

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, February 7, 2006**. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Mr. Robert O'Brien, Chairman.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following Board members were present: Dr. Dellith, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Macera, 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. Observers: Kimberly Sousa, NRIC Instructional Assistant, NRICEU Secretary, and Michael Mullane, Field Representative, R.I. Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals.

Routine Matters:

Dr. Dellith motioned to approve Items 1 -4, which was seconded by Mr. Lindberg, carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of January, 2006

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Macera
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. Lindberg		Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

2.0 Bills for the month of January 2006

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Macera
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. Lindberg		Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Resignation of Susan Leonard, Clerk

The Executive Director recommended the Board accept the resignation of Susan Leonard, Clerk.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Macera
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. Lindberg		Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

Appointments:

4.0 Nothing to report.

New Business:

5.0 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements

Chairman Robert O’Brien reported that this agenda item, which was tabled from the January meeting, came out of discussion at a recent RISSA meeting. Mr. O’Brien felt that the formulation of this policy should be reviewed as a group to ensure that all districts are on the same page. One of the issues is students moving from one district to another and how to ensure that students have met all of the standards when moving into a different school system.

Discussion took place regarding the Peer Review and what options each district offers to students, whether it be a portfolio or a service project. Mr. O’Brien advised that the policy needs to be in place by 2008 and should be fair and equitable to all students. He suggested a special workshop be conducted on the special education issue.

Dr. Macera reported that she recently met with Dr. Johan Uvin, the State Director of the Office of Adult Education at RIDE, and advised there are a number of resources offered by the State and opportunities for students to earn their diploma in a non-traditional way. She suggested that Dr. Uvin be invited to speak to the Board. She also stated that the Department of Labor & Training has training vouchers and apprenticeship programs currently in place that are underutilized.

The Board agreed to set up a meeting in late March inviting high school principals and guidance counselors in order to share information.

6.0 Sale of NRIC Truck

The Executive Director is requesting permission from the Board to sell the pick-up truck currently owned by the Collaborative. Mr. MacDonnell indicated we would prefer to have a utility van to better serve our needs. He will report back to the Board with a recommendation.

Moved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Dr. Macera

Approved: Mr. Lindberg
Mr. O’Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. Watkins

7.0 Related Services Rates - COTA

The Executive Director reported that this agenda item was requested by Peg Iacovelli, which was briefly discussed at the last meeting. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the Board has established a rate for COTA’s that is the same as OT’s. Ms. Iacovelli is requesting the Board reconsider the rate for COTA’s due to a desperate need, and become employees of the Collaborative who would then sell the services back to the districts.

The Executive Director is recommending establishing a fee structure at no additional cost to NRIC.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Mr. Lindberg
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Macera		Mr. O’Brien
			Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

8.0 Alternative Program

The Executive Director reported that this agenda item, which was briefly discussed at the last meeting, was requested by Dr. Patricia Watkins.

Mr. MacDonnell asked Dr. Fricklas to review the Collaborative’s program. Dr. Fricklas distributed copies of information describing the Collaborative’s “11th Day Interim Alternative Education Setting & Program”. Dr. Fricklas indicated that students with or without IEP’s are required to have an alternative education setting after they accrue the tenth day of exclusion. Home tutoring is not allowed any longer according to IDEA. The Collaborative offers two options: a non-diagnostic program for students with no clinical work-up; and a diagnostic option on the 11th day with a full evaluation done over a 45-day period. We had a program last year at Woonsocket High School, however, because of the hours of the program, transportation was a problem. This year we have imbedded this program into our 11th day classroom program at St. Lawrence.

Dr. Fricklas also advised that we have a Behavioral Specialist and Caseworker that will meet with the high school team and set up a behavioral intervention plan and needed supports and also meet with the family. Dr. Fricklas reported that this was the first year of this program and we currently have 10 students. Dr. Fricklas indicated there is also a need for primary and middle school students.

Discussion took place on the need for a middle school program. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the Operating Committee has requested that we develop a clinical outreach team to work with the districts.

Mr. MacDonnell presented information on the “Virtual Learning Academy” as another alternative to these types of students and distributed a copy of his Initial Proposal to the

Board.

Mr. MacDonnell reviewed the LEA Options:

- Purchase individual student licenses through NRIC
- After-school Alternative Program model housed locally using local LEA teachers
- Off-site Alternative Program staffed with an after-school model or school day model with NRIC teachers. All cost out per pupil, would include teacher costs. No transportation included. (In development for September 06).
- Intensive support model at St. Lawrence, possible 11th day/diagnostic model using current funding formula due to disabling conditions, access to the VLA curriculum, individually adjusted to align with local curriculum.
- Summer school remediation, cost per course, local or externally housed.
- Individual Credit Recovery option, individual course fee, contract with local adult proxy within the LEA.

