

**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 8, 2014.**

The following Board members were in attendance: Dr. Barnes, Ms. DiCenso, Dr. DiLullo, Mr. DiPrete, Ms. Fortunato, Dr. Gallo, Mr. O'Brien, Dr. Pallotta, Ms. Smith, and Dr. Thornton as well as Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., Executive Director, and Craig Enos, Director of Administration. Guests: Pat Boucher of Bacon & Company and Attorney Benjamin Scungio.

I. Opening of Meeting:

Chair, Georgia Fortunato, welcomed Mr. James DiPrete, Interim Superintendent of Woonsocket and Dr. Fran Gallo, Superintendent of Central Falls and called the meeting to order at 8:02 am with a motion by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried by all.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2014, which was moved by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Dr. Thornton, carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. DiLullo	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. DiLullo
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Thornton		Mr. DiPrete
			Ms. Fortunato
<u>Abstained:</u>	Dr. Gallo		Mr. O'Brien
			Ms. Smith
			Dr. Thornton

Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2014, which was moved by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Dr. Thornton, carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. DiLullo	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. DiLullo
<u>Seconded:</u>	Dr. Thornton		Mr. DiPrete
			Ms. Fortunato
Abstained:	Dr. Gallo		Mr. O'Brien
			Ms. Smith
			Dr. Thornton

III. Old Business:

- A. Consider/discussion and update on Pathways to Graduation Summer 2014 Program**

Mr. Nasif reported that everything is falling into place for the program which is set to run from July 28th through August 7th. Enrollment is almost at 100 students. Chris Bonas and David Mellor are organizing the details – contacting the same partner companies as last year and interviewing math teachers. Orientation for the staff will be held at NRIC on July 23. Mr. Nasif indicated that the NECAP regulations will not have an impact on the program.

B. Consider/discussion and update on NRICEU Negotiations

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, advised that this item will be discussed during Executive Session.

(Dr. Pallotta and Dr. Barnes arrived at 8:04).

C. Consider/discussion and possible vote on NRIC Audit Report 2012-13

Ms. Fortunato welcomed Ms. Pat Boucher, of Bacon & Company to review NRIC’s Audit Report of 2012-13. Ms. Boucher gave an overview indicating it was an unmodified opinion, which is a clean report. Ms. Boucher noted that NRIC’s total net assets were \$1.4 million and reported that NRIC had a good year and there were no findings.

D. Consider/discussion and possible vote on Lease Agreement Emmanuel Nursery School, Cumberland

Mr. Nasif reported that the suggested modifications recommended by Attorney Scungio were made to the “license” agreement and is requesting the Board’s approval.

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to approve the lease agreement for Emmanuel Nursery School which was moved by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Mr. O’Brien and carried by all.

<u>Moved:</u>	Dr. Pallotta	<u>Approved:</u>	Dr. Barnes
<u>Seconded:</u>	Mr. O’Brien		Dr. DiLullo
			Mr. DiPrete
			Ms. Fortunato
			Dr. Gallo
			Mr. O’Brien
			Dr. Pallotta
			Ms. Smith
			Dr. Thornton

E. Consider/discussion and possible vote on RIDE Induction Program

Mr. Nasif reported that he recently met with Hilda Potrzeba of RIDE regarding the Induction Program. In order to determine the number of Induction Coaches needed, Mr. Nasif surveyed NRIC’s member districts along with the Barrington, Jamestown and Warwick districts. Mr. Nasif indicated that the financial piece will be a drawback. He will be meeting with Ms. Potrzeba again next week and will update the Board.

IV. New Business:

A. Consider/discussion and possible vote on Employment Non-Renewal of Non-Certified Staff 2014-2015

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to approve the Executive Director's recommendation for the employment non-renewal of the following non-certified staff for 2014-15:

Career Resource Specialists:

Justine Beatini
Donald Blais
Kerri McLaughlin
Ashley Picard

Travel Trainer

Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney

Mr. Nasif clarified that the non-renewal of Ashley Picard is due to performance issues.

The motion was moved by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and carried by all.

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

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

B. Consider/discussion and possible vote on NRIC Budget 2014-15

Mr. Enos, Director of Administration, distributed copies of "Estimated Budgets FY16-FY18" in addition to the Proposed Tuition Rates for 2014-15 that were provided in their agenda packets.

Mr. Enos commented on the Audit Report for 2012-13 that it is the third consecutive year that we have ended in the black and that our projection for this current fiscal year has us on track to end in the black once again. Mr. Enos thanked the Board for their guidance and support and indicated that along with strong fiscal management, have created this success and given NRIC new life and we stand ready for continued growth and success.

Mr. Enos reported that with the Board's guidance and support, NRIC has been able to accomplish the following during the past year:

- Outfit all NRIC classrooms with SmartBoards, projectors, carts and computers to run the systems, hence propelling our classroom technology into the 21st century.
- Implement an iPad tablet program with our Legislative Grant.

