

# 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, April 7, 2009**. The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Chairman Robert O'Brien.

In addition to Mr. O'Brien, the following Board members were present: Dr. Dellith, Dr. Gerardi, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Morelle, and Dr. Ottaviano, 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. Guest: Attorney Andrew Henneous

### **Routine Matters:**

#### **1.0 The Minutes of March 3 and Annual Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2009**

Moved: Dr. Dellith  
Seconded: Dr. Ottaviano

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

#### **2.0 Bills for the month of March, 2009**

Moved: Dr. Dellith  
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

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

### **Old Business:**

#### **3.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development . Discussion of McREL Draft Professional Development Proposal**

The Executive Director reviewed the proposal received from McREL and asked the Board if they wanted to pursue this opportunity. Mr. MacDonnell also provided copies to the Board of McREL's Balanced Leadership Consortium. After discussion, Chairman O'Brien suggested districts purchase together utilizing their stimulus monies. Mr.

MacDonnell will place this item on the agenda for next month when the districts should have a better idea of the amount of the stimulus monies.

(Mr. Lindberg arrived at 12:47 pm).

Mr. MacDonnell congratulated those districts who entered into a consortium with the Dana Center – Cumberland, Lincoln, Smithfield, Foster-Glocester and Woonsocket.

**. Michael Schmoker Professional Development Opportunity, May 09**

The Executive Director reminded the Board of the professional development opportunity with Dr. Michael Schmoker on May 5 & 6, 2009 and advised that 100 people have registered as of this date.

**4.0 District Technology Collaboration Survey – Steve Lindberg, Eric Butash, Tom Rambacher**

The Executive Director welcomed Tom Rambacher, NRIC’s Technology Director, to the meeting to discuss the District Technology Survey. Mr. Rambacher reviewed the results of the Technology Cooperative Purchasing Survey as follows:

- What type of workstations do you purchase?  
*7 – HP/Compaq 4 – Dell 2 – Other 2 – Thin Client 1 – IBM*
- What type of servers do you purchase?  
*8 – HP/Compaq 4 – Dell*
- What type of networking equipment do you have/purchase?  
*6 – HP 6 – CISCO 3 – Other 2 – Netgear*
- Do you currently have “Smart or Interactive Display” technology?  
*5 – Smart Board 4 – Promethean 4 – Mimeo 1 – Other*
- Do you plan to purchase any “Smart or Interactive Display” technology?  
*5 – Promethean 5 – Smart Board 1 – Mimeo 1 – No interest*
- Do you plan to purchase Mobile laptop carts (also called Computers on Wheels or COW’s)?  
*7 – Yes If so, how many? - 5*  
*2 – No*
- What type of printer do you purchase?  
*8 – HP 2 – Other*
- What printing supplies do you currently purchase annually?  
*9 – Toner 6 – Drums 6 – Ink 6 – Fusers 2 – Other*
- Are you interested or willing to purchase refurbished or off lease equipment?  
*6 – Yes 2 – No 1 – Not Sure*
- Which Student Information System does your district utilize?  
*5 – MMS 3 – School Max 2 – Infinite Campus*

Nine out of ten districts reporting have their SIS contract up for renewal in 2009.

Mr. Rambacher also reported on the March 24, 2009 meeting of the Districts’ Technology Directors where the stimulus money was discussed to purchase a statewide fiber network and the advantages of fiber and greater bandwidth.

(Mr. Craig Enos arrived at 1:00 pm).

Discussion followed on the next step and the possibility of NRIC being the fiscal agent.

Mr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Rambacher for his presentation and for working with the Technology Directors. Mr. O'Brien was encouraged by the potential for cost savings and asked the Superintendents to speak to their Tech Directors before decisions are made regarding their stimulus monies.

Mr. Lindberg thanked the Board for their support regarding the recent RINET issue. Mr. Lindberg discussed the possibility of stepping down from their Board.

Mr. Robert Wall, NRIC's Director of Educational Services, updated the Board regarding the recent meeting of Special Education Directors and their discussion of a new software solutions program "NetRTT". A demo of the program will be released for the Special Ed Directors. Mr. Wall advised that the cost for initial set up is \$6,000 -- a one-time set up fee depending on the number of districts participating; \$1,500 one time PD costs; approximately \$250 per student depending on the number of students participating. The company has agreed to freeze the cost for the first three years of the contract.

**5.0 School Spring**

The Executive Director reported that 16 districts in Rhode Island have signed on with School Spring.

**6.0 Utilities Bid**

The Executive Director asked Mr. Craig Enos to report on this agenda item.

Mr. Enos advised that Direct Energy has not yet followed up with him but he will continue to pursue. Mr. Enos also advised that the information for the oil bid was forwarded to Mr. Lindberg and it should be in the Providence Journal this week.

**New Business:**

The Board agreed to take the following agenda items out of order:

**8.0 Ratification of the NRICEU Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Chairman O'Brien advised this item would be discussed in Executive Session.

**9.0 RISSA Executive Board NRIC Membership**

Chairman O'Brien reported that NRIC's two current members of the RISSA Executive Board's membership is expiring. Do they want to continue?

Dr. Dellith motioned that the current members on RISSA's Executive Board, Dr. Donna Ottaviano and Ms. Peg Iacovelli, remain. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gerardi and was carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Dellith  
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

Mr. O'Brien updated the Board regarding recent proposed legislation to go green with cleaning products. Discussion took place on NRIC bidding on these products for the districts. NRIC will do a survey to the districts' buildings and grounds people on the products being utilized. This item will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

#### **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 1:40 pm, which was moved by Dr. Ottaviano, seconded by Dr. Morelle; an individual vote was taken and carried by all. The closed session ended at 2:15 pm.

Mr. O'Brien reported the following vote by the Board as a result of discussions in Executive Session regarding the agenda item "NRICEU Collective Bargaining Agreement". Dr. Dellith motioned that the Board approve the ratification of the NRICEU Contract Agreement, which was seconded by Dr. Gerardi and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Dellith  
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

#### **7.0 Drupal Content Website Management System Presentation – Steve Welford, Paul Barrette**

Chairman O'Brien suggested tabling this agenda item until the May meeting.

(Dr. Morelle, Dr. Dellith & Dr. Gerardi left the meeting at 2:15 pm).

#### **Information:**

#### **10.0 Professional Development Opportunities – Spring into Literacy & Great Books**

The Executive Director provided information regarding two upcoming professional development activities.

**11.0 The Trust Ownership Participation Shares Dividend**

The Executive Director provided information regarding The Trust Shares Dividend to NRIC.

With no further information to report, Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:17 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Ottaviano, seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Ottaviano  
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert O'Brien, Chairman