



Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminister Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

### ***Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee***

*The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.*

**October 16, 2014**

**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

RI Parent Information Network  
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

**Present:** Edward Angilly, Sharon Bissonnette, Eileen Botelho, Cris Brodeur, Tarin Byrne, Jennifer Connolly, Cherie Cruz, Lori DiPina, Susan Donovan, Cindy Duckworth, Joanne Eichinger, Gillian Elliott Pearis, Deborah Garneau, Jennifer Gladding, Patti Hien, Barbara Irons, Trish Martins, , Pamela O'Brien, Robin Pacheco, Douglas Pierson, Brian Quigg, Maria Silvestri-Golotto,, Sharon Ursini-Quimby

**Absent:** Rosemary Gomes\*, JoAnn Nannig \*, Mary Pendergast\*, Ann Brockmann\* , Laura Laviano, and Elizabeth Santana

*\*denotes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

**RIDE/RITAP Attendees:**David Sienko, Emily Klein, Susan Wood and Beth Pinto

**Call to Order, Welcome, and Agenda Review:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Sue Donovan. Sue welcomed all members back and invited all to introduce themselves and discuss their role.

#### **Announcements:**

Sue Donovan announced:

- RI Autism Project & DOH play at Tollgate HS on November 6, 2014 @ 6-8 PM
- RIPIN's Transition 101 Conference Friday, November 14, 2014 8:00 am - 2:30 pm, Radisson Airport Hotel
- RI Consortium for Autism Flyer is available

Pam O'Brien announced PSN Events:

- PSN monthly support groups on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month 10am – noon. 10/24/14 topic is "Power of the Binder", 11/21/14 topic is "What are you Thankful For?"
- SEL Workshop for Families November 6, 2014
- November 17, 2014 Advocacy Tips Workshop
- October 30, 2014 Public Meeting RI Children Mental Health (Bradley and others will hold panel discussion on behavioral health concerns and accessing resources with various insurance plans
- Wrights law Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference March 24, 2015 at Providence Sheraton

Joanne Eichinger announced:

- URI Council for Education of Exceptional Children November 12, 2-14 Panel discussion of adults with disabilities
- October 25, 2014 Sensory Issues
- December 1, 2014 Bill Henderson speaks on inclusion

**Telephone** (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** (800)745-5555 **Voice** (800)745-6575 **Website:** [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)

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**New Business:**

Presentation on RESULTS DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY Indicator 17 – RI Dept. of Education

By J. David Sienko, Director, Susan Wood, Ph.D. & Emily Klein - OSCAS

Results Driven Accountability: OSEP has a new requirement for States-Indicator 17 “State Systemic Improvement Plan “ (SSIP) Stakeholder Feedback was sought from RISEAC Members. Stakeholder feedback will be used during the first phase (analysis) of the SSIP. The presentation included RI data about achievement gaps as measured on NECAP.

**Director’s Report:** David reported the following updates to the group:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services praises Rhode Island work on early learning A team from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently visited Rhode Island to look at the progress made to date on the Exceed initiative (Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge).
- Waiver renewal: U.S. Department of Education approved the request for renewal of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility. This approval allows RIDE to continue with the system of school classifications and accountability, which bases classifications in large part on student growth, on school progress toward goals, and on narrowing achievement gaps
- October is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month
- RIDE has scheduled five public hearings on the proposed changes to the Secondary School Regulations, which would begin the use of standardized assessments as a statewide graduation requirement with the Class of 2020.
- Employment First policy approved -The Commissioner has approved an Employment First policy for RIDE. Employment First is a commitment to students with intellectual or developmental disabilities to support their transition from public education into meaningful, community-integrated training and employment opportunities at competitive wages.
- RIDE offers to hold community-outreach events on PARCC assessments by offering opportunity for outreach events about the PARCC assessments. It is important that communities become familiar with the assessment and understand their design and use in Rhode Island.
- OSCAS has continued to support the work of the migration to CCSS in the following areas:
  - Migration to CCSS in the IEP
  - Migration to CCSS through Intensive Intervention
  - Migration to CCSS with Assistive Technology

**Vote to approve the RISEAC 2013-2014 Annual Report:** Motion was made by Patti Hien and was seconded by Maria Silverstri-Golotto. All in favor, no abstained, Motion passed to approve report.

**Old Business:**

- Update on Strategic Planning Event:-Patti Hien provided an update on our September Strategic Planning Session and led a discussion about increasing advisory time of RISEAC. Membership agreed to have RISEAC Advisory Time as a standing agenda item. Workgroups would identify potential advisory topics, verbally present them for consideration, receive feedback or provide clarification to/from members, if the membership determines that the topic warrants formulating and advisory on it, workgroup will draft a written position paper for a RISEAC vote. Timeline for vote will be determined based on the task of advisory. As always, other issues that develop outside any of the work groups can be addressed by using the RISEAC Issues Form.

**Public Comment: None**

Motion to adjourn made by Cherie Cruz and seconded by Trish Martins. All approved.

**Meeting was Adjournment: 8: 15 pm**

