

# 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 Trattoria Romana Restaurant, Lincoln, RI, on **Tuesday, November 18, 2008**. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman, Robert O'Brien.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following Board members were present: Dr. Barnes, Ms. Fortunato, Dr. Gerardi, Ms. Iacovelli, Dr. Morelle, Dr. Ottaviano and Mr. Welford, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, Robert Wall, Director of Educational Services, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guests: Attorneys Benjamin Scungio and Andrew Henneous.

### **Move into Closed Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5(a) 1, 2 & 5 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for legal advice related thereto.**

Chairman O'Brien entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session at 1:05 pm, which was moved by Dr. Morelle, seconded by Mr. Welford; an individual vote was taken and carried by all. The closed session ended at 1:27 pm. There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

### **Routine Matters:**

Chairman O'Brien explained that the change of venue today was due to the Funding Formula Meeting that was to be held at Bryant College in Smithfield until noon to be attended by all Superintendents. Mr. O'Brien felt that this location would be more convenient for Superintendents.

#### **1.0 The Minutes of October 7, 2008**

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Ms. Fortunato  
Dr. Gerardi  
Ms. Iacovelli  
Dr. Morelle  
Dr. Ottaviano  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

#### **2.0 Bills for the month of October, 2008**

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli

Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Ms. Fortunato  
Dr. Gerardi  
Ms. Iacovelli  
Dr. Morelle

Dr. Ottaviano  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

The Board agreed to take Agenda Items out of order:

**New Business:**

**5.0 Annual Meeting Date**

The Executive Director reported that the NRIC Annual Meeting Date needs to be selected for 2009 and asked for the Board's availability on the dates of Wednesday, March 18, Thursday, March 19, and Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Twelve Acres Banquet Facility is available on these dates.

After discussion, the Board wanted to check on additional dates.

**Old Business:**

**4.0 Main Office Lease**

The Executive Director reported that the lease with Ralph Branca for the property at 640 George Washington Highway in Lincoln has been signed. Mr. MacDonnell advised that the anticipated move-in date is January 2009.

**New Business:**

**8.0 St. Teresa's Lease 2008-09**

The Executive Director is requesting the Board's approval of a one-year lease with St. Teresa's School for 2008-09 with no rent increase.

Moved: Dr. Morelle  
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Ms. Fortunato  
Dr. Gerardi  
Ms. Iacovelli  
Dr. Morelle  
Dr. Ottaviano  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

**Old Business:**

**3.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development Update  
- Professional Development Plan**

The Executive Director reported that the draft of the Professional Development Plan was emailed to the Board for their review. Comments were received and incorporated into the plan. After discussion, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to approve the NRIC Professional Development Plan, which was moved by Mr. Welford, seconded by Ms. Fortunato, carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Welford  
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Ms. Fortunato  
Dr. Gerardi  
Ms. Iacovelli  
Dr. Morelle  
Dr. Ottaviano  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

- **Dr. Robert Ballard**

Mr. O'Brien reported that he met with Dr. Ballard and he has agreed to come to NRIC's new Professional Development Center for the grand opening on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. O'Brien advised that the working equipment model will be available in January and anticipates opening up to the remaining NRIC districts. Mr. O'Brien encouraged participation of all districts. Mr. MacDonnell will contact Dr. Ballard to confirm the date and time of the presentation on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. O'Brien advised that all districts and their school committees will be invited.

**New Business:**

**6.0 NRIC Holdings**

The Executive Director reported that this item was placed on the agenda due to a request from Dr. Hans Dellith regarding distribution of the monies from the sale of the Epheta House property. Copies of the Resolution to disburse the NRIC Holding Company funds were provided to the Board along with a copy of the Executive Session Minutes of June 27, 2008. Mr. MacDonnell reported that Dr. Dellith understood the issue was voted on in June 2008, therefore, Mr. MacDonnell requested the Board review the issue.

Discussion followed. Mr. Craig Enos distributed copies of the Options for Projected Disbursement of \$397,500. The Board agreed to wait until receipt of the Audit Report for 2007-08 from Bacon & Company before voting on this disbursement. The Audit Report should be available by the next Board meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that Pat Boucher of Bacon & Company be invited to the December meeting.

Discussion also took place regarding the lack of payment of tuition bills from the districts. Mr. Welford suggested a list be developed of where districts stand as far as their payment status.

Mr. O'Brien advised that he will not be able to attend the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked that Dr. Ottaviano chair that meeting.

**7.0 RINET Alternate Representative**

Chairman O'Brien reported that Mr. Lindberg, as the NRIC representative on RINET's Board, is requesting that an alternate member be appointed for those times when Mr. Lindberg is unable to attend the RINET meetings. Mr. Lindberg is requesting the Board's approval for his Technical Director, Eric Butash, to serve as NRIC's alternate representative on RINET's Board.

Dr. Barnes motioned to approve, which was seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Barnes  
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Ms. Fortunato  
Dr. Gerardi  
Ms. Iacovelli  
Dr. Morelle  
Dr. Ottaviano  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

**Information:**

**9.0 RIDE Teacher Assistant Network Session – January 2009**

The Executive Director provided copies of RIDE's announcement of the next Teacher Assistant Network in January 2009.

**10.0 Background on NRIC Strategic Plan/Building/Land Purchase November 2008**

The Executive Director provided copies of the updated history of the Building/Land issue which is now concluded.

• **Transportation Issue**

The Executive Director reported an issue to the Board regarding student transportation during a school delay due to the weather. Mr. Robert Wall advised that because NRIC students come from multiple districts, we need to open our sites. Mr. Wall distributed copies of a draft letter to parents and transportation coordinators for the Board's review. After discussion, the Board agreed they would not allow their schools to open for NRIC students during a snow delay. Mr. MacDonnell will notify the transportation providers that if there is a delay, then we cannot transport students to those districts who have a delay.

Debbie Jannetta will update the Superintendents' Storm Phone Tree and distribute via email.

- Mr. O'Brien thanked the Board for their attendance at meetings this year and encouraged future attendance. Mr. MacDonnell advised that attendance at Curriculum Team meetings has been phenomenal.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Morelle, seconded by Mr. Welford, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle  
Seconded: Mr. Welford

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Ms. Fortunato  
Dr. Gerardi  
Ms. Iacovelli  
Dr. Morelle  
Dr. Ottaviano  
Mr. O'Brien  
Mr. Welford

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert O'Brien, Chairman