



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

Ken Wagner  
Commissioner

### ***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.*

**March 17, 2016**  
**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

RI Parent Information Network  
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

**Present:** Eileen Botelho, Edward Angilly, Sharon Bissonnette, Lori DiPina, Susan Donovan, Cindy Duckworth, Gillian Elliott Pearis, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Heather Kennedy, Jennifer Munroe, Douglas Pierson, Paige Ramsdell, Maria Silvestri-Golotto

**Absent:** Cris Brodeur, Jennifer Connolly\*, Deborah Garneau\*, Barbara Irons\* Robert Mattis\*, JoAnn Nannig\*, Brian Quigg \*, Sharon Ursini-Quimby\*

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

**RIDE/RITAP Attendees:** David Sienko and Kerri Sorensen

**Call to Order, Welcome and Agenda Review:** The meeting was called to order at **6:06 pm** by Sue Donovan. Sue welcomed all members and reviewed the agenda.

#### **Announcements:**

- **College Planning Forum** – Great turn out, excellent parent session on what to expect with financial aid, varying ages on college panel about eighty participants.
- **Transition Capacity Building Institute-** All public school districts attended and ORS representatives were helpful with transition questions. About two hundred people attended. Breakout session was on technology and using data. Student panel -discussion on search project.
- **Person-Centered Planning-** Great turn out. Presenter was Michael Smull, agencies across the State participated, about 60 people attended. Discussion on Pressure Maps -self-directed and CMS –Center Medicare Medicaid services.
- **Dare to Dream-** Eric Rowles will be presenting at Bryant University on May 24<sup>th</sup> for **Middle School DARE to DREAM**. Invites will go out April 28<sup>th</sup> and on May 25<sup>th</sup> will be presenting **High School DARE to DREAM** at Tollgate High School. Ten dollars per ticket.
- **Rhode Island Diploma System & State Graduation Requirements Flyer - Community Conversation** from 6:00pm to 7:30pm March 21<sup>st</sup> rescheduled for **March 28<sup>th</sup>** at Smithfield High School, **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** at North Kingstown High School, **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Middletown High School and **March 24<sup>th</sup>** at RI Health Department.

- **2020 Vision For Education Booklet-** Information on Rhode Island Strategic Plan for PK-12 & Adult Education 2015-2020.
- **The Able Act - Achieving a Better Life Experience** –Community Information Session March 22<sup>nd</sup> at RIPIN from 12:00pm-2:00pm.

#### **New Business:**

- Approval of February, 2016 minutes. **Motion** by Edward Angilly **Seconded** Heather Kennedy. All approved. **Motion passed.**
- Deadline for membership application for next year is April 1<sup>st</sup>; a couple of applications have been received. Open positions to fill for membership are three parents and/or consumers.
- Please notify/email Kerri Sorensen if you are unable to continue on RISEAC Committee for next year.
- Please complete short Survey Monkey sent for RISEAC members from Chanthy Del Rosario from RIDE.
- Chanthy is seeking parents for her committee and a RISEAC member for the new committee.
- RISEAC meeting for June 16<sup>th</sup> is booked at Chelo's on the Waterfront, East Greenwich, menu will go out for food choice.

#### **Director's Report:**

### **RISEAC Directors Report March 2016**

#### **1. Community invited to inform RI's Diploma System and RI State Graduation Requirements at community conversation events (sent to list)**

Commissioner Wagner and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) invite you to participate in a community conversation to inform Rhode Island's Diploma System and RI State Graduation Requirements. We hope to engage a broad group of community members including parents, students, educators, and stakeholders from elementary, middle and high schools. This is a timely opportunity with the recent adoption our state's most innovative and collaborative [strategic plan](#) to date.

The community conversations will include a brief presentation and a community response panel with opportunities for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback. The events are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, March 21, 2016: Northern RI Community Conversation at Smithfield High School from 6:00-7:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 22, 2016: Southern RI Community Conversation at North Kingstown High School from 6:00-7:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 23, 2016: Newport County Community Conversation at Middletown High School from 6:00-7:30 pm
- Thursday, March 24, 2016: Providence County Community Conversation at the RI Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, Lower level auditorium from 6:00-7:30 pm.

