

Regional Board of Superintendents' Meeting

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

29th ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative was held on **Wednesday, March 25, 2015** at Twelve Acres in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

The Executive Director, Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the Chairperson of the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative, Ms. Georgia Fortunato. Ms. Fortunato opened the meeting with a roll call, determining representation from Burrillville, Cumberland, Foster-Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, and Smithfield, declaring a quorum. Ms. Fortunato then called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with a motion by Dr. Bernard DiLullo and Dr. Michael Barnes. Ms. Fortunato welcomed all to the meeting recognizing the Board of Superintendents, School Committee members, district administrative staff, teaching staff, parents, students and guests.

Report of Executive Director:

Before giving his report, Mr. Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., introduced Ms. Dianne Peretti who described the unique centerpieces on the tables which was part of the high school students' portfolio art project.

Mr. Nasif welcomed all those in attendance including the Board of Superintendents, School Committee members, school district staff, NRIC faculty and staff, and special guests. Mr. Nasif noted that the 2014-15 school year is turning out to be amazing with the opening of our new site at Emmanuel School in Cumberland, the opening of a second high school classroom at St. James, increased student enrollment, enhanced technology and the addition of our new Director of Educational Services, Lori Facha. Mr. Nasif indicated that NRIC's success is due to the active participation and support of the Board of Superintendents, School Committee members, Special Education Directors and faculty and staff. Mr. Nasif highlighted our programs at St. James School where we are at 92% capacity; our Transition Employment Center is a model for the State where our students have successfully completed the requirements of the program and are graduating with full-time jobs with benefits; our new site at Emmanuel School which houses a program for our youngest students where enrollment is increasing; our Auditory Oral Program at Orchard Farms Elementary School in Cranston which provides services not only to our member districts but throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Mr. Nasif thanked the dedicated staff at NRIC along with the Board of Superintendents, their School Committees, and Special Education Directors for their continued support, faith and confidence and their commitment to our students and their families.

Employee Recognition:

With the assistance of Chair, Georgia Fortunato, Mr. Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., Executive Director, recognized 20 Years of Service to Mary Bowles and Kathy DeSisto, along with Muriel Bracken who was not able to attend, and presented them with an award.

Mr. Nasif also recognized the dedicated service and assistance of the “three amigos” – Maintenance/Custodians Ricky Bourcier, Ray Comtois and Ron Dubois, and presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation.

Looking to the Future – Joseph M. Nasif, Jr.

Mr. Nasif reported that NRIC’s student enrollment is increasing. Our current enrollment is at 118 and our goal is 125. Thanks to the districts for their continued support; our future depends on you along with our growth and success. Mr. Nasif reported on the following goals for the future:

- Expansion of programs
- Upgrade and expansion of technology, including upgrade of the signal at St. James
- Student enrollment
- Outreach services beyond our boundaries
- Preschool initiatives for the 2015-16 school year

Address by Students:

Mr. Nasif welcomed Zachary Morris who is currently attending St. James School. After Zach expressed his thanks to his teachers and staff at St. James, Mr. Nasif and Ms. Lori Facha, Director of Educational Services, presented him with a gift and a certificate.

Mr. Nasif also recognized ORS students Tom Hansen, Alex Blackmore and Nikia Reyes-Almanzar. Mr. Nasif and Ms. Justine Beatini, Career Resource Specialist, presented them with a gift and a certificate.

Partnership Recognition / Special Partner Awards:

With the assistance of Chair, Georgia Fortunato, Mr. Nasif presented awards to our Special Partners:

Chili’s Restaurant, Smithfield, RI:
Jessica Countie, General Manager

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland, RI:

Rev. Joan Testin

In the absence of Rev. Testin, Mr. Nasif presented the award to Janette Crowley.

Lincoln Police Department:

Lt. Dana Packer & Capt. Philip Gould

Infinity Award:

With the assistance of Kim Sousa, President, NRICEU, Mr. Nasif presented the “Infinity Award”, to those staff who were nominated as outstanding staff members who go over and above expectations. Awards were presented to:

Ann Bastien
Francis Casey
Claire Fortier

Erin Manchester
Debbie Kociuba
Donna Rizzo

Hall of Fame Award:

Mr. Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., with the assistance of Chair, Georgia Fortunato presented the Hall of Fame Award to Ray Comtois, former NRIC Custodian, in sincere appreciation for his many years of service and dedication to the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative.

Community Outreach Award:

Mr. Nasif presented this new award to Ms. Paula Andrews for her efforts in promoting NRIC’s programs throughout the State.

Director’s Award:

Mr. Nasif presented the “Director’s Award” to Cindy VanAvery for her efforts and success of the Transition Employment Center Program.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

With no further business to report, Ms. Fortunato, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m., which was moved by Dr. Michael Barnes and seconded by Dr. Bernard DiLullo, carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Fortunato, Chairperson