



RI Family Engagement Advisory Council

Hosted by RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI

The mission of the RI Family Engagement Advisory Council (FEAC) is to bring the voice of families to state leaders and school districts regarding matters of engagement policies and best practices. Families, educators, and communities will work in partnership and promote this knowledge to improve educational outcomes for all students.

Meeting Minutes 4.19.16

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m.

Attendees: Bill Cotton, Maria Camarena, Stephanie Enos, and Geraldine McPhee

Absent: Diane Tourangeau

Lead by: Geraldine McPhee

Quorum Present: Yes

Guests: The committee welcomed Christina Batastini, the Adolescent School Health Program Manager, at the RI Department of Health (DOH). Ms. Batastini attended the meeting on behalf of DOH, and is awaiting formal approval of her appointment by the Governor's Office.

News / Events

Federal

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - The RI Department of Education will need to develop a State Plan as part of the new requirements under ESSA. This may provide the committee with opportunities to gather input from stakeholders.

To learn more about ESSA, US ED is posting resources to help people learn more and stay apprised of the latest information at www.ed.gov/essa, including:

- a link to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- a link to FAQs on Transitioning to ESSA
- links to Key ESSA resources, and
- the ability to sign up for ESSA updates from US ED

State

RIDE Strategic Plan Update – Committee members asked about the current status of RIDE's Strategic Plan, which was developed with input of community members, including members of FEAC. RIDE's workplan for the coming year will be informed by the strategic plan. Members can review the plan at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/BoardofEducation/RI2015-2020StrategicPlanforEducation.aspx>

State Legislation Updates – Members wondered how they could stay informed of upcoming legislation, hearing notices, etc that may impact children and families in Rhode Island.

- Christina and Stephanie will follow-up with their respective agencies.
- Geraldine will contact the Governor's Office and Dacia Reid with the Children's Cabinet.
- Geraldine will ask RIPIN if the group can use resources from a workshop they once offered called Policy 101.

The goal will be to provide members with regular updates on legislation effecting children and families in Rhode Island. This information could potentially be shared through a website and listserv.

Local

Westerly – RI Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS) Family Fun Activities sessions were recently held in Westerly. These session show families how children learn through play and what they can do to support their child's learning. There was a diverse group of mothers and fathers, who attended all the sessions.

Updates from the Governor's Office

- Geraldine continues to work with Catherine Gering at the Governor's Office, to secure appointments for the current members. Ms. Gering authorized the restart of the committee, and confirmed meetings can be held as long a quorum of current members is available at the meeting. (With five members, the current quorum is three).
- The committee has been asked to work together with the Governor's Office to recruit members for consideration and appointment. Geraldine has created a membership outreach flyer to support these efforts.

Committee Work

Communication and Public Relations

Membership Recruitment

- Recruitment continues. The council make-up is defined in the enabling legislation. Copies of this legislation, along with the by-laws, will be shared with Christine.
- Christina is awaiting her formal appointment from the board. Welcome!
- Diane Paliotta Toolin is also expected to be appointed to the council.
- Another potential council member reached out to Geraldine through the FEAC email. Geraldine has referred them to Catherine Gering at the Governor's Office.
- Stephanie will reach out to colleagues at RIDE to identify contacts for recruiting a school administrator, school committee member and principal.
- Maria will continue serving as the COZ representative.
- Christina will distribute the membership flyer to her contacts.
- Bill will reach out to Head Start for a new family representative now that his children are in public school.
- Geraldine will reach out to the PTA, Patricia Martinez in Central Falls, and Candace Harper at the Children's Crusade.
- Geraldine will share the flyer with those present via email, so that others can continue to assist with outreach efforts.

Welcoming New Members

- With the Governor's Office coordinating council appointments, the group may not know until just before a meeting who will be joining the committee. To assist in welcoming new members, Geraldine and Stephanie

will create a new members packet (e.g. enabling legislation, bylaws, membership contact information) which can be shared electronically or by hard copy.

Nominations

- No updates at this time.

Bylaws

- No updates at this time.

Wrap-up

Next Meeting

- All ideas are welcome and encouraged. **Members are encouraged to bring their ideas to the next meeting.**

Next Meeting Date

- TBD, RIPIN - Geraldine will send a meeting wizard to find dates in May and June.

7:30 Adjourn