

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, August 7, 2007.** The meeting was called to order at 1:10 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, and Dr. Ottaviano, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Philip Marcelo, Staff Writer for the Providence Journal, was in attendance as an observer only.

Routine Matters:

1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of July 17, 2007 – Special Meeting at 10:00 am and Regular Meeting at 1:00 pm

Dr. Morelle noted that the regular minutes under Agenda Item #9 – Operating Budget 2007-08 did not reflect the full discussion and that it should have been more specific. Mrs. Jannetta reported that she would check her notes; however, she advised that she had been instructed by Attorney Scungio in the past to only include specific information leading up to a vote.

Ms. Iacovelli also noted that she was in attendance at the regular meeting but her name was not included in the votes. Mrs. Jannetta apologized and indicated this would be corrected.

Moved: Dr. Ottaviano Approved:

Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli (with reservation)

Abstained: Mr. Lindberg
Dr. Morelle

Opposed: Dr. Dellith

2.0 Bills for the month of July, 2007

Moved: Dr. Dellith

Approved: Dr. Dellith
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Lindberg
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Ottaviano

Seconded: Dr. Morelle

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Resignation of Karen Grant, Social Worker

The Executive Director recommended the Board accept the resignation of Karen Grant, Social Worker.

Moved: Dr. Dellith
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Dellith
Ms. Iacovelli
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O'Brien
Dr. Ottaviano

Appointments:

4.0 Nothing to report.

Old Business:

5.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development

The Executive Director distributed copies to the Board of “NRIC Professional Development Update On-going Planning”. Mr. MacDonnell reviewed the following professional development opportunities currently in process and/or planned for the future:

- URI – Oceanography – Teacher Training
With Gail Scowcroft and Dr. Robert Ballard. Ms. Scowcroft to make a presentation to the Board at the September meeting.
- SREB Leadership Series
- Teacher Workshop/Continuing Education Opportunities with R.I. College, URI and Northeastern University
- Northeastern University/Bryant University Summer 2008 Teacher Training Institute
- Election Day 2007 Planning
- Legal Seminar Series
- Continued Special Workshops, such as Wilson Reading, Lindamood-Bell, RTI, and CPI Training, Assistive Technology.
- NRIC/Northeastern University Superintendent Certification Program
- NRIC/Northeastern University MAT Program for Elementary Ed Teachers in Math or Science
- NRIC National Assistive Technology Conference Fall 2008

Mr. MacDonnell advised that NRIC has been awarded the NIMAS Grant from RIDE.

Chairman O'Brien distributed copies of the Agenda for the professional development activity on August 21, 22, and 23, 2007 and reported that 90 teachers have signed up to attend the “Expedition to the Black Sea”. Mr. O'Brien advised that the Governor will

attend on August 23 and will teleconference with Bob Ballard. Mr. O'Brien is inviting all Superintendents and their School Committees to attend. There will also be a live broadcast on Wednesday, August 22nd, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Mr. O'Brien reported another live broadcast is being planned for November 2007 and a future summer program 2008 with URI possibly involving students working on a ship.

6.0 Building Update

Chairman O'Brien recommended that this agenda item be taken out of order.

7.0 Meeting Schedule 2007-08

The Executive Director reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2007-08. After discussion, the Board agreed to keep the meetings on the same day and change the time to 12:30 pm. The previously scheduled November 6, 2007 meeting has been rescheduled to November 13th due to professional development day in many districts. The meeting schedule will be corrected and distributed to the Board and will reflect the academic year format.

8.0 Operating Budget 2007-08

The Executive Director presented the 2007-08 NRIC Budget to the Board for their review and approval, indicating the Budget was based on anticipated number of students as of August 1, 2007. Mr. MacDonnell reviewed the revised Proposed Tuition Options with the proposed amount of the NRIC surplus distribution and also recommended the tuition surcharge for non-member districts be increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Mr. MacDonnell reviewed the "Tuition Rates of Similar Day Programs" indicating NRIC's tuition remains low.

Dr. Dellith suggested that projected revenue be included on the budget pages.

Discussion took place regarding the Proposed Tuition Options and utilizing the surplus to offset tuitions. Dr. Morelle questioned if there was an option with no increase so that tuitions would stay level. Mr. MacDonnell advised it was possible to include this option, however, this would reduce the surplus to \$800,000 and that next year's tuition would increase even higher.

