

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 200, Lincoln, RI, on **Tuesday, July 28, 2009**. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Chair Dr. Donna Ottaviano.

In addition to Dr. Ottaviano, the following Board members were present: Dr. Barnes, Ms. Fortunato, Ms. Iacovelli, Mr. Lindberg, Dr. Morelle, Mr. O'Brien, and Dr. Pallotta, as well as Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guest: Attorney Benjamin Scungio.

Routine Matters:

1.0 The Minutes of June 2, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of June 30 & July 7, 2009

Moved: Mr. O'Brien

Approved: Dr. Barnes

Seconded: Dr. Morelle

Ms. Fortunato

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Ottaviano

Dr. Pallotta

2.0 Bills for the month of June, 2009

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli

Approved: Dr. Barnes

Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

Ms. Fortunato

Ms. Iacovelli

Mr. Lindberg

Dr. Morelle

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Ottaviano

Dr. Pallotta

Correspondence:

3.0 Retirement of Betty Viau, Human Resources Assistant

The Executive Director recommended that the Board accept the retirement of Betty Viau, Human Resources Assistant. Dr. Morelle motioned to accept the retirement of Ms. Viau, which was seconded by Ms. Fortunato, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

4.0 Resignation of Tom Costello, Lead Transition Employment Center Facilitator

The Executive Director recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Tom Costello, Lead Transition Employment Center Facilitator. Dr. Morelle motioned to accept the resignation of Mr. Costello, which was seconded by Mr. O'Brien, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

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

5.0 Retirement of Alesandra Branca, IA, Auditory Oral Program

The Executive Director recommended that the Board accept the retirement of Alesandra Branca, IA, Auditory Oral Program. Ms. Fortunato motioned to accept the retirement of Ms. Branca, which was seconded by Ms. Iacovelli, carried by all.

Moved: Ms. Fortunato
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

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

Old Business:

6.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development

The Executive Director discussed the recent meeting of the Curriculum Leadership Team and the desire of the districts to work more cooperatively on PD opportunities, especially in light of the elimination of State funding for PD. Mr. MacDonnell also forwarded McREL information to all Superintendents in RI through RISSA to expand opportunity for leadership training with North Providence.

Dr. Morelle suggested the possibility of Cumberland expanding the Dunn Institute training on literacy to allow other districts to participate. She will speak with Sue Carney her Assistant Superintendent to bring this to the next CLT meeting.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the recent developments with the Ballard project and URI and his efforts to work with RIDE to support funding for the development of software that would allow the download of Exploration Data to local districts directly to their servers. This would reduce overall costs as bandwidth will no longer be a determining element.

Mr. Lindberg suggested that the Board have a recurring Spring agenda item to review PD offerings within their districts and have a discussion of collaborative ventures for the next year. This item will be discussed further at the next regularly scheduled meeting in August. Mr. Lindberg also asked about a collaborative interest on legal training for school-based administrators on such topics as progressive discipline and other pertinent or recurring issues. Attorney Scungio would provide the workshop at NRIC but desired specific issues be sent to him by the Superintendents in advance so that he can customize the presentation. He also asked for possible training dates.

Ms. Fortunato suggested that the Superintendents begin collaborative discussions and planning on the forthcoming Swine Flu season. Dr. Ottaviano suggested that the Board invite Dr. Crausman from the RI Department of Health to the next meeting. Dr. Morelle discussed the need to have a 'Distant-Learning Plan' on file in the case of a severe outbreak and the need to close schools for extended amounts of time. Further discussion will take place at the August 11th Meeting.

7.0 Operational Reserve Policy

Attorney Scungio reviewed the background of the Auditor's request for an increase in the operational reserve monies. Given the severe financial climate and the impact on districts to pay the NRIC bills in a timely manner, the recommendation is for the NRIC to maintain a three-month operational reserve. Much discussion was held on the actual intent and scope of the policy and whether the NRIC should have penalty language. Attorney Scungio suggested that they may want to be cautious with the penalty language as they all have the ability to be impacted by it. The real concern is with their municipal government officials releasing the school department funds. Dr. Morelle suggested that an Operational Billing Process and Procedure should be developed by the Board and NRIC Administration.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindberg to approve the Operational Reserve Policy as amended by Attorney Scungio, which was seconded by Ms. Fortunato.

Moved: Mr. Lindberg
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

Opposed: Dr. Barnes

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

Mr. Lindberg made a supporting motion directing the Executive Director to bring back to the Board a draft plan for the non-payment of bills, including timelines, action steps, etc. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fortunato and carried by all.

Moved: Mr. Lindberg
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

New Business:

8.0 Employment Non-Renewal of Teacher Assistants 2009-10:

P. McClure
J. Watson
M. Harnedy
A. Hero

The Executive Director recommended the employment non-renewal of those teacher assistants listed above for the 2009-10 school year. Dr. Morelle motioned to approve the non-renewals as listed. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

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

9.0 Rescind Employment Non-Renewals 2009-10

This item was not discussed.

Information:

10.0 Administrators' Contract Extensions

The Executive Director provided copies of the administrators' contracts for the Board's information.

- Mr. Lindberg requested discussion be held in November regarding the Oil Bid of Global to better prepare for a bid process in January/February 2010.

Executive Session --

There was no Executive Session.

With no further information to report, Dr. Ottaviano entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m., which was moved by Dr. Morelle, seconded by Mr. Lindberg, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Mr. Lindberg

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Donna Ottaviano, Chair