#### **2. US Department of Justice Consent Decree (Employment First) Update**

*Editor's Note: In an effort to shift from the compliance nature of the Consent Decree to the forward facing direction of implementing the state Employment First Policy, we will gradually change the title of this news item to the Employment First Update.*

**The following events are planned or information provided to support implementation of Employment First (the Consent Decree):**

**Work Incentives Public Information Session –April 26<sup>th</sup>**

This session addresses the concern that students and families may have about working and the possible effects on their SSI or SSDI benefits.

**Family Employment Awareness Training- March 19<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Students and families are invited to participate in a FREE one-day workshop about employment in the community for people with developmental disabilities. Presented by the Sherlock Center on Disabilities and the RI Parent Information Network.

**3. RI Statewide Transition Institute -4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhode Island Transition Institute was held March 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Rhode Island College.**

The 4th Annual Rhode Island Transition Institute was at RI College last week. It is always a productive Institute. The Institute is sponsored by the RI Department of Education, the Regional Transition Centers and the Office of Rehabilitation Services. Every school district was represented.

**4. Community of Practice in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) (sent to list)**

In an effort to share information and improve practice, we are excited to establish a Community of Practice for Social and Emotional Learning. The goal is to bring educators and practitioners into a working relationship around common interests in Social and Emotional Learning. It is expected that these meetings will take place several times during the school year. This will provide a forum to share examples of what various schools are doing in SEL and how they make it happen, and the impact on their school.

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at Rhode Island College, Student Union ballroom from 4:00-6:00 PM. During this meeting, we will be highlighting 2 elementary schools that are currently incorporating SEL practices into the everyday life of their schools, Stony Lane Elementary School and International Charter School, with an introduction from Tracy LaFreniere, RI's 2016 State Teacher of the Year. The flyer attached to the email sent to the group has the sign up information.

**5. RIDE to submit State Part B Grant Application (sent to list)**

OSCAS will be submitting the IDEA Part B grant application on May 12, 2016. The draft application is posted for review and comment on the RIDE website at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/SpecialEducation/SpecialEducationRegulations.aspx>. The public is welcome to comment on the application. Instructions are provided on the website. If you need assistance you may contact Karen Lovett at 222-8333 or [Karen.Lovett@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Karen.Lovett@ride.ri.gov).

**6. Work advancing on SSIP**

The work on writing up the SSIP continues in preparation for submission on April 1, 2016. Additionally, RIDE is submitting a request for proposals to the Department of Administration to advertise for a vendor to provide training and coaching for up to 8 schools per year in intensive Math intervention. This project will serve as the primary deliverable for the SSIP. We will keep you posted as things progress.

**7. Tool for School leaders to Support Students with Autism**

The latest Scholastic Administrator newsletter included an article titled A School Leaders' Guide to Autism available at: [http://blogs.scholastic.com/education\\_pulse/2015/11/a-school-leaders-guide-to-](http://blogs.scholastic.com/education_pulse/2015/11/a-school-leaders-guide-to-)

[autism.html?ET\\_CID=20160218\\_ANL\\_AdminNL\\_Tier1\\_RET\\_16459&ET\\_RID=593851875#.Vr4XnS1QuOg?eml=ANL/e/20160218/ANL/////Tier1](http://autism.html?ET_CID=20160218_ANL_AdminNL_Tier1_RET_16459&ET_RID=593851875#.Vr4XnS1QuOg?eml=ANL/e/20160218/ANL/////Tier1).

I thought this might be a helpful resource.

## **8. Special Education Related Bills in the RI General Assembly**

Below is a list of bills we are aware of in the RI General Assembly that are related to special education or students with disabilities. This list was updated on March 17, 2016. In some instances, bills have been introduced in both chambers. You will see that two bills have passed the House.

### **Senate Bill No. 2145**

BY DaPonte, Conley, Coyne

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Provides for payment responsibility of sending district to school department of East Providence for any child attending Bradley Hospital.)

01/21/2016 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

### **Senate Bill No. 2337**

BY Lombardi, McCaffrey, Goldin, Archambault, DiPalma

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (Adds dyslexia-targeted assistance as a required aspect of the literacy program for students at the elementary grade level.)

2/10/2016 Introduced, referred to Senate Education

### **Senate Bill No. 2338**

BY Lombardi, McCaffrey, Goldin, Archambault, DiPalma

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCREENING FOR READING DISABILITIES (Requires school districts to conduct screening for dyslexia and other reading disabilities of school children who have exhibited one or more potential indicators using certain screening methods selected by the commissioner of education.)

