

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 6, 2006**. The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairman, Robert O'Brien.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following Board members were present: Dr. Dellith, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Morelle, Dr. Tindall-Gibson, Dr. Watkins, and Dr. VonVillas, as well as, Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, Dr. Robert Fricklas, Assistant Director, and Craig Enos, Business Manager. Guest: Attorney Benjamin Scungio.

Routine Matters:

Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to approve Items 1 -2, which was moved by Dr. Tindall-Gibson, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of May 9, 2006

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

2.0 Bills for the month of May

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

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Nothing to report.

Appointments:

The Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item #4 out of order, after Item #14.

Executive Session: - Closed session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5(a) 1&2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island

Nothing to report.

New Business:

The Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item #12 out of order.

12.0 NRIC RISSA Representatives

The Executive Director reported that new representatives to RISSA's Executive Committee from the northern region need to be appointed by the Board. Ms. Iacovelli and Dr. Dellith indicated they would be interested in continuing in this role.

The Board agreed to discuss Agenda item #15 out of order.

15.0 Hearing Dates

Attorney Ben Scungio requested the Board's availability for scheduling the Termination/Non-Renewal Hearings emphasizing the need for 100% attendance. After several dates were discussed, the Board agreed to Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 2:30 p.m., with a preview meeting at 2:00 p.m. It was determined that a back-up date would be Thursday, August 3, 2006.

After further discussion, it was determined that the regular July Board Meeting would be rescheduled to Wednesday, July 5, 2006.

5.0 Operating Budget 2006-07

The Executive Director presented the Operating Budget for 2006-07 reporting a 3.5% increase in the RAP Program and a 5% increase for the SAP Program. Mr. Craig Enos, Business Manager, reported a very lean budget with increases in worker's compensation insurance and legal expenses. Mr. Enos also reported an increase in the bill out services of APE, OT and PT to \$90.00 in order to cover costs incurred.

Mr. MacDonnell advised that a Tuition Comparison Chart was provided in the Board's packet which shows that the Collaborative continues to be below the rates of other similar programs.

Mr. MacDonnell reported that the 2006-07 Budget is inclusive of the reorganization of the Program Coordinator positions including the re-established position of Assistant Special

Education Director, and the new positions of Technology Director and Behavior Specialist.

Mr. MacDonnell reported that without the reorganization, the budget would have increased by 8%.

Mr. Enos reported that the full Budget for FY06-07 is available on CD if Board members would like to review.

Dr. Dellith motioned to approve the FY06-07 Budget as presented, which was seconded by Dr. VonVillas. During discussion, Mr. Lindberg indicated he had questions and concerns and felt he would need to abstain from voting as he needed to leave the meeting early.

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

(Mr. Lindberg left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.)

6.0 Designation of FY2006 Budget Surplus Funds

The Executive Director reported that the Board needs to vote on the designation of FY2006 Budget surplus funds. Mr. MacDonnell identified the possible surplus to be in the amount of \$70,000 to \$100,000. Mr. O'Brien, Chairman, recommends the surplus be utilized to decrease tuition costs and for professional development.

Discussion ensued on professional development topics and the forming of a sub-committee in order to develop a plan.

After discussion, Dr. Morelle motioned to designate potential FY2006 Budget Surplus Funds for professional development with a plan to be determined at a later date, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, carried by all.

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

7.0 Non-Union Salary Rates for 2006-07

The Executive Director is recommending a 3.5% salary increase for non-union staff, which includes the Main Office, part-time custodians, substitute custodians, substitute caller, and substitute clerk.

Moved: Dr. Dellith _____ Approved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Dr. Tindall-Gibson Ms. Iacovelli
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. VonVillas
Dr. Watkins

8.0 Regional Vocational Assessment Center/Transition Employment Center Grant Award

The Executive Director reported that a grant award of \$90,000 has been received from RIDE for the Transition Employment Center. Dr. Fricklas reviewed the initial start-up of the program and advised it will be ready to begin on September 1.

Dr. Dellith made a motion to support the new Transition Employment Center, which was seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Dellith _____ Approved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli Dr. Morelle
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. VonVillas
Dr. Watkins

9.0 Rescind Employment Non-Renewal of M. Teresa O'Brien, Vocational Evaluator

The Executive Director recommended that the Board approve rescinding the employment non-renewal of M. Teresa O'Brien, Vocational Evaluator.

Moved: Dr. Dellith _____ Approved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Dr. VonVillas Ms. Iacovelli
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. VonVillas
Dr. Watkins

10.0 Classroom Lease Rental Fee Increase

The Executive Director reported that the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative's fee to the districts for rental of classroom space has not changed since 1999. After a request was received from Dr. Macera, Woonsocket, to increase the rental fee, Mr. MacDonnell is recommending the Board approve a 5% increase.

Moved: Dr. Dellith _____ Approved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Dr. VonVillas Ms. Iacovelli
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. VonVillas
Dr. Watkins

11.0 Storage Facility Lease 2006-09

The Executive Director reported that the 3-year lease for the rental of storage space at the fire station at 1025 Mendon Road expires June 30, 2006. Mr. MacDonnell recommends the 3-year renewal be approved with no changes in the terms and with no increase.

Moved: Dr. Dellith _____ Approved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli Ms. Iacovelli
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Tindall-Gibson
Dr. VonVillas
Dr. Watkins

Old Business:

13.0 EdNets Collaborative Proposal

At the request of Dr. John Tindall-Gibson, Lincoln, the Executive Director discussed the EdNets website proposal as presented to the Board in the Fall. Mr. MacDonnell indicated that Lincoln is interested in entering into an agreement with them and is looking for participation from other districts so that the fee would be reduced.

Attorney Scungio reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the program, identifying two issues – creating a revolving fund and setting up a foundation. Other issues discussed were the use of district data and the website advertising. Mr. Scungio reported that a meeting took place with EdNets and RIDE and that they are working through the issues that have been identified. Jennifer Wood is forming an opinion letter regarding advertising.

(Dr. Morelle left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.)

Mr. Scungio indicated that the Collaborative could be the facilitator of the contract agreement with EdNets so that all districts would have the benefit. Mr. Scungio will set up the foundation. Lincoln could be the pilot for the northern area.

14.0 Job Descriptions / New Positions

The Executive Director reported that as discussed at the May meeting, the job descriptions and salary ranges for Assistant Special Education Director, Technology Director, Behavior Specialist and the Transition Employment Center are for your review and approval.

(Dr. Tindall-Gibson left the meeting at 2:35 p.m.)

Discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of the new position of Assistant Special Education Director.

After discussion, Dr. Dellith motioned to accept the job descriptions and new positions, which was seconded by Dr. Watkins, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Dellith _____ Approved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Dr. Watkins Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Watkins
Dr. VonVillas

4.0 Appointment of Robert E. Wall, Jr., Assistant Special Education Director

The Executive Director is recommending the appointment of Robert E. Wall, Jr. as the Assistant Special Education Director. Mr. MacDonnell reported that Mr. Wall was one of nine candidates and one of three to be interviewed by the Screening Committee. Mr. MacDonnell is recommending a starting salary of \$82,000 which is lower than the average salary in the districts.

After discussion, Dr. Dellith motioned to approve the appointment of Robert E. Wall, Jr., as Assistant Special Education Director at a starting salary of \$82,000 for the 2006-07 school year, which was seconded by Ms. Iacovelli.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. O'Brien
<u>Abstain:</u>	Dr. Watkins		Dr. VonVillas

Informational Matters:

16.0 Nothing to report.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Dellith and seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Jannetta