

Regional Board of Superintendents' Meeting

Northern Rhode Island Collaborative
640 George Washington Highway, Suite 200
Lincoln, RI 02865

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Regional Board of Superintendents was held at 640 George Washington Highway, Suite 104B, Lincoln, RI, on **Tuesday, March 3, 2009**. The meeting was called to order at 12:57 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, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Morelle, Dr. Ottaviano, and Mr. Welford, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, Robert Wall, Director of Educational Services, Craig Enos, Director of Administration, and Thomas Rambacher, Director of Technology. Guests: Lisa Barden, School Spring, Attorney Andrew Henneous, John Pini, RISSA.

Routine Matters:

1.0 The Minutes of February 4 and February 13, 2009

Moved: Dr. Ottaviano

Approved:

Dr. Barnes

Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

Ms. Fortunato

Dr. Gerardi

Ms. Iacovelli

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

2.0 Bills for the month of February, 2009

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli

Approved:

Dr. Barnes

Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

Ms. Fortunato

Dr. Gerardi

Ms. Iacovelli

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Ottaviano

Mr. Welford

Correspondence:

3.0 Bud MacDonnell

Correspondence was received from Mr. MacDonnell in acknowledgment of the Board's kindness in the event of the death of Mr. MacDonnell's mother.

Old Business:

4.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development

. Discussion of Presentation by Dr. Tim Waters, McREL

The Executive Director requested the Board's direction as to the districts' interest in pursuing an opportunity to collaborate with McREL. Discussion followed regarding the Dana Center information vs. McREL. It was suggested that we start out with a small part of McREL with three topics and go with the Dana Center for Math and Science.

Mr. O'Brien suggested aligning districts' professional development days and holding something at Bryant University.

Mr. MacDonnell will pursue grant opportunities and the possibility of bringing back the principal leadership series.

. Michael Schmoker Professional Development Opportunity, May 09

The Executive Director reminded everyone of the professional development opportunity with Dr. Michael Schmoker on May 5 & 6, 2009 and that we are now ready to register attendees. Additional copies of the flyer were made available.

5.0 District Technology Collaboration – Steve Lindberg

The Executive Director reported that a subcommittee has been formed to review district technology needs. The subcommittee consists of Eric Butash, North Smithfield, Ed Hill, Smithfield, Jonathan Gallishaw, Woonsocket, and Tom Rambacher, NRIC.

Mr. Tom Rambacher advised the Board that the Technology Subcommittee will review student information systems, technology services and cooperative purchasing. They are currently working on an on-line survey for districts' tech directors regarding the types of servers, student information systems, printers, etc. The potential stimulus money for technology and education was discussed along with the opportunity to cooperatively purchase services such as wireless, mobile labs, etc. Mr. Rambacher encouraged district tech directors to complete the survey. A meeting of all tech directors will take place to review the survey results.

Mr. MacDonnell reported that in a meeting with Carolyn Dias, she indicated that she is willing to mandate cooperative purchasing with other districts.

Discussion followed regarding the concern of stimulus monies going to a data warehouse and a student information system. Mr. Welford suggested that a letter be written to Carolyn Dias that NRIC does not support the use of stimulus monies for a student information system.

(Mr. Lindberg arrived at 1:35 pm).

Mr. Rambacher advised that a meeting of RISTE has been scheduled in Coventry. Carolyn Dias and Holly Walsh will be in attendance and the subject matter will be the stimulus money.

Mr. Welford motioned to send a letter to RIDE that NRIC does not support the use of stimulus monies for RIDE to develop a student information system. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lindberg.

Discussion followed on the wording of the letter. It was agreed that Mr. Welford and Dr. Barnes would draft the letter and send to the Board via email for comments.

The motion was carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Welford

Seconded: Mr. Lindberg

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

(Mr. Rambacher left the meeting at 1:45 pm).

New Business:

6.0 Vote for NRIC Board Officers

The Executive Director reported that nominations were received at the last meeting for a new Board Chairman – Dr. Donna Ottaviano – and Vice Chairman – Dr. Donna Morelle – and now requires a vote from the Board.

