

**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, January 8, 2013.** The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Chair, Georgia Fortunato, with a motion by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and carried by all.

In addition to Ms. Fortunato, the following Board members were present: Dr. Barnes, Dr. DiLullo, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Pallotta, Ms. Smith, and Dr. Thornton, as well as Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., Interim Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guests: Attorney Andrew Henneous and Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney, NRIC Travel Trainer.

The Board agreed to take Agenda Item #6 out of order for Ms. Wattendorf-Guiney's presentation.

**New Business:**

**6.0 Presentation by Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney, NRIC Travel Trainer**

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, welcomed Ms. Wattendorf-Guiney to the meeting.

Ms. Wattendorf-Guiney distributed brochures to the Board for their review and described the Travel Trainer Program, which is operating as a result of a 4-year grant through RIPTA and being facilitated by Goodwill Industries and NRIC for the purpose of providing people with disabilities safe access to the community utilizing RIPTA. Ms. Wattendorf-Guiney reviewed the two types of trainings available – a free 12-hour train-the-trainer for professionals who work with students and the elderly; individual one-on-one training geared to the specific needs of an individual; and general group training in the classroom which introduces students to RIPTA. All of these trainings are offered to school districts and she encouraged districts to take advantage of this opportunity for their students before the grant runs out. Discussion and questions followed. Ms. Fortunato thanked Ms. Wattendorf-Guiney for her presentation and she left the meeting at 12:43 pm.

**Routine Matters:**

**1.0 The Minutes of December 4, 2012**

Moved: Dr. DiLullo

Seconded: Mr. O'Brien

Approved:

Dr. Barnes

Dr. DiLullo

Ms. Fortunato

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Pallotta

Ms. Smith

Dr. Thornton

**2.0 Bills for the Month of December 2012**

Moved: Dr. Pallotta  
Seconded: Dr. DiLullo

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Dr. DiLullo  
Ms. Fortunato  
Mr. O'Brien  
Dr. Pallotta  
Ms. Smith  
Dr. Thornton

**Appointments:**

**3.0 Appointment of Ashley M. Picard, Job Facilitator**

The Interim Executive Director recommended the appointment of Ashley M. Picard as the new Job Facilitator who is replacing Ms. Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney who was appointed to the Travel Trainer position in October 2012. The motion to approve was made by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Dr. DiLullo, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta  
Seconded: Dr. DiLullo

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Dr. DiLullo  
Ms. Fortunato  
Mr. O'Brien  
Dr. Pallotta  
Ms. Smith  
Dr. Thornton

**Old Business:**

**4.0 Professional Development – Collaborative Planning**

Mr. Nasif, Interim Executive Director, reported that we are working with CCRI to offer a Drivers Education Program for special education students in January and February. Notices will be sent out to the districts. Mr. Nasif also reported that CPI training will also be held in January along with another Teacher Assistant Training Program.

Mr. Enos, Director of Administration, reported that NRIC has been designated as a testing site for the ParaPro Assessment Test with the Educational Testing Service.

**5.0 NRIC Budget 2013-2014 / Grant Projects**

As requested by the Board at the December meeting, Mr. Nasif reported that the advice of Attorney Andrew Henneous was sought regarding how to handle the \$107,000 in funds acquired by NRIC through administrative fees for acting as the fiscal agent for various grant projects.

Mr. Henneous advised that the monies could be returned to the districts as tuition credits or as a reduction in tuition for next year. Mr. Henneous requested feedback and guidance from the Superintendents as to their preference and also advised a change in NRIC's By-Laws may be necessary.

Discussion followed. Mr. O'Brien suggested the possibility of utilizing the funds for start-up of induction coaches for the districts. Mr. Henneous will look into this possibility. Ms. Fortunato requested the item be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

(Melinda Smith arrived at 12:50 pm).

Dr. Pallotta suggested the funds be placed in a separate account until it is determined how it will be handled. Mr. Enos suggested placing the funds in the NRIC Holdings account and will work with Attorney Henneous on this.

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, welcomed Ms. Melinda Smith to the Board meeting as the new Superintendent in North Providence.

#### **New Business:**

##### **7.0 Approval of the Removal of NRIC Obsolete Equipment**

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to approve the removal of NRIC obsolete equipment per the attached listing. Dr. Pallotta motioned to approve, which was seconded by Dr. Thornton, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta

Seconded: Dr. Thornton

Approved: Dr. Barnes

Dr. DiLullo

Ms. Fortunato

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Pallotta

Ms. Smith

Dr. Thornton

##### **8.0 Approval of the Sale of NRIC Truck (2004 Sierra Pickup)**

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to approve the sale of the NRIC Pickup Truck, information and specifications per the attached list. Dr. Pallotta motioned to approve, which was seconded by Dr. Thornton, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta

Seconded: Dr. Thornton

Approved: Dr. Barnes

Dr. DiLullo

Ms. Fortunato

Mr. O'Brien

Dr. Pallotta

Ms. Smith

Dr. Thornton

##### **9.0 Approval of NRIC Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy (Second Reading)**

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to approve the NRIC Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy on the second reading. Dr. DiLullo motioned to approve, which was seconded by Dr. Pallotta, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. DiLullo  
Seconded: Dr. Pallotta

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Dr. DiLullo  
Ms. Fortunato  
Mr. O'Brien  
Dr. Pallotta  
Ms. Smith  
Dr. Thornton

#### **10.0 Discussion of NRIC Vision for the Future (Results of Meetings with St. James, TEC, & AOP)**

Mr. Nasif, Interim Executive Director, reported he recently met with the staff at our St. James site, TEC & AOP Programs regarding NRIC's vision for the future. He also met with Bob Guillette, former Executive Director of NRIC, at BICO's offices and viewed their programs. Mr. Guillette has agreed to be our keynote speaker for NRIC's Annual Meeting coming up in March 2013.

Mr. Nasif reported that as a result of the meetings with NRIC staff, the following suggestions and ideas were brought forward for the future:

- Expand virtual learning program
- Credit Recovery Program
- Integrated PreSchool Program
- Speakers' Bureau for parents & community regarding various issues
- Expand partnerships with colleges & universities
- Reinstate inclusion opportunities for students within school districts
- Before & After School Daycare
- Expand Summer School Program
- Reinstate self sufficient life skills/apartment living program
- Strengthen partnerships with neighboring businesses
- Start up food service operation
- Partner with West Bay Collaborative
- GED Program
- Morning & Afternoon Courses for the Community
- Hearing Loss in the Classroom for parents & staff
- Meet with all pediatricians RE AOP Program
- Program for High School students who are hearing impaired who are transitioning out of school
- Partner with Meeting Street School

Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of some of the ideas. Ms. Fortunato suggested typing up the list and sharing with the Superintendents and discussed the need for a strategic planning session to be scheduled and to include the new Executive Director. Ms. Fortunato also suggested the new Executive Director position should be full time and should be posted in February or March.

Dr. Pallotta recommended identifying the suggested items that are realistic and add the projected cost to the items.

**Information:**

**11.0 Interim Executive Director Comments**

Nothing to report.

**12.0 NRIC Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Intervention Training**

The Interim Executive Director provided an informational flyer on the upcoming CPI training scheduled for January 2013.

With no further information to discuss, Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:03 pm, which was moved by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Dr. Thornton, and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. DiLullo  
Seconded: Dr. Thornton

Approved: Dr. Barnes  
Dr. DiLullo  
Ms. Fortunato  
Mr. O'Brien  
Dr. Pallotta  
Ms. Smith  
Dr. Thornton

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Fortunato, Chair