

Regional Board of Superintendents' Meeting

Northern Rhode Island Collaborative
2352 Mendon Road
Cumberland, RI 02864

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Regional Board of Superintendents was held at 2352 Mendon Road, Cumberland, RI, on **Tuesday, March 6, 2007**. The meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m. by Vice-Chair, Dr. Donna Ottaviano, in the absence of Chairman, Robert O'Brien.

In addition to Dr. Ottaviano, the following Board members were present: Mrs. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Morelle, Mr. Nasif, and Mr. Welford, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, Dr. Robert E. Fricklas, Assistant Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guests: Georgia Fortunato, Special Education Director, Lincoln; Miriam Goodman, Business Manager, Woonsocket; Attorney Ben Scungio, Jeffrey Weiss, former Chair, Lincoln School Committee, and Norman Beretta, Beretta Realty Company.

Routine Matters:

Dr. Ottaviano entertained a motion to approve Agenda Items 1-4, which was moved by Mr. Lindberg, seconded by Mr. Nasif, carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 2007

Moved: Mr. Lindberg

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Mr. Nasif

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. Nasif

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

2.0 Bills for the month of February, 2007

Moved: Mr. Lindberg

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Mr. Nasif

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. Nasif

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Nothing to report.

Appointments:

4.0 Appointment of Jane Slade, Interim Grant Facilitator

The Executive Director recommended the appointment of Jane Slade as the Interim Grant Facilitator.

Moved: Mr. Lindberg

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Mr. Nasif

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. Nasif

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

The Board agreed to move Agenda #10 out of order:

New Business:

10.0 Presentation by Jeffrey Weiss

The Executive Director introduced Mr. Jeffrey Weiss, former Chair of the Lincoln School Committee, who requested a presentation to the Board regarding increasing costs to RI public schools and his proposal to “create a wrapper on the annual rate of increase for bargaining unit compensation to include all forms of compensation except pension”.

Mr. Weiss distributed copies of his presentation entitled “Changing the Rules” along with a copy of a Draft Resolution of the Lincoln Town Council.

Discussion took place on how to proceed with his idea and possibly holding a general meeting for Superintendents and their School Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs at the Collaborative on an evening in April.

The Executive Director thanked Mr. Weiss for his time, and he left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

At this time, Mr. Joseph Nasif, Interim Superintendent of Lincoln, introduced Ms. Georgia Fortunato to the Board. Ms. Fortunato is the current Special Education Director in Lincoln who will be the new Superintendent in Lincoln effective June 2007.

Old Business:

5.0 High School Principal Reform Seminar

The Executive Director reported that the March 1 meeting of the High School Principals took place and was well attended. Discussion continued on Component V “Policy Infrastructure and Data Use” along with language for the appeals process. Mr. MacDonnell questioned the Board if they wanted to continue with further sessions in the series as Components III and IV have not yet been discussed. The Board agreed that the series should continue.

6.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development Survey

The Executive Director reported that one response was received regarding the Professional Development Survey and reminded the Board to return their surveys so that the data can be gathered and discussed at the next meeting of the Curriculum Leadership Team on March 20th.

7.0 Election of NRIC Officers

The Executive Director reported that at the February meeting nominations for NRIC Board Officers were brought forward -- Robert O’Brien, Chair and Donna Ottaviano, Vice-Chair. Mr. MacDonnell requested the Board vote on the nominations for NRIC Board Officers for a two-year term. Mr. Nasif motioned to re-elect Robert O’Brien as Chair and Donna Ottaviano as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Welford, carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Nasif
Seconded: Mr. Welford

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Lindberg
Dr. Morelle
Mr. Nasif
Dr. Ottaviano
Mr. Welford

8.0 NRIC Surplus

The Executive Director provided clarification to the Board, as was requested from the previous meeting, concerning the NRIC Holding Company. That account has a cash value of \$3,219,135.33 as of 1/31/07. The dollar amounts discussed at the February Board meeting included the original purchase value of the Epheta House Property of \$500,000 which was taken from the 2004-05 Audit and represented total Holding Company assets, not actual cash. Mr. MacDonnell provided further clarification on the Operation Fund Account. That account fluctuates and has an average daily balance of \$381,574.55. The fluctuation is due to the tuitions received from the districts. At the end of the fiscal year 2005, when the account was certified through the audit, that Operations account had \$3,581,132. Copies of the two accounts bank statements were provided for the Board’s review.

