



The 288th meeting of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority was held on **Thursday, September 22, 2011** in the McKenna Conference Room, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island.

Members in attendance:

Dr. Santoro
Dr. Croasdale
Mr. Howell
Ms. Doyle
Mr. Josh Brumberger, Designee of the General Treasurer

Members absent:

Dr. McKenna

Others in attendance:

Mr. Noel Simpson
Mr. Joseph Palumbo
Ms. Jennifer Dutch
Mr. Kevan McAleer
Mr. David DeBlois
Ms. Stacy Crooks
Ms. Lori Brighton
Mrs. Gail Mance-Rios

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Santoro at 11:00 a.m.

There were no minutes available to be approved.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Santoro did not have a report.

Executive Director's Report given by Noel Simpson, Deputy Director

Mr. Simpson reported on the default rates on RISLA's loans. He also reported that he had traveled to Washington the prior day for an event sponsored by Senator Reed's event. He was able to meet local schools representatives.

Mr. Simpson called upon Mr. DeBlois and Ms. Crooks to report on the College Fair. Ms. Crooks stated that 106 schools attended the Fair and not all were from Rhode Island. She estimated that the same amount of people attended as the previous year. Mr. Howell asked if there was a charge for attending the Fair. Ms. Crooks explained that a charge of \$35 is assessed to attend which is used for scholarships. Dr. Croasdale asked if the PawSox charge RISLA for holding the Fair at the stadium. Mr. DeBlois said that there is no charge to RISLA for using the stadium as a venue. Mr. Howell asked if the only costs to RISLA were for advertising and printing and how much was spent on those items. Mr. DeBlois estimated that approximately \$2500 was spent on advertising and noted that the PawSox also advertise the event at no cost to RISLA. Mr. DeBlois did suggest that we may want to consider hiring help next year to help set up the event. He stated that virtually every school in Rhode Island was represented at the Fair as well as some surrounding Massachusetts schools. Discussion ensued as to whether two events should be held to accommodate everyone. Mr. DeBlois suggested that possibly two events could be held, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Report of Finance Sub-Committee

Dr. Croasdale reported on the Finance committee's meeting with the auditors.

Action Item #6: Acceptance of Audited Financials

Upon a motion made by Dr. Croasdale and seconded by Mr. Howell it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept and approve the Authority's FYE 2011 Audited Financials.

Action Item #7: Approval of Waiver of Fees for RISLA's RIFEL Loan

Mr. Simpson reported that RISLA has \$8 million in arbitrage that it can use towards borrower benefit programs. He recommended that the 4% loan origination fee on RIFEL loans be waived for academic year 2011-2012 if a student completes a financial literacy program. This will help prevent students from overborrowing and from getting into financial difficulties when they are in college. Mr. Brumberger asked if this is a pilot program or if any other agencies are doing anything similar. Mr. Simpson stated that this is a pilot program and no other agencies have implemented a similar program.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Brumberger it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the waiver of the 4% loan origination fee for RISLA's RIFEL loan for the 2011-12 academic year based on criteria that RISLA will establish.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Croasdale and seconded by Mr. Howell it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Secretary