



**Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda
November 13, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

The Open Session of the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College was called to order at 8:37 am on the above date at 150 Washington Street, Providence, RI, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Act, so called other APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE General Laws of the state of the Rhode Island as amended.

Board Members Present: Angela Patterson, Jane Williams, Christine Rei, Gerald Williams, Jody Jencks, Julian Drix, Nancy McMahan

Excused: Mary Sullivan, Donna Policastro, Charles Alexandre

Staff Present: Pamela McCue, CEO, Mike Abney, CFO, Keith Oliveira, COO, Colleen Hitchings, CAO, Patricia LaSalle, Executive Assistant

Guest: Amber Guzman, Ashley Matos, Ahtzyris Ortega, Earl Smith, Tim Groves, Antonio Petisce

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Angela Patterson. A quorum was established.

2. Discussion/vote to approve October 9, 2015 meeting minutes.

On motion by Nancy McMahan and seconded by Christine Rei, the present board members unanimously voted to accept the minutes of October 9, 2015.

3. Discussion/vote to approve agenda and Conflict of Interest Statement

Vice Chair Patterson asked if any board members had a conflict of interest with any of the agenda items. No members declared a conflict of interest.

On motion by Christine Rei, and seconded by Jody Jencks, the present board members unanimously voted to reorder the November 13, 2015 agenda moving item 2 under new business as the next item on the agenda.

4. New Business-

II. Discussion /vote on the 2014-2015 Annual Audit-

Discussion was conducting regarding the Annual Audit. The findings were:

- RINI Middle College received an "Unqualified" audit opinion - the highest level of opinion given.
- RINI Middle College has a strong cash reserve balance, with very low amounts of long term debt. Leasing Chromebooks for the students added a small amount of long term debt that will be paid in the next two years.
- RINI Middle College has a strong net asset balance. The revenues, specifically the State aid and Local aid, decreased from the prior year due to the drop in enrollment. Meanwhile expenses increased 11%, mostly due to the increase in personnel costs over the prior year.
- RINI Middle College had positive operating cash flows which shows the Organization was run efficiently, and the overall change in cash during the year was a positive \$62,000.

Overall, the Organization is run very well by the management team, and they were a pleasure to work with during the audit.

5. Open Public Comment period- No public comment

6. Chair's report-No report at this time.

7. Cape Verde Presentation-

RINI Students Ahtzyris Ortega, Ashley Matos, and Amber Guzman presented a slide show to the board and described their experience. "I am humbled and have a greater understanding of why it is important to give back to my community" Ms. Ortega stated. "This experience matured me. Seeing people of color achieving so much, made me realize that race does not have to be a barrier" Ms. Matos stated. "I feel empowered after seeing women play such vital roles. The hospital we visited was owned and run by a woman who started out as a Nurse and now is a Doctor. Watching her give back to people less fortunate made me realize how important it is to pursue my passion in order to do the same.

8. Administrative Reports

I. CEO Report

i. Academic Report-

RINI is on the RIDE's agenda for December 9. The recommendation from RIDE five (5) year, with no recommendations. We are also submitting an amendment to the Charter to transition to a 9-12th grade model starting 2016-2017. Administration has been working on a transition plan that will include a 9th grade and may not include recruiting new 10th graders. .Mr. Oliveira explained the breakdown in the numbers which included attrition. Gerald Williams expressed concern and cautioned how the community may respond to limiting admissions to only 9th grade. Dr. Jane Williams suggested that it is most important that RINI craft a communication notice to inform the community.

Dr. Alexander-Scott visited RINI on Tuesday to talk with students and discuss health disparities. She fully enjoyed the visit, and the students received her message on what it means to be in health care.

On October 18th, Mrs. McCue presented at a workshop during Rhode Island College's *18th Annual Multicultural Conference; The Power of Community Partnerships, Advancing Public Health & Human Rights, through Education and Service*. The conference was held on Saturday, November 7, 2015.and her topic was on "Inequities in Health Care".

The RINI Health Fair will be held on December 8th. Health care vendors including CVS Health Minute Clinic have signed on.

RINI celebrated Red Ribbon Week to bring substance abuse awareness.

From October 26th to October 31, RINI celebrated "College Week". Faculty and staff talked with students about their college experience and wore their college gear.

RINI has been solidifying partnerships with Salve Regina, RWU, and Sacred Heart University for the 2016-2017 school year.

ii. Financial Report –

95% of our quarter 2 local aid has been received at this point.

Due to decrease in enrollment:

- a. State aid is being adjusted down \$53,000 for the remainder of fiscal year 2016.
- b. We are projected to bill for roughly \$55,000 less in local aid for the remainder of the year.

Fortunately - we were conservative in other budgeting areas and believe the loss in aid will be offset by increased revenues in other areas.

9. New Business (continued)

I. Tim Groves Executive Director, League of Charter Schools, to provide update on League activities.

- Tim Groves gave an update to the board with the status of the League of charter schools.
- Governor Raimondo established by executive order a working group to look at the entire funding formula, which includes special education and ELL.
- Monday, November 16th, the League will be presenting on the unique expenses that Charters schools bear under the funding formula that are different from traditional public schools.
- The intention is to deliver the message of what the best practices are in educating our students in RI.
- The League will establish different affinity groups to see how we can share and support resources within the district.

10. Announcements for the good and welfare of the organization

Christine Rei announced that the Parent Organization is wrapping up the Mixed bag Fundraiser. She is also planning on having a table at the parent conference.

Jody Jenks announced that RINI, CNE, Women & Infants, RIC, and URI have partnered up to apply for the HRSA Grant to support students while in College studying nursing. The deadline to submit is Monday, November 16, 2015.

No Board meeting in December

10. Adjournment

On motion of Jane Williams seconded by Christine Rei it was unanimously voted to adjourn 10:08 a.m.