9.0 Building Update

The Executive Director reported that a meeting was held on February 22nd with Attorney Ben Scungio and Richard Conti, owner of the Daewoo property on Rt. 116 in Smithfield, regarding purchase of the property.

(Mr. Nasif left the meeting at 2:14 pm).

The Executive Director welcomed Mr. Norman Beretta, of Beretta Realty Company, to the meeting to give an overview of the property’s appraisal. Mr. Beretta advised that the property consists of 3+ acres which includes a building of 13,542 square feet. He appraised the property at \$400,000 per acre and \$1.2M for the land for a total of approximately \$2.2 - \$2.5M. Mr. Beretta recommended an industrial inspection be conducted of the roof, heating, air conditioning, etc.

Attorney Scungio advised that a complete environmental survey was conducted at the site and copies of the report are to be forwarded by Mr. Conti. Upon the Board's approval, Attorney Scungio will draw up a Purchase and Sales Agreement with contingencies for a full inspection and upon review by architect, Mark Saccoccio.

Mr. Beretta also gave an update on the land on Manville Hill Road in Cumberland. (The Epheta House property currently owned by NRIC). He advised the property consists of 8.65 acres, is zoned as multi-family, and appraised at \$850,000.

The Executive Director thanked Mr. Beretta for his assistance and he left the meeting at 2:30 pm.

After discussion, Mr. Lindberg motioned to move forward with a purchase and sales agreement for the Smithfield Daewoo property to be drawn up by Attorney Scungio. The motion was seconded by Mr. Welford and carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Mr. Lindberg	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. Welford		Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Dr. Ottaviano
			Mr. Welford

Further discussion took place regarding the next step -- Conceptual designs are being completed by Mark Saccoccio & Associates. Attorney Scungio advised that the financing needs to be determined.

New Business:

The Board agreed to take the following agenda item out of order.

12.0 Termination of Elizabeth Mulligan, Instructional Assistant

The Executive Director recommended the termination of Elizabeth Mulligan, Instructional Assistant for cause under Article IX, Section 15(c) and (f) of the NRICEU collective bargaining agreement, effective February 26, 2007. Mr. MacDonnell distributed copies of a memo to the Board outlining the circumstances and the investigation conducted by Dr. Robert Fricklas. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the NRICEU is not contesting this.

Mr. Lindberg motioned to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to terminate Elizabeth Mulligan, Instructional Assistant, effective February 26, 2007. The motion was seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Mr. Lindberg	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Dr. Ottaviano
			Mr. Welford

13.0 Involuntary Transfer – Maura Silvia, Grant Facilitator

The Executive Director recommended the involuntary transfer of Maura Silvia from her position as Grant Facilitator to Vocational Evaluator.

Moved: Mr. Welford

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Mr. Lindberg

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

(Dr. Morelle, Mr. Lindberg and Attorney Scungio left the meeting at 2:42 pm).

11.0 2005-06 Audit Report

The Executive Director presented the 2005-06 Audit Report conducted by Bacon & Company, CPA's LLC and reported on the Collaborative's good financial standing and solid practices. Mr. MacDonnell advised an anticipated increase of 3-3.5% in tuition for next year.

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

The Board did not enter into Executive Session.

Informational Matters:

- Dr. Ottaviano reported, in the absence of Mr. O'Brien, that D. Cedroni would like a representative from Northern Rhode Island to serve on STEM at R.I. College to develop professional development.
- Dr. Ottaviano reported that in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Management Plan, there will be a training on March 22nd from 9 am to 4 pm at CCRI in Warwick on bomb threats and evacuation plans.
- Mr. MacDonnell reported that the module with Bob Ballard is up and running at Smithfield High School.

With no further information to report, Dr. Ottaviano entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m., which was moved by Mr. Welford, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, and carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Welford

Approved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

Respectfully submitted,

Robert O'Brien, Chair