Mr. Lindberg motioned to approve the nominations of Dr. Donna Ottaviano as the new Board Chair and Dr. Donna Morelle as the new Vice Chair of the NRIC Board of Superintendents. Ms. Fortunato seconded the motion and was carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Lindberg

Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

7.0 RI Legislation H5229 Relating to State Affairs & Government-Open Meetings-School Committees – Georgia Fortunato

The Executive Director reported that this agenda item was requested by Georgia Fortunato.

Ms. Fortunato requested the Board’s support of draft legislation introduced by Representatives Shallcross-Smith, Menard and Petrarca regarding the advertising of open meetings. Ms. Fortunato advised of the expense of advertising in the newspaper and this legislation would require posting on the open meetings website and districts’ websites only.

Mr. O’Brien suggested sending a letter of support for this legislation.

Dr. Barnes motioned that a letter of support be sent to the legislators from NRIC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gerardi.

Dr. Morelle suggested that a separate letter from each district be sent. Mr. O’Brien will speak with John Pini to gain support of the other Collaboratives.

The motion was carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Barnes
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

(John Pini of RISSA arrived at 2:10 pm)

8.0 North Providence Housing Authority Lease (NRIC Apartment C)

The Executive Director requested the Board’s approval of a 2-year lease renewal for NRIC’s Apartment C at a nominal increase.

Moved: Dr. Barnes
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

9.0 Utilities Bid (Gas, Oil)

Mr. Craig Enos gave an update on the Utilities Bid process. A survey of the districts was completed and five districts were interested in a non-binding bid for oil. Direct Energy is compiling the information.

Ms. Iacovelli motioned to move forward on a non-binding bid for oil, which was seconded by Dr. Ottaviano, carried by all.

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

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

10.0 RINET Correspondence/Response – Steve Lindberg

Mr. O'Brien recommended this agenda item be held for discussion in Executive Session.

Executive Session --

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 2:15 pm, which was moved by Ms. Fortunato, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli; an individual vote was taken and carried by all. The closed session ended at 2:45 pm.

Mr. O'Brien reported that a vote was taken by the Board in Executive Session regarding the agenda item "RINET Correspondence/Response – Steve Lindberg". Mr. Welford motioned that the Board provide legal representation for Mr. Lindberg with the issues at RINET. The motion was seconded by Dr. Morelle and carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Welford
Seconded: Dr. Morelle

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

11.0 School Spring Presentation – Lisa Barden

Chairman O’Brien requested this presentation by School Spring be on the agenda due to the significant savings in employment costs that can be realized with this system. Mr. O’Brien welcomed Lisa Barden to the meeting. Ms. Barden gave a Powerpoint presentation to the Board on the recruiting and employment source web-based system which is specific to education. School districts can post their employment vacancies on-line, receive applications, set up evaluation teams, set up interviews and hire. Ms. Barden advised they have a candidate pool of 130,000 applicants.

(Dr. Morelle left the meeting at 3:30 pm).
(Mr. Welford left the meeting at 3:38 pm).
(Ms. Iacovelli left the meeting at 3:40 pm).

Pricing information was distributed and discussed. Ms. Barden advised there are nine Rhode Island districts already participating in the program and that the enrollment fee is based on individual school enrollments. Group trainings for the districts would be scheduled at a discount.

Discussion followed on the program. Mr. John Pini of RISSA indicated an interest in pursuing statewide participation.

The presentation concluded and Ms. Barden left the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Information:

12.0 RIDE Teacher Assistant Network Session

The Executive Director provided information regarding the next RIDE Teacher Assistant Network Session at NRIC on April 1, 2009.

With no further information to report, Mr. O’Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Ottaviano, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Gerardi
Seconded: Mr. Lindberg

Approved: Dr. Barnes
Ms. Fortunato
Mr. Lindberg
Mr. O’Brien
Dr. Ottaviano

Respectfully submitted,

Robert O’Brien, Chairman