Program Specifics:

- Enrollment through NRIC into Jefferson County, OH ESC VLA Network
 - 80 individual courses available in grades 2-12, aligned to National Standards
 - 36 units of instruction per course
- Cost approximately \$350/student/year; 40 student enrollment=\$14,000
- After School Program, using local teachers:
 - 3-6 daily, 15-20 students per teacher
 - (.5 FTE) or hourly rate of approximately \$25/hr. for 18 hrs/week
 - Average hourly cost = \$16,200
- Total Cost for Locally Supervised Program = \$30,200
 - NRIC full supervision of program is an additional fee of \$5,000
- Teacher training through NRIC for local teachers included
- Summer School courses cost approximately \$200 each
 - Add to this amount the cost of your teacher by local contract

After discussion, the Board indicated an interest in the program and requested more information. Mr. MacDonnell will schedule a presentation to the Board at the March meeting.

Mr. Lindberg left the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

9.0 Audit Report 2004-05

The Executive Director reported that our auditors, Bacon & Company, completed their audit of 2004-05, and asked Mr. Craig Enos to share the results with the Board.

Mr. Enos reported that the Collaborative is in good financial standing with a successful year. In comparing 2004 to 2005, expenses went up dramatically including salaries, benefits and insurance; however, revenues were also up. Mr. Enos also advised that recommendations regarding procedures were received from the auditors and he is in the process of reviewing and refining these procedures. Dr. Dellith and Mr. O'Brien congratulated the Collaborative on a successful audit.

Dr. Macera questioned if we had received a management letter. Mr. Enos indicated that we should be receiving it and will give to the Board as soon as it is received.

10.0 Elimination of Site Clerk Position, effective February 20, 2006

The Executive Director reported that as a result of a Clerk's resignation, he is recommending the elimination of this position in order to contain costs.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Mr. O'Brien
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Macera		Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

11.0 Employment Non-Renewals:

The Executive Director is recommending the non-renewal/dismissal/lay-offs of the following positions:

Program Coordinators

Mary Ellen Dubuc
Jane Signorelli-Slade
Martha Perkins
Denise Fiorio
Margaret Buttenbaum
Robert Marchand

Teachers - RAP

John Petrella
Talia Leary
Steven Auclair
John Leeds
Peter Hainsworth

Teachers - SAP

Joanne Parillo
Julie Pascoe
Steven Robidoux
Deborah Farrar
Joanne Moretti
Amanda Notz
Karen Short
Marilyn Nelson
Wendy Williams
Tina Hoover
Elizabeth Neves

Adapted Physical Education

Ryan Barrette

Occupational Therapists

Colette O'Brien
Erin Manchester

Social Workers

Rebecca Koczan
Joanna Wood

Speech Therapists

Sheila Henry
Tracy Anderson

Caseworker

Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney

Vocational Evaluator

M. Teresa O'Brien

Mr. MacDonnell discussed the reasons for his recommendations which include the uncertainty of the budget and student enrollments, re-organizing the structure of the

Collaborative to allow the flexibility of doing more things in the future. The new structure will be brought before the Board.

Dr. Dellith motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation for non-renewal/dismissal/lay-off, seconded by Dr. Watkins.

At this point Mr. Michael Mullane, Field Representative, R.I. Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals, asked if there would be an opportunity for public comment. Mr. O'Brien, Chairman, advised that, no, there would not.

The motion was then voted on and approved.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Mr. O'Brien
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Macera		Dr. Tindall-Gibson
			Dr. Watkins

Old Business:

12.0 Nothing to report.

Informational Matters:

13.0 Global Compliance Network

The Executive Director asked that Mr. Craig Enos, Business Manager, report on this item. Mr. Enos reported that Global Compliance Network provides internet-based tutorial programs that may be of interest to school departments. Of particular interest, is the on-line Blood Borne Pathogen program. Mr. Enos spoke to the president of the company and was able to purchase the program at a discount for all of our districts. Mr. Enos met with the districts' Business Managers and will follow-up with them on how to track. More information will be forthcoming.

Other Matters:

- Mr. O'Brien congratulated John Tindall-Gibson, Lincoln, on being elected to the Executive Board of the Superintendents' Association.
- At this time Mr. Michael Mullane, Field Representative, R.I. Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals, requested to speak to the Board regarding Agenda Item #11. On behalf of the NRICEU, Mr. Mullane expressed comments and concern regarding the Union's position on the lay-off of the six Program Coordinators. Mr. Mullane submitted a letter to the Board from the Program Coordinators along with a petition signed by 141 staff members.

Dr. Tindall-Gibson left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Watkins left the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

- Dr. Dellith brought up discussion again on the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements.
- Further discussion took place on ideas for the Alternative Program.

Executive Session:

Nothing to report.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Dellith and seconded by Dr. Macera, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Jannetta