

Regional Board of Superintendents' Meeting

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

25th ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative was held on **Wednesday, March 16, 2011** at Twelve Acres in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

The Executive Director, Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., welcomed all those in attendance including the Board of Superintendents, School Committee members, school district staff, special partners, NRIC staff and special guest speaker, David Sienko from the RI Department of Education, along with RIDE personnel, Michele Palermo, Ann Turrell, and Emily Klein. Mr. MacDonnell then introduced Chairperson, Dr. Donna Ottaviano.

Dr. Ottaviano called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. Upon determining representation from Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster-Glocester, North Providence, Pawtucket, Smithfield, and Woonsocket, Dr. Ottaviano declared a quorum. Dr. Ottaviano welcomed all to the meeting recognizing the Board of Superintendents, School Committee members, RI Department of Education, RI Interlocal Trust, School Counsel, teaching staff, parents, students and guests.

Guest Speaker:

Mr. MacDonnell introduced Mr. David Sienko, Director of Student, Community and Academic Support, at the RI Department of Education, as our special guest speaker this evening.

Mr. Sienko gave an update on activities at the RI Department of Education including Race to the Top, the new Teacher Evaluation System, Curriculum Development and Common Core, Strategic Planning, development of Multiple Pathways, BEP, Diverse Learners, RTI results, social and emotional learning needs of students, and Assistive Technology. Mr. Sienko is looking forward to working with NRIC on these issues.

Report of Executive Director:

On the 25th anniversary of the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative, Mr. Julian MacDonnell thanked and recognized NRIC's first Executive Director, Robert Guillette, and first Business Manager, Dick Charland. Mr. MacDonnell reviewed NRIC's Annual Report which highlights our activities and new initiatives, a statement of our financial activities, our community partners, and our staff. Mr. MacDonnell reported that the challenges facing our school committees in these difficult financial times are not much different than they were 25 years ago and stressed the need to come together to share common needs to collaborate and to develop cost efficiencies. By maximizing our efforts and resources, we continue to meet educational mandates confronting us. Mr. MacDonnell emphasized the commitment of the Board of Superintendents and a shared belief system from our districts to improve the educational outcomes for the children we serve.

Mr. MacDonnell stressed that NRIC redefines its goals each year and is continuously improving our services and moving forward in order to meet the needs of our member school districts, which are determined through meetings of the Board of Superintendents, Operating Committee of district Special Education Directors, Curriculum Leadership Team, Technology Directors and Business Managers. We have also continued our linkages with the RI Department of Education and Institutions of Higher Education to support teachers and administrators in northern Rhode Island. We are working with the RI Department of Education on many grants that support our districts and students in Rhode Island. We have recently received the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education Project Success Grant which partners us with RI College, Roger Williams University, and the North Providence and Pawtucket School districts to support CLT Science initiatives to improve science instruction at the elementary level.

Mr. MacDonnell thanked the Board of Superintendents and their School Committees for their continued support, leadership and vision, along with the Operating Committee and Curriculum Leadership Team, and the dedication and commitment of the NRIC staff, community partners and parents.

Student Speaker:

Mr. MacDonnell advised that our scheduled student speaker, Robert Burt and his family were not able to attend this evening due to illness. Mr. MacDonnell asked that Robert's teacher, Mr. Francis Casey, say a few words on his behalf.

Employee Recognition:

Mr. Julian E. MacDonnell, Executive Director, recognized the service of the following NRIC employees and presented them with an award:

20 Years of Service:

Sharon Gray, Teacher

Kim Sousa, Teacher Assistant

Partnership Recognition / Special Partner Awards:

Mr. Robert Wall, Director of Educational Services, asked Jane Signorelli-Slade, Regional Transition Coordinator, to present our Special Partner Awards for the Regional Vocational Assessment Center and Transition Employment Center. Ms. Slade was assisted by Teresa Fagan and Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney.

Regional Vocational Assessment Center:

Leah Soule, Director, and Maria Perrotti, Assistant Director, of The Children's Workshop in Smithfield, RI

Transition Employment Center Program:

Richard Visinho, Manager, Burlington Coat Factory

Specialized Alternative Program:

Rev. Norman Bourdon, St. Joans Church

Mr. Wall announced the Special Partner Award for the Specialized Alternative Program goes to Rev. Norman Bourdon of St. Joans Parish in Cumberland. Rev. Bourdon was not able to attend this evening due to a previous commitment.

Mr. Wall asked Nancy Duffy, Teacher, at St. James School to present the next award:

Regional Alternative Program:

Jacqueline Dowdy, Parent

Ms. Dowdy was not able to attend this evening.

Mr. Wall asked Mr. Craig Enos to present the next award:

Regional Alternative Program:

Paul St. George, St. James Church

Mr. Wall asked Mr. Myles Glatter, Social Worker, at St. James School to present the next award:

Regional Alternative Program:

William Remington, Senior Learning for Life Executive, Boy Scouts of America, East Providence, RI

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

With no further business to report, Dr. Ottaviano, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Frank Pallotta and seconded by Mr. Robert O'Brien, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Donna Ottaviano, Chairperson