2/10/2016 Introduced, referred to Senate Education

### **Senate Bill No. 2340**

BY Lombardi, DiPalma, Archambault, Conley, Jabour

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Permits classroom observation of special needs children by parents and experts retained by parents.)

2/10/2016 Introduced, referred to Senate Education

### **Senate Bill No. 2391**

BY DaPonte, Gallo, O'Neill, Kettle

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (Appropriate public education made available to a disabled child until their twenty-first birthday or completion of program in which they are enrolled as of their twenty-first birthday.)

02/11/2016 Introduced, referred to Senate Education

03/07/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (03/09/2016)

03/09/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

### **House Bill No. 7050**

BY Azzinaro, Corvese, Kennedy, Malik, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (Appropriate public education made available to a disabled child until their twenty-first birthday or completion of program in which they are enrolled as of their twenty-first birthday.)

1/7/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

01/15/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (01/20/2016)

01/20/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

02/26/2016 Scheduled for consideration (03/02/2016)

03/02/2016 Committee recommends passage

03/04/2016 Placed on House Calendar (03/10/2016)

03/10/2016 House read and passed

**House Bill No. 7052**

BY O'Brien, DeSimone, Costa, McKiernan, Keable

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (Adds dyslexia-targeted assistance as a required aspect of the literacy program for students at the elementary grade level.)

1/7/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

01/08/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (01/13/2016)

01/13/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

01/15/2016 Scheduled for consideration (01/20/2016)

01/20/2016 Committee recommends passage

01/22/2016 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2016)

02/03/2016 House read and passed

02/25/2016 Referred to Senate Education

**House Bill No. 7053**

BY Lombardi, Carnevale, Williams, Shekarchi, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES PROGRAM (Makes findings about and establishes a definition of dyslexia.)

1/7/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

01/08/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (01/13/2016)

01/13/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

**House Bill No. 7054**

BY Lombardi, Amore, Hull, Regunberg, Handy

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCREENING FOR READING DISABILITIES (Requires school districts to conduct screening for dyslexia and other reading disabilities of school children who have exhibited one or more potential indicators using certain screening methods selected by the commissioner of education.)

1/7/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

01/08/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (01/13/2016)

01/13/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

01/15/2016 Scheduled for consideration (01/20/2016)

01/20/2016 Committee recommends passage

01/22/2016 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2016)

02/03/2016 House read and passed

02/25/2016 Referred to Senate Education

**House Bill No. 7055**

BY Lombardi, Amore, Regunberg, Handy, Tanzi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Provides for professional development opportunities relating to reading disabilities and would require two (2) hours of professional development instruction pertaining to reading disabilities for certain general education teachers.)

1/7/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

01/08/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (01/13/2016)

01/13/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

**House Bill No. 7154**

BY Canario, Gallison, Tanzi, Lombardi, Handy

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- FREEDOM FROM PRONE RESTRAINT ACT (Prohibits the use of prone restraint in certain covered facilities licensed or certified by the state, and would create a study commission to study the restraint reporting requirements of covered facilities.)

01/14/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

01/21/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (01/27/2016)  
01/27/2016 Committee recommended measure be held for further study

**House Bill No. 7265**

BY Amore, Melo, Kazarian, Hearn

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Provides for payment responsibility of sending district to school department of East Providence for any child attending Bradley Hospital.)

1/21/2016 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**Old Business:** None

**Workgroups:** Assessments, Multiple Pathways, Social Emotional Learning 7:00pm -7:20pm

**Report - out:**

- **Assessments** – updated plan/simplified – By April 14<sup>th</sup> module will be edited and look for whole group feedback.
- **Multiple Pathways**- refocused and will attend as public to the four sessions for the community conversations 2020 vision for Education, come back to whole committee and then send a letter out to RIDE on behalf of RISEAC.
- **Social Emotional Learning**- Update/ interviewed and observed a lesson. They will attend March 30<sup>th</sup> 2hr conference at RIC. Group will follow up with Gateway Health Services.

**Advisory Time:** Discussed what advisory input the RISEAC members will have for The 2020 Vision for Education. Looking for opportunities to expose special education students to a variety of alternate routes in graduation.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to adjourn** made by Edward Angilly; seconded by Eileen Botelho. All approved.  
**Motion Passed.**

**Meeting was adjourned:** 7:50 pm