- Purchase Google Chromebooks for our high school RAP classes in order to prepare our students for the PARCC and for their return to their home districts.
- Purchase curriculum resources that will assist our staff in aligning the curriculum to the Common Core.
- Create a Fee for Service Program and become a true partner with the Office of Rehabilitation Services. This partnership has garnered NRIC the reputation as a leader in the State in the area of vocational assessments, programming, and most importantly, job placements and retention for our high school and post high school youth.
- Expanded our Fiscal Agent Grants with RIDE such as Early Childhood Facilitation and RI State Pre-Kindergarten, both of which bring in administrative fees to NRIC.
- With our Fiscal Agent RI Early Learning Standards Grant, we were able to facilitate and disperse over \$250,000 in Program Quality Improvement Grants to school districts and early childhood centers throughout the State. These grants, along with the professional development being provided throughout the State on early childhood standards and programming, have made NRIC an integral partner with RIDE and the early childhood community.
- Our three educational consultants on the RTI Systems of Support project, funded again in partnership with RIDE, have been working in every part of the State; effectuating change at the building and district level on RTI.
- As the Board has reinforced commitment to NRIC with your staff, our student population has risen. We are starting the upcoming school year with the most students we have had in the last three years. We are tremendously grateful for your continued support.

Mr. Enos reported further on what we look forward to in the coming year:

- Working with our staff as they implement new technology and curriculum within the classrooms.
- Working with the Operating Committee in creating new programs and services for our districts. A new program hopefully starting this year is selling some of our well seasoned teacher assistants out to districts. Having the ability to share our expertise in school buildings on a daily basis will continue to grow our reputation and programs.
- Continue discussions with BCBSRI and ORS for the start up of Project Reach and having a worksite/classroom at BCBSRI with staffing funded by ORS.
- Potentially expanding our RTI Systems of Support project with RIDE. RIDE has approached us in the past few weeks about adding additional funds to the grant. We will be presenting you with a job description in the coming months for a technology consultant for this project. Again, NRIC is expanding and growing in all aspects of RTI.
- Continue negotiations with CCRI in Lincoln for free classroom space one day a week for our Transition Employment Center students.
- Also, Mr. Enos announced that through his networking in the community, NRIC is receiving a grant of \$500,000 that will bring a new portfolio resource not only to NRIC but to each of our member districts as well. These online portfolios will prepare our high school students for future success as they leave all of our programs. More information will follow at upcoming Board meetings.

Mr. Enos continued to present the Budget for 2014-15 indicating that it increases spending by 2.5% (\$125,302.43) primarily in the area of additional personnel for programs and associated benefits. Mr. Enos requested the Board's approval of the proposed 2014-15 Budget of

\$5,690,020.58 which represents a 2.34% increase over 2013-14 (\$130,302.44). Mr. Enos is also requesting the Board's approval of the following tuition rates for 2014-15:

- Regional Alternative Program (RAP) \$42,867 (a reduction of \$4,763)
- Regional Alternative Program Summer \$ 5,550 (a reduction of \$781)
- Specialized Alternative Program (SAP) \$64,500 (a reduction of \$4,902)
- Specialized Alternative Program Summer \$ 6,995 (a reduction of \$739)
- Transition Employment Center \$30,308 (no increase)
- Auditory Oral Program \$45,877 (no increase)

Following discussion, Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to approve the Budget and Tuition Rates for 2014-15, which was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried by all.

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

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

Ms. Fortunato congratulated Mr. Enos on his efforts with the Budget. Mr. Nasif commented on the wonderful news of the Budget and reduced Tuition Rates and thanked Mr. Enos and his financial team.

(Ms. Patricia DiCenso arrived at 8:21.)

V. Retirement of Michele Pezzullo, Teacher Assistant

Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to approve the retirement of Michele Pezzullo as a Teacher Assistant, which was moved by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. DiLullo
Seconded: Dr. Pallotta

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

VI. Expense Warrants for June 2014

Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to approve the Bills for June 2014, which was moved by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Dr. DiLullo, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta
Seconded: Dr. DiLullo

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

VII. Executive Director Report:

A. General Information

Mr. Nasif reported that NRIC's summer program began on July 7th with no problems and will run for 5-6 weeks. The TEC staff formerly housed in Pawtucket have relocated to the Main Office. Mr. Nasif also advised that another Teacher Assistant Training Program will begin in August.

VIII. 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:

- a. NRIC Negotiations

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:26 am, which was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Dr. DiLullo, carried by all.

Moved: Ms. Smith
Seconded: Dr. DiLullo

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

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to return to Open Session at 8:37 am, which was moved by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Dr. Pallotta, carried by all.

Moved: Dr. DiLullo
Seconded: Dr. Pallotta

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

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, entertained a motion to Seal the Executive Session Minutes, which was moved by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Dr. DiLullo and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. Pallotta
Seconded: Dr. DiLullo

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

IX. Information:

Ms. Fortunato, Chair, welcomed Ms. Patricia DiCenso to the meeting as the newly appointed Superintendent in Pawtucket.

With no further information to report, Ms. Fortunato entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 am, which was moved by Dr. DiLullo, seconded by Dr. Thornton and carried by all.

Moved: Dr. DiLullo
Seconded: Dr. Thornton

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Georgia Fortunato, Chair