Board in order to

update new Superintendents and to determine future direction.

Dr. Morelle questioned the strategic plan establishing funds and expressed concern with her Interim Superintendent, as part of the Curriculum group, commit to CRP funds.

Dr. Morelle left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Mr. O'Brien indicated that the groups need to be identified to work on certain issues and suggested the Business Managers could investigate the issue of cooperative purchasing.

Informational Matters:

11.0 East Bay Program Development Request

The Executive Director reported that the Special Education Directors from East Bay have approached the Collaborative to replicate our programs in the East Providence area. Due to the relocation of Meeting Street School out of East Providence, their programs are going to other private institutions and they have asked us to develop a program. Mr. MacDonnell indicated this is an opportunity for the Collaborative and is requesting the Board's approval to pursue.

Mr. MacDonnell reported that he has spoken with the East Bay Collaborative and they do not have an interest nor the expertise to develop special education programs for East Providence. Mr. MacDonnell has consulted with Attorney Ben Scungio regarding the Collaborative's charter and the ability to expand our boundaries, and Attorney Scungio advises that we are free to do so.

Mr. MacDonnell will continue to investigate.

Executive Session:

Nothing to report.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m., which was moved by Dr. D'Acchioli and seconded by Dr. Dellith, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Jannetta