



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.

September 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:10 p.m.

Attendees: Maria Camarena, Daniel Smith, Stephanie Enos, Tonya Glantz, Geraldine McPhee, Dina Paliotta Toolin

Absent: Christina Batastini, William Cotton, Candace Harper, Hannah McIntire, Diane Tourageau, and Lisa Valentine

Lead by: Geraldine McPhee

Quorum Present: Yes

Guests: The committee welcomed Nicole Hebert from RIPIN.

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

News / Events

State News

Revisions to RI's Secondary School Regulations

The final community input session for the State's draft Secondary School Regulations was held last night. Council members can visit the RIDE website to stay apprised of the next steps in the process:

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

English Language Learner Regulations

RI's English Language Learner Regulations are also being revised this year. Revised regulations are being shared with the Board of Education, who will make them available for public comment.

RI's State Plan under ESSA

RIDE has convened a Committee of Practitioners, which meets monthly, to give the RIDE team input on the development of RI's State Plan under ESSA. This plan will build on the work of RI's Strategic Plan for PK -12 Education. Geraldine attended the last meeting, as all meetings are open to the public. She also noted that there will be opportunities for public input at the process moves forward this fall. Visit the RIDE website to stay informed between meetings:

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/InformationAccountability/EveryStudentSucceedsAct\(ESSA\).aspx](http://www.ride.ri.gov/InformationAccountability/EveryStudentSucceedsAct(ESSA).aspx)

Geraldine has also heard back from Chanthy DelRosario in Commissioner Wagner's office. The Commissioner is planning to come to FEAC's December meeting to speak to the group and answer questions, schedule permitting.

RI Early Learning and Development Standards Family Fun Activities

RIPIN is ready to start two facilitator trainings for the Family Fun Activities, one in English and one in Spanish. Anyone who is interested in attending can contact Geraldine. Maria shared that these trainings have been a part of Westerly's Parent Academy for several years, and they are very well received by mothers and fathers of young children.

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.

- Dina shared that her child's school in Cranston recently held an Open House. By accessing social media, parents were able to generate a large following for the school, and they saw a significant increase in attendance. The personal connections the PTO made reaching out to other families made a huge difference, and it was well worth the time and effort.
- Maria shared that the Parent Academy in Westerly started this week. 15 workshops for families and the community are planned for this semester. Maria is willing to have members contact her if others want to learn more.
- Stephanie shared that she attended a screening of the movie "Screenagers" sponsored by the middle school PTO with her son. The PTO encouraged families and students to attend together and then talk at home about their own screen time behaviors and rules. Other members shared the movie is currently available on Netflix if members would like to watch it with their own children.

Committees

Geraldine provided an overview of the standing committees, represented in the by-laws, for new members.

The committees are:

- By-laws
- Nominations
- Communications and Public Relations

By-laws

The committee meeting structure is fairly informal at this time, as the group tries to maintain a family engagement feel. That said, a quorum is needed for voting, and the required information is posted on the Secretary of States website.

Time will be set aside at a future meeting, as membership expands, to create more formal group norms.

All members should

Nominations

As this is a rebuilding stage for the group, all members are considered members of the nominating committee. Geraldine shared the membership recruitment flyers, which many remember seeing when

they considered joining for the first time, and encouraged members to reach out to those they know who might be interested in joining. Members were encouraged to find potential representatives from communities not currently at the table.

Officers will need to be nominated in the coming months, as the intention is for FEAC to be a parent led advisory board. Please feel free to speak with Geraldine or Bill if you are interested in serving on the executive committee. All are welcome!

Communications and Public Relations

No updates at this time.

Action Planning

- October 25th Meeting Planning
- Commissioner's Visit

October 25th Meeting Plan

Members agreed that they would like to see the group take on work that would allow them to develop a product that could evolve over time. With that in mind, the group outlined a creating a tool that captures "family engagement activities and initiatives" for children from birth to high school in RI, to align with the strategic plan. An agenda to support this work was then drafted.

The executive committee agreed to meet to build out the plan and will send it to the whole group for input (see Attachment), and to see who would like to be involved in presenting information.

All members agreed to recruit a least one person (friend, family member or colleague) who is currently engaged in two way communication activities between families and schools.

Commissioner's Visit

Save the date - The Commissioner is planning to come to FEAC's December meeting to speak to the group and answer questions, schedule permitting.

Wrap-up

Next Meeting

- **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.
- **December 13th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, RI Parent Information Network:** Commissioner Wagner will share his vision for education in RI and answer questions.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30