

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, September 8, 2009**. The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Chair Dr. Donna Ottaviano.

In addition to Dr. Ottaviano, the following Board members were present: Ms. Fortunato, Dr. Gerardi, 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.

Routine Matters:

1.0 The Minutes of July 28, 2009

Moved: Dr. Gerardi
Seconded: Ms. Iacovelli

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

2.0 Bills for the month of July & August, 2009

Moved: Ms. Iacovelli
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

Appointments:

The Executive Director recommended the following appointments be approved by the Board of Superintendents. Dr. Ottaviano entertained a motion to approve the appointments, Agenda Items 3 through 7, which was moved by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, carried by all.

3.0 Appointment of Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney, Lead Transition Employment Center Facilitator

4.0 Appointment of Marjorie Farias, Human Resources Assistant

5.0 Appointment of Denise Marshall, Job Facilitator

6.0 Appointment of Donna Juneau, Behavior Specialist

7.0 Appointment of Matthew Vadenais, Instructional Assistant 180-Day Substitute

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

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

Correspondence:

8.0 Retirement of Dorothy Martin, Instructional Assistant

The Executive Director recommended that the Board accept the retirement of Dorothy Martin, Instructional Assistant. Dr. Morelle motioned to accept the retirement of Ms. Martin, which was seconded by Dr. Gerardi, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

9.0 Resignation of Kimberly Regan, Behavioral Specialist

The Executive Director recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Kimberly Regan, Behavioral Specialist. Dr. Morelle motioned to accept the resignation of Ms. Regan, which was seconded by Ms. Fortunato, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Morelle
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

Old Business:

10.0 Strategic Planning – Professional Development – Collaborative Planning

The Executive Director reported that he has met with Attorney Scungio regarding proposed legal professional development activities for administrators possibly beginning

in October. Mr. MacDonnell distributed information on the proposed topics. Dates and times for the workshops were discussed. Attorney Scungio will coordinate.

Dr. Morelle advised that David Kane will be doing a presentation to Cumberland's staff regarding 504. She suggested the possibility of opening up this activity to other districts and will check on this and advise.

The Executive Director provided copies of information on "Virtual Curriculum Supports" for elementary and secondary courses as requested by the Board at a previous meeting. Discussion took place regarding E-learning, technology and teachers putting their lessons on line.

11.0 NRIC Operational Billing Procedure

As requested by the Board, the Executive Director reviewed the proposed protocol that was developed for dealing with delinquent district payments. Mr. MacDonnell reviewed the Operational Reserve Policy, whereby NRIC should maintain a 3-month operational reserve as recommended by our auditor and recently approved by the Board of Superintendents. Mr. MacDonnell provided copies and reviewed the proposed procedure along with the proposed protocol for collection of delinquent accounts and sample collection letters for review by the Board.

Discussion took place regarding the letter of commitment and contract from the districts when a student is originally enrolled with NRIC and it was suggested that this information become part of the protocol. Mr. MacDonnell will put together a packet of this information for the next meeting. Mr. MacDonnell will request that Attorney Scungio attend the next meeting.

(Mr. Lindberg arrived at 12:50 pm).

New Business:

12.0 Rescind Employment Non-Renewals 2009-10

Instructional Assistants

Hero, A.
Harnedy, M.

Nurse/Teachers

Felber, M. (.5 FTE)
Blanchette, C. (.5 FTE0)

Teacher (180-Day Sub)

Short, K.

Instructional Assistant (180-Day Sub)

Watson, J.

Social Worker

Wood, J.

Occupational Therapist

O'Brien, C.

The Executive Director recommended the employment non-renewal of those personnel listed above be rescinded for the 2009-10 school year. Mr. O'Brien motioned to approve and the motion was seconded by Dr. Gerardi and carried by all.

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

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

13.0 Van Bid

The Executive Director reported that we went out to bid for a van to be utilized for transporting students at the TEC center under the ORS Grant. Mr. Enos advised we were able to obtain a used Dodge van at a cost of \$13,480. Mr. MacDonnell requested the Board's approval of this purchase. After discussion, Mr. O'Brien motioned to approve the purchase of the Dodge van at a cost of \$13,480 through the ORS Grant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fortunato, carried by all.

Moved: Mr. O'Brien
Seconded: Ms. Fortunato

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

14.0 Cleaning Supplies Bid

Mr. Craig Enos, Director of Administration, reported that we went out to bid on behalf of the districts for green cleaning supplies in July. Bids were opened on August 11; responses to the bid were poor. Information was sent out to the districts' Facilities Directors and Business Managers. The only district that responded was Tom Conlon of Pawtucket; other districts were already in contracts that they did not want to break. Districts advised their prices were lower than the bid prices.

After discussion, Mr. Enos reported that he will notify the vendors that we are not moving forward at this time.

15.0 Social Street School Lease

The Executive Director requested the Board approve the lease at Social Street School in Woonsocket. Mr. MacDonnell thanked Dr. Gerardi and the Woonsocket School Committee for their assistance in securing this space for NRIC.

Moved: Ms. Fortunato
Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

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

16.0 NRIC Non-Member District Contract

The Executive Director provided copies of the proposed “Terms and Conditions of Service for Non-Member School Districts’ which was developed in conjunction with Attorney Scungio. After discussion, Mr. MacDonnell requested approval by the Board. Dr. Pallotta motioned to approve the non-member district contract, which was seconded by Dr. Gerardi, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

17.0 Healthcare Bid

The Executive Director reported that we went out to bid in May/June for healthcare and are recommending that NRIC remain with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Craig Enos reported on the following numbers:

- 9.8% increase -- Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- 8% increase – United Healthcare
- 7% increase – Tufts

Blue Cross’ dental package was lower than Delta Dental. Delta Dental is re-working their numbers and Mr. Enos will bring that information to the Board at the next meeting.

Discussion followed. Dr. Morelle questioned why we did not go with Tufts, the lower bidder. Mr. Enos explained that in order to switch plans, Tufts requires the October payment up front and that we do not have the money currently available in the checking account to make that payment. Mr. Enos distributed copies of an analysis of the bids.....

Further discussion took place regarding the upfront payment, NRIC’s inability to join the healthcare purchasing group, and a suggestion to change the open enrollment time period.

Mr. Lindberg motioned to accept the Blue Cross/Blue Shield bid with an increase of 9.8% effective for one year only, which was seconded by Dr. Gerardi.

Dr. Morelle expressed her opposition of this action. Further discussion followed regarding NRIC’s cashflow problem. Dr. Morelle questioned if we could have a 30-day extension with Tufts and Mr. Enos advised they would not accept an extension. Ms. Fortunato suggested meeting with them again and hold a special meeting with the Board. Mr. O’Brien suggested paying 10% per month.

Mr. Lindberg modified his motion to accept the Tufts healthcare bid on the condition they accept the 10% payment per month and if not, then accept the Blue Cross/Blue Shield healthcare bid.

Moved: Mr. Lindberg
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

Information:

- Mr. Lindberg reported that his Facilities Director resigned and he is looking for copies of district's job description for that position.
- Mr. O'Brien invited Superintendents to attend the dedication of the Confucius Classroom and reported on the success of the program. Ms. Fortunato advised that Lincoln will be the next district to be involved in the program.

With no further information to report, Dr. Ottaviano entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Dr. Gerardi, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta
Seconded: Dr. Gerardi

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Donna Ottaviano, Chair