



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.

November 20, 2014

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

RI Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

Present: Angilly, Edward, Botelho, Eileen, Byrne, Tarin, Connolly, Jennifer, Donovan, Susan, Duckworth, Cindy, Eichinger, Joanne, Garneau, Deborah, Gladding, Jennifer, Hien, Patti, Nannig, JoAnn, O'Brien, Pamela, Pacheco, Robin, Pendergast, Mary, Pierson, Douglas, Quigg, Brian, Santana, Elizabeth, Silvestri-Golotto, Maria

Absent: *Bissionnette, Sharon, Brockmann, Ann, Brodeur, Cris, Cruz, Cherie, *DiPina, Lori, *Elliott Pearis, Gillian, Gomes, Rosemary, *Irons, Barbara, *Laviano, Laura *Martins, Trish, *Ursini- Quimby, Sharon

**denotes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: Pinto, Beth, Sienko, David, Emily Klein & Alice Wood

Call to Order, Welcome, and Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Sue Donovan.

Announcements:

Sue Donovan announced:

- In case of bad weather please use your judgment and also to check the weather line at RIPIN main number ext.195

Updates:

- Work Plans were reviewed at Leadership meeting
- February presentation scheduled Jane Slade- Transition and Career Development Plans
- January presentation Dr. Susan Wood- State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report
- Presentation by Dr. Phyllis Lynch - PARCC Assessment in December or March
- 11th Annual College Planning Forum - March 2015
- March 12th and 13th Annual State Wide Transition Institute

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

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Pam O'Brien announced PSN Events:

- PSN monthly support groups on 3rd Friday of each month 10am – noon. 11/21/14 topic is "What are you Thankful For?"
- SEL Workshop for Families meeting was excellent

Cindy Duckworth reported on the Transition 101 Conference

- Parent workshop /siblings meeting was wonderful, wide age range
- Good workshops

New Business:

- Strategic Planning - RIDE target set at 10,000 surveys. Currently 3,000 surveys completed
- Survey takes 5 minutes to complete
- Advisory time discussed
- Work plans reviewed
- Action plans will be sent on list serve in PDF format

November 2014 Director's Report: David Sienko

- **Board of Education, Education Council, RIDE launch development of next strategic plan for education**

The Board of Education is recruiting 12 to 15 community members who will serve as the Ambassador Design Team, developing and writing the plan over the next seven months. David Moscarelli, the 2015 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year, will facilitate the work of the design team. The team will begin its work in December, with the goal of presenting a final plan to the Board for approval in June 2015.

- **Rhode Island among 35 states to apply for Preschool Development Grants**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced on Monday that 35 states and Puerto Rico have applied for grants under the new \$250 million [Preschool Development Grants](#) program. Over 25 high-need communities in approximately 12-15 states will benefit from Preschool Development Grants funding by significantly expanding their preschool programs so that a large portion of their at risk 4-year-olds start school prepared. States will agree to uphold standards for high-quality preschool programs in the communities that are funded.

- **U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights issues guidance regarding bullying of students with disabilities**

As part of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month, the U.S. Education Department Office for Civil Rights has issued [guidance to schools](#) reminding them that bullying is wrong and must not be tolerated—including against America's 6.5 million students with disabilities.

- **U.S. Department of Education approves RIDE request for flexibility under ESEA**

The U.S. Department of Education approved RIDE's 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. The approval also allows RIDE to continue with our plan for transition to Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers statewide assessments this spring.

- **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). The Department of Health and Human Services sent a positive response to the visit from Ngozi Onunaku, Senior Policy Analyst for Early Childhood Development praising the progress made by RI in the Early Childhood system.

- **Improvement continues on CCRI remediation rates**

RIDE recently received some data from President Di Pasquale's team at the Community College of Rhode Island on the enrollment of entering students in remedial courses. The data provides evidence that the trend is positive. The percentage of recent graduates entering the Community College of Rhode Island who need remedial courses is now down to 66 percent, a 3-point improvement from the previous year and the lowest percentage over the last six-year span.

- **SSIP Information Posted**

Information on the new State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Indicator of the State Performance Plan (SPP) is now posted to the RIDE web site. The SSIP is the result of the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) refocusing on Results Driven Accountability, which requires that, each state identify one new performance indicator focused on improving student outcomes.

- **Hearing Decisions:**

- **Student found eligible for admission to career-technical program**

Student found to be eligible for admission into career and technical (CTC) program at the East Providence CTC despite fact that scheduling him for career-preparation coursework this year will require deferral of some academic courses he previously failed, and must pass, in order to meet graduation requirements.

- **PARCC Accommodations Manual Finalized**

PARCC Accommodations Manual finalized. This is the link:
<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual>.

- **US Department of Justice – Consent Decree Updates**

As the State moves forward with addressing the requirements of the US Department of Justice Consent Decree regarding the integration of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities into community based employment, there will be a number of activities and resources emerging that we will share. Here are the latest updates:

Employment First policy approved (from the Commissioners Field memo)

It is with great enthusiasm I have 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 Appoints IDEA Coordinator**

Commissioner Gist has appointed Beth Pinto as the new IDEA Coordinator effective November 17, 2014. This is a new position for the IDEA program within OSCAS. Within RIDE, a Coordinator position is responsible for assisting the Director of an office in coordinating activities of a particular program. We are very excited to have this additional position in OSCAS to support one of the largest federal programs managed by RIDE. We are also excited that Beth will be taking on this role.

Old Business:

- Presentation on Results Driven Accountable- Indicator 17- RI Depart. of Education by J.David Sienko, Director, Susan Wood, Ph.D. & Emily Klevin – OSCAS.
- SSIP Stakeholder Feedback was sought from RISEAC members. Stakeholder feedback will be used during the first phase (analysis) of the SSIP.

Public Comment: None

Motion to adjourn made by Brian Quigg and seconded by Mary Pendergast. All approved.

Meeting was Adjournment: 8:02 pm