



RI Family Engagement Advisory Council

Hosted by RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

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.

July 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: William Cotton, Maria Camarena, Hannah McIntire, Geraldine McPhee, Dina Paliotta Toolin and Diane Tourageau

Absent: Stephanie Enos and Tonya Glantz

Lead by: Geraldine McPhee and William Cotton

Quorum Present: Yes (8 appointed /6 present)

Guests: The committee welcomed Lisa Valentine (pending appointment) from Warwick, who wishes to join the council as a PTA representative.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 24, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

News / Events

National

National PTA is hosting an ESSA webinar titled "A Parent's Role in ESSA Implementation." The webinar explores family engagement provisions in the new law governing K-12 education. It can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj-wE-XlfOQ>

State News

New members were encouraged to explore updates from past meetings minutes including:

State Legislation Updates

The RI Department of Education (RIDE) has a Legislative Update Listserv. All are welcome to receive the update directly. Please let Stephanie Enos know if you are interested in being added to the listserv.

Field Memos

RI Department of Education Commissioner Wagner's weekly field memos are released each Tuesday and can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/FieldMemos.aspx>

To have updates sent directly to your inbox, you can use the following link:

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0015STZqxGUBecRNVPOOazUI_oBHGqSAds2bXFGorCRiNlguHQkDKGpNRCHpVo8RfC1JJRYLfDBYT0%3D

Revisions to RI's Secondary School Regulations

RIDE continues to work with the community to revise the State's Secondary School Regulations. Opportunities for public input on the draft regulations include:

Monday, August 22, 2016	Cumberland Public Library	5:30 p.m.
Monday, August 29, 2016	Newport Public Library	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 6, 2016	Warwick Public Library	5:30 p.m.
Monday, September 12, 2016	URI Providence Campus, Room 501	5:30 p.m.

Visit the RIDE website to see the proposed changes and learn more:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/RIPublicSchools/DiplomaSystem.aspx>

Advanced Course Network

The RIDE is working with districts to pilot an Advanced Course network for students throughout the state. Registration is open to eligible high schools students for the 2016-2017 school year, and space is still available. Course catalogs available, by district, on the RIDE website using the following link:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/EducationPrograms/AdvancedCoursework.aspx>

Local News

New members shared concerns and techniques from experiences at their local schools related to getting more parents to come to school events, engaging families in volunteer efforts, and innovative ways to fundraise including obtaining sponsors.

- Lisa shared that Frito-Lay will provide snacks for one event per school each year. For more information contact: Kristen Hughes, Zone Sales Assistant, (800) 775-2599 X4.

Updates from the Governor's Office

- An intern from the Governor's Office has been assigned to learn more about FEAC to support the Governor's staff in finding and appointing more members. She hopes to attend a meeting and observe what the board is like in action.
- At the board's request, Catherine Gering agreed to look into whether or not FEAC meetings could be held at the State House. However, she did want to make the group aware of the following details up front 1) the Governor's office only has one communal conference room, which is almost always occupied, and 2) the conference room is usually locked by 6 p.m. Thanks to Catherine for her continued efforts on the Council's behalf.

Committee Work Updates

Communication and Public Relations

Newly appointed members:

- Maria Eugenia Camarena: Parent Representative from Westerly School District. Maria completed her appointment as the COZ representative and asked to continue on the board in the role of parent. Many thanks to Maria for her years of service as COZ representative, and for her assistance in finding a replacement.
- Hannah McIntire: Child Opportunity Zone representative
- Dina Paliotta Toolin: Parent from Cranston School District
- Tonya Glantz: Parent from Cranston School District

Membership is at the half-way mark, and recruitment continues to be a priority. Vacant seats include:

- 8 parents
 - A discussion followed on opportunities for outreach to parents
- A district administrator
- A principal
- A representative from an agency/association with experience/expertise in family engagement
 - Candace Harper from College Crusades has expressed interest in applying.
 - Discussion followed on options for filling this seat with a candidate associated with DCYF
 - Hannah suggested Boys Town and Foster Forward.
 - Tonya may also have contacts through her work at the Child Welfare Institute.

Nominations

- No updates at this time.

Bylaws

- No updates at this time.

Developing a Work Plan

The Council reviewed the Enabling Legislation and By-laws and members shared what duties were most interesting to them.

- Welcome all families to be active participants in the life of the school, so that they feel valued, connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning in class.
- Speak up for every child and empower family members to be advocates for all students within the school.
- Collaborate with community and partner with community organizations and groups to turn the school into a hub of community life.
- Create a continuum of family engagement in student learning and development from cradle to career
- Opportunities to engage “other” parents outside our usual outreach.
- Welcoming all families: Keeping focused on one attainable goal.
- Participate in evaluating the effectiveness of family engagement strategies and policies.

Members then reflected on what would keep them engaged in the work of the council.

- Building a foundation for future growth
- Setting attainable goals
- Focusing on one goal at a time
- Seeing the process through before moving ahead in new directions
- Utilizing established resources (not reinvent the wheel)
- Having agreed upon ground rules
- Bringing people together in a cohesive way
- Fill the gaps by engaging those who haven't yet been included

Wrap-up

Next Meeting

- **September 13th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, RI Parent Information Network:** Focus will be on mapping our recruitment efforts.

Upcoming Meetings

- **October 25th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, RI Parent Information Network:** Focus will be to engage partners and collect information on the good work in the community.

7:40 Adjourn