Discussion continued regarding the tuition surcharge for non-member districts. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the non-member districts represent 17% of the student population. Ms. Iacovelli suggested a gradual increase every year. Dr. Morelle suggested a letter be sent to the non-member districts regarding the increase and that non-member services be looked at in January.

Mr. MacDonnell reported that regarding the recommendation to combine the regular budget and the summer budget as one, the summer billing has already gone out. The districts will see a credit on their next bill. Mr. Enos advised the total credit was \$12,000 and that Cumberland's portion was \$1,059.48 and Pawtucket was \$2,648.

Mr. Lindberg suggested that the Operating Budget for 2007-08 be tabled until the September meeting for the complete budget to include the revenue portion.

Dr. Dellith suggested the non-member surcharge be made effective September 1st.

New Business:

9.0 Employment Non-Renewals:

The Executive Director recommended the employment non-renewal of the following for the 2007-08 school year.

Instructional Assistants:

Laura Vaudrain

Dr. Dellith motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Lindberg, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Dellith

Approved: Dr. Dellith

Seconded: Mr. Lindberg

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Ottaviano

10.0 Rescind Employment Non-Renewals:

The Executive Director recommended the following employment non-renewals be rescinded for the 2007-08 school year.

Social Worker

Nurse/Teacher

Instructional Assistant

Joanna Wood

Rachel Noel

Sandra Grady

Dr. Dellith motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Lindberg, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Dellith

Approved: Dr. Dellith

Seconded: Mr. Lindberg

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Ottaviano

11.0 Clinical Team Leader – New Position

The Executive Director reported that in order to control costs and to have more internal control of our clinical needs, our clinical consultants' time has been reduced. As a result, Mr. MacDonnell is recommending the Board's approval of a new internal position – Clinical Team Leader. Mr. MacDonnell advised a total cost savings of \$40,000.

Dr. Dellith motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation, which was seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, and carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Dellith	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Ottaviano		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Ottaviano

12.0 **Non-Contractual Personnel Salary Increases 2007-08**

The Executive Director is recommending a salary increase of 3.5% for the non-contractual Main Office personnel for 2007-08.

Dr. Morelle motioned to table this agenda item to the next Board Meeting with the total Operating Budget of 2007-08, which was seconded by Dr. Dellith and carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Morelle	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Dellith		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Ottaviano

13.0 **Data Facilitator – New Position**

The Executive Director is requesting the Board's approval of a new position – Data Facilitator and Braillist – as a result of being the recipient of the NIMAS Grant for an Instructional Resource Center for RIDE. This position will coordinate the LEA's and Accessible Media Producers to provide instructional materials to students who are blind or have visual impairments or print disabilities. Mr. MacDonnell advised this is a grant funded position of \$90,000 over three years. Mr. MacDonnell distributed a copy of a RIDE flowchart "Process for NIMAS File Conversion" for the Board's review.

Discussion followed regarding implementation, the need for a Braillist, and determining a salary range.

Dr. Morelle motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation, which was seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Morelle	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Dellith
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Ottaviano		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O'Brien
			Dr. Ottaviano

Informational Matters:

- Mr. O’Brien mentioned a reminder to please respond to Atty. Scungio’s email, which requested LEA usage of IDEA monies for any NRIC services.
- Mr. O’Brien suggested that agenda item “Healthcare” be added under Strategic Planning for the next meeting.
- Dr. Dellith suggested “Transportation” be added to the next meeting agenda.
- Mr. Lindberg suggested that Professional Development remain on the next meeting agenda.
- Mr. MacDonnell advised that the Collaborative is looking at cooperative energy regarding electricity and gas and suggested the Business Managers be invited to a future meeting.
- Mr. Enos advised that he is meeting with Jane Correia of Bristol-Warren School Department regarding cooperative healthcare and suggested that she be invited to the next Board meeting.
- Dr. Morelle suggested the West Bay Healthcare Consortium also be invited to the next Board meeting.
- The Business Managers should attend the next meeting for the healthcare presentation.

Move into Closed Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5(a) (2) of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. O’Brien entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session at 2:54 pm, for discussion of Agenda Item #6 – Building Update, which was moved by Dr. Morelle, seconded by Dr. Ottaviano. An individual vote was taken and carried by all. The closed session ended at 3:35 pm.

With no further information to report, Mr. O’Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m., which was moved by Ms. Iacovelli, seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, and carried by all.

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Dellith
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Lindberg
Dr. Morelle
Mr. O’Brien
Dr. Ottaviano

Respectfully submitted,

Robert O’Brien, Chair