

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, September 11, 2007**. The meeting was called to order at 12:51 p.m. by Chairman, Robert O'Brien.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following Board members were present: Ms. Fortunato, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Macera, and Dr. Morelle, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guests: Arlene Garrison, Special Education Director, Central Falls; Business Managers -- Tom Conlon, Pawtucket, Melissa Devine, Johnston, Miriam Goodman, Woonsocket; Attorney Benjamin Scungio; Craig Closser, Craig Burns, Dave Manning, & Michelle Milliken of Jefferson County Educational Services Center; Jane Correia, Kevin Walsh & Dave Faucher of the Government Health Corporation of R.I.; Carolyn Dias, Director of Finance, RIDE.

The Board agreed to take Agenda Item #8 out of order:

Old Business:

8.0 Strategic Planning – Healthcare

- Presentation by Craig Closser, Jefferson County Educational Services Center

The Executive Director introduced Mr. Craig Closser, CEO of the Jefferson County Educational Services Center along with Ms. Michelle Milliken, Mr. Craig Burns and Mr. David Manning of Burns Consulting Group. Mr. Closser gave a brief overview of the non-profit health benefits consortium which began 20 years ago in an effort to control healthcare costs. Mr. Closser provided the Board with a fact sheet on the Jefferson County ESC Programs, a pamphlet on the OMERESA Benefits Plan, along with a copy of their presentation.

(Mr. Steve Lindberg arrived at 12:55 pm).

(Dr. Maureen Macera arrived at 1:00 pm).

Mr. Craig Burns began the PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the following information:

- OMERESA Health Benefits Plan Philosophy
- Governance
- Healthcare Plans
- Healthcare Management Programs
- Services
- Partial Self-Insurance – Essential Principles

- Plan Design Rules
- Overview of Self-Insurance Essential Principles
- 2005 Fully Insured Comparison
- Funding Strategy Essential Principles
- Membership Benefits
- Opportunities/Multiple Plan Designs
- Membership Obligations
- Membership Benefits
- Annual Calendar of Events

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. O'Brien, Chairman, welcomed the Business Managers to the meeting and encouraged working together on the healthcare issue and gave them the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Closser and his staff.

Discussion followed regarding joining the group and an annual commitment with no penalties to leave but a 5-year wait to get back in.

Mr. O'Brien and Mr. MacDonnell thanked Mr. Closser, Mr. Burns, Mr. Manning and Ms. Milliken for coming and they left the meeting at 1:50 pm.

(Dr. Macera left the meeting at 2:00 pm.)

The Board agreed to take Agenda Item #12 out of order:

New Business:

12.0 Professional Development Presentation by Gail Scowcroft of URI

The Executive Director welcomed Gail Scowcroft, Associate Director, and Maryann Scholl, Program Coordinator, of the Office of Marine Programs at URI's Graduate School of Oceanography. Ms. Scowcroft and Ms. Scholl gave an overview of the programs and activities offered by URI's Office of Marine Programs for school districts and encouraged future opportunities for professional development at Northern Rhode Island Collaborative.

Ms. Scowcroft and Ms. Scholl gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their educational and research programs. They also reported that due to the initiatives of Dr. Bob Ballard, Rhode Island will be the home of the first ocean exploration center akin to the Kennedy Space Center.

They advised of the following opportunities available at URI:

- Graduate courses in Science
- Outreach Scientist Program
- Professional development programs for teachers
- Public programs

Ms. Scowcroft also discussed the recent technology installed at Smithfield and Bob Ballard's Expedition to the Black Sea.

Ms. Scholl invited the Board to visit their Bay campus and to come aboard the Endeavor and view “Hercules” and possibly meet with Dr. Bob Ballard.

Ms. Scowcroft and Ms. Scholl left the meeting at 2:26 pm.

Routine Matters:

Mr. O’Brien, Chairman, entertained a motion to approve Agenda Items 1-5, which was moved by Dr. Morelle, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli and carried by all.

