

# **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 **Wednesday, November 7, 2007**. The meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m. by Chairman, Robert O'Brien.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following Board members were present: Dr. Cirillo, Dr. Dellith, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Macera, and Mr. Welford, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guests: Ralph Branca and Ralph Perfetto of RJB Properties, LLC.

Mr. O'Brien, Chairman, presented a plaque from the NRIC Board of Superintendents to Mrs. Peg Iacovelli in recognition of her being selected as Rhode Island's Superintendent of the Year.

### **Routine Matters:**

#### **1.0 The Minutes of the Meeting of October 3, 2007**

Moved: Mr. Lindberg

Approved:

Dr. Cirillo

Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

Dr. Dellith

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Macera

Mr. O'Brien

Mr. Welford

#### **2.0 Bills for the month of October, 2007**

Moved: Dr. Dellith

Approved:

Dr. Cirillo

Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

Dr. Dellith

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Macera

Mr. O'Brien

Mr. Welford

### **Communications and Reports:**

**3.0** Nothing to report.

**Appointments:**

**4.0 Appointment of Robert E. Wall, Director of Educational Services**

The Executive Director recommended the appointment of Robert E. Wall as the Director of Educational Services.

Dr. Dellith expressed concern regarding the need for this position. Dr. Macera reported that she has been directed by her School Committee not to approve any future appointments or expenditures at NRIC’s Board meetings.

Discussion followed. The Executive Director reported on the NRIC reorganization eliminating six Program Coordinator positions and the need for supervision and leadership for 30 classrooms. The job description for this position, previously held by Dr. Robert Fricklas, was expanded and approved by the Board at the October meeting.

<u>Moved:</u>	Mr. Welford	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Cirillo
<u>Seconded:</u>	Ms. Iacovelli		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
<u>Opposed:</u>	Dr. Dellith		Mr. O’Brien
<u>Abstained:</u>	Dr. Macera		Mr. Welford

**5.0 Appointment of Cindy L. Kendall, Assistant Special Education Director**

The Executive Director recommended the appointment of Cindy L. Kendall as the Assistant Special Education Director. Mr. MacDonnell reported that this position was previously held by Bob Wall and that Ms. Kendall’s experience in the areas of early childhood and autism will make a good balance with Mr. Wall.

<u>Moved:</u>	Mr. Lindberg	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Cirillo
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Cirillo		Ms. Iacovelli
			Mr. Lindberg
<u>Opposed:</u>	Dr. Dellith		Mr. O’Brien
<u>Abstained:</u>	Dr. Macera		Mr. Welford

**Old Business:**

**6.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development**

The Executive Director reported that the NRIC Curriculum Team will meet on November 15<sup>th</sup> to begin planning on the professional development priority of “Using Data” selected by the Board at the October meeting.

Mr. O’Brien invited the Superintendents to the Smithfield School Committee meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at Smithfield High School where Mr. Bob Ballard will be in attendance to receive a Partnership Award. The Governor has been invited, along with the Board of Regents, Catalina Martinez from NOAA, and RIDE. Mr. O’Brien also advised of the possibility of a grant from URI to NRIC and an additional training in March in Monterey Bay.

Mr. O'Brien also reported on Data Warehouse training that took place in Smithfield and proposed that RIDE do a 2-hour training for Superintendents and Principals. Discussion followed regarding the training and also inviting the districts' Tech Directors.

## **7.0 Strategic Planning – Healthcare**

The Executive Director reported that at the September Board Meeting we entertained two presentations regarding healthcare and requested the Board's direction on moving forward.

Mr. Lindberg indicated his district's interest in the Governmental Health Group and asked if other districts were interested. Smithfield, Johnston, Burrillville and Foster-Glocester were interested. Mr. Lindberg advised he would email those districts on how to proceed.

Dr. Dellith questioned the status of Special Ed Transportation. Mr. O'Brien and Mr. MacDonnell reported that RIDE is working on this issue and that we were advised by Carolyn Dias at the September meeting not to intervene. Mr. Welford, Dr. Dellith and Mr. Lindberg suggested going ahead with the project and to not wait for RIDE. Mr. Craig Enos reported that we had already begun the project by collecting student address data from the districts, and the plan was to have Mr. George Paquette of North Providence plug in the information and analyze and plot out the routes. Discussion took place on the districts' transportation providers and their contracts. Mr. MacDonnell advised that we will start up the process again. Mr. Welford suggested sending out another email to the districts.

## **8.0 Building Update**

- Sale of Epheta House Property

The Executive Director reported that Mayor McKee is interested in purchasing the Epheta House property. He has met with his Town Council and is obtaining an appraisal of the property. The Cumberland Housing Authority is also interested in the property and has offered us \$900,000. Mr. MacDonnell will update the Board as soon as he hears from Mayor McKee.

- Presentation by Ralph Branca, RJB Properties, LLC

The Executive Director welcomed Ralph Branca and Ralph Perfetto of RJB Properties to the meeting. Mr. Perfetto began his PowerPoint presentation by giving an overview of their company, their experience, and their properties in the area. He then reviewed the proposed property on the corner of Rt. 116 and Reservoir Road in Smithfield and their proposed development plan for Lot #1 for RI Special Olympics, Lot #3 for Ralph Branca offices, and Lot #2 for Northern RI Collaborative. Mr. Perfetto advised that the Visiting Nurses Association is also looking at this site.

Mr. Perfetto reviewed Option 1 which is a land purchase only at a price of \$850,000; Option 2 is a Lease/Purchase which consists of a seven-year lease term, one five-year option and the option to purchase the building within 24 months of lease execution at

a purchase price of \$2.6 million. Mr. Perfetto and Mr. Branca entertained questions from the Board and then left the meeting at 2:25 pm.

#### **9.0 Operating Budget 2007-08 Recommendations**

The Executive Director provided copies of Student Enrollment Numbers by District and Information on Budget Impacts for FY07 and FY08. Mr. MacDonnell reported on the impact of student withdrawals and the loss of tuitions resulting in a deficit. Mr. MacDonnell reviewed the current NRIC billing cycle, which is on a two-month per diem attendance basis, and the difficulties with the lack of commitment from the districts and not being able to control revenues.

Dr. Macera suggested purchasing slots at NRIC. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the former Superintendents did not want to purchase slots.

Discussion followed regarding Walter Edge, forensic auditor, conducting an audit of NRIC, and charging non-member districts the full tuition amount.

(Mr. Lindberg left the meeting at 2:30 pm).

(Ms. Iacovelli left the meeting at 2:32 pm).

Mr. MacDonnell began to review the billing proposals, copy of which was provided to the Board.

(Dr. Macera left the meeting at 2:40 pm).

The billing proposals will be discussed at the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

#### **New Business:**

#### **10.0 Annual Meeting Date**

The Executive Director recommended this item be tabled for discussion at the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum. Mr. Welford suggested changing the Annual Meeting location to Crystal Lake Golf Club in Harrisville.

#### **Informational Matters:**

#### **11.0 2007-08 Superintendents' Storm Phone Tree**

A copy of the updated Superintendents' Storm Phone Tree was distributed.

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

Due to the absence of Attorney Scungio and the lack of a quorum, Executive Session was not held.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m., which was moved by Mr. Welford, seconded by Dr. Cirillo, and carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Welford  
Seconded: Dr. Cirillo

Approved: Dr. Cirillo  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert O'Brien, Chair