1.0 The Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 5, 2007

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Morelle	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Fortunato
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O’Brien

2.0 Bills for the month of August, 2007

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Morelle	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Fortunato
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O’Brien

Communications and Reports:

3.0 Resignation of Denise Fiorio, Teacher SAP

The Executive Director recommended the Board accept the resignation of Denise Fiorio, Teacher in the SAP Program.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Morelle	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Fortunato
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O’Brien

4.0 Resignation of Susan Joyce, Instructional Assistant

The Executive Director recommended the Board accept the resignation of Susan Joyce, Instructional Assistant.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Morelle	<u>Approved:</u>	Ms. Fortunato
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
			Dr. Morelle
			Mr. O’Brien

5.0 Resignation of Sandra Grady, Instructional Assistant

The Executive Director recommended the Board accept the resignation of Sandra Grady, Instructional Assistant.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

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

The Board agreed to take Agenda Item #11 out of order:

New Business:

11.0 Rescind Employment Non-Renewals

The Executive Director recommended the Board approve rescinding the employment non-renewals of the following personnel:

Teachers
Karen Short
Amanda Notz

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
Steven Mendonca

Job Facilitator
Theresa Fagan

Behavioral Specialist
Kim Regan

Clinical Team Leader
Richard Lapierre

Instructional Assistant
Peg McClure

Moved: Ms. Fortunato
Seconded: Dr. Morelle

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

The Board agreed to take Agenda Item #14 out of order:

14.0 NRIC Healthcare Bid

Mr. Craig Enos, Director of Administration, reported that a bid for healthcare was undertaken with USI Consultants and resulted with an initial 25% rate increase for United Health and a 10.2% rate increase for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. United Health then quoted an 18% increase.

The Executive Director recommended the Board approve the healthcare bid be awarded to Blue Cross/Blue Shield at an increase of 10.2%.

Discussion followed regarding healthcare costs and piggybacking our contract with the State's.

Moved: Ms. Fortunato
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

Approved: Ms. Fortunato
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Lindberg
Mr. O'Brien

Abstained: Dr. Morelle

The Board agreed to continue with Agenda Item #8 out of order:

8.0 Strategic Planning – Healthcare

- Presentation by Government Health Corporation of R.I. – Jane Correia, Kevin Walsh, Dave Faucher

Mr. Craig Enos introduced Jane Correia of the Government Health Corporation of R.I. Ms. Correia, the Director of Administration and Finance at the Bristol-Warren School District, introduced Mr. Kevin Walsh, President of Group Benefit Strategies, and Mr. Dave Faucher, Treasurer of the Town of Portsmouth. Ms. Correia distributed copies of an information packet to the Board and gave an overview of their program with a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion followed including a 3-year commitment for school districts and the possibility of bringing in other insurance companies.

Ms. Correia, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Faucher left the meeting at 2:45 pm.

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 2:45 pm, for discussion of Agenda Item #6 – Appointment of Robert E. Wall, Interim Assistant Director, which was moved by Ms. Fortunato, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli. An individual vote was taken and carried by all. The closed session ended at 3:10 pm.

Appointments:

6.0 Appointment of Robert E. Wall, Interim Assistant Director

This item was discussed in Executive Session and the vote was as follows:

Moved: Mr. Lindberg
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

Approved: Ms. Fortunato
Ms. Iacovelli
Mr. Lindberg
Mr. O'Brien

Opposed: Dr. Morelle

New Business:

12.0 Non-Contractual Personnel Salary Increases 2007-08

This item was discussed in Executive Session and the vote was as follows:

Mr. Lindberg motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation of a 3.5% salary increase for non-contractual personnel for 2007-08, which was seconded by Ms. Fortunato and carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Lindberg
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

Old Business:

9.0 Building Update

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No vote was taken.

10.0 Transportation

The Executive Director reported that as discussed at a previous Board meeting, NRIC was in the process of beginning to analyze special education transportation for out of district routes. Ms. Carolyn Dias, Director of Finance for RIDE was invited to update the Board on what is happening on the State level with this issue.

Ms. Dias reported that due to pressure from the legislature and the Governor's office, services such as school supplies, school lunch and healthcare are being procured on a State level. A mandate has been received for a full transportation design system as well.

The statewide transportation system will be done in phases: Year 1 will be special education out of district; Year 2 will be non-public out of district and after school programs; Year 3 will be full implementation. A data collection survey was sent to all districts of their current arrangements. An RFP was issued for the design work and RIPTA will do the design work and routing in January/February. A bid will be sent out in April for full implementation in September 2008.

Ms. Dias advised she would like to join forces with NRIC and work together on this issue. She also recommended that Superintendents separate their special education transportation needs out of their transportation contracts.

Discussion followed. Ms. Dias left the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Informational Matters:

15.0 Nothing to report.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m., which was moved by Ms. Fortunato, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, and carried by all.

Moved: Ms. Fortunato

Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

Approved: Ms. Fortunato

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Respectfully submitted,

Robert O'Brien, Chair