



## 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.*

### October 25, 2016 – DRAFT Meeting Minutes

#### Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m.

*Attendees:* William Cotton, Stephanie Enos, Tonya Glantz, Hannah McIntire, Geraldine McPhee, Daniel Smith, Dina Paliotta Toolin, Diane Tourageau, and Lisa Valentine

*Absent:* Christina Batastini, Maria Camarena and Candace Harper

*Lead by:* William Cotton and Geraldine McPhee

*Quorum Present:* Yes

*Guests:* The committee welcomed Sengkio Bouchard (Cranston Parent), Lisa Cadan (Bristol Parent), Lynne Ciancio (PT Burrville School Department/Private School Parent), Ellen Davenport (Cranston Parent), Linda Men (Providence Parent), Stephanie Ortiz (Cranston Parent), Nittaya Saenbut (FE Program Manager, Center for Southeast Asians), Grace Swinski (Cranston COZ/Title I Family Center) and Margaret Votta (North Smithfield Parent/RIDE).

*Minutes:* Minutes from the September 13, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Bill and Geraldine opened the meeting by providing the members and their invited guests with a brief overview of FEAC, followed by group introductions. Geraldine then noted that the meeting would begin with regular business, followed by a presentation from a guest from RIDE and the planned evening work session. With support of the membership, regular business was expedited to allow sufficient time for the speaker and planned activity.

#### News / Events

##### *RI's State Plan under ESSA – Update/Opportunity for Input*

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. Stephanie distributed copies, in English and Spanish, for the upcoming ESSA community forums to collect public input for the plan.

Forums are being held from 5:30-7:30pm at the following dates and locations:

- **Providence Area:** Wednesday, November 2 at Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex. Spanish language interpretation services are available.
- **Northern Rhode Island:** Wednesday, November 9 at Lincoln Middle School
- **West Bay:** Monday, November 14 at Coventry High School
- **East Bay:** Thursday, November 17 at Portsmouth High School
- **Southern Rhode Island:** Monday, November 21 at South Kingstown High School

To reserve a spot at any of the forums, please follow this link: [www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA-Forum](http://www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA-Forum). All are welcome.

Additional information and copies of the flyer, visit the RIDE website at:

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

#### *Annenberg Institute Study*

Geraldine received an email from the Annenberg Institute. The Institute received a grant on Student Centered Learning. They are looking for input how families, students and communities can have a voice in school governments. There is an opportunity for a few members to participate on behalf of FEAC. Danny Smith, Lisa Valentine and Bill Cotton all indicate they were interested in learning more. Geraldine will follow-up with each of them to share next steps.

## **Committees**

### *Membership*

- The Council shared membership flyers with the group, and welcomed invited guests to apply or help recruit new members throughout the evening.
- Council members were reminded that officers will need to be nominated in the coming months, as the intention is for FEAC to be a parent led advisory board.
- Sign-up sheets were provided for people to indicate their interest, and all were encouraged to reach out to Geraldine for more information.

### *Communications and Public Relations*

- No updates at this time.

### *By-laws*

- No updates at this time.

## **Action Items**

### *SurveyWorks – Opportunity for Input*

Geraldine introduced Margaret (Peg) Votta from the RI Department of Education. Peg provided the group with an overview of RIDE's on its reinstated family survey, called *SurveyWorks*. In short, SurveyWorks is a set of surveys being developed to reach the following audiences: students, teachers, staff and families. The survey is designed to capture data about a school's relative strengths as compared to their own data over time, other

schools in the state and even nationally. School communities can then use the data to think about what they can do to help kids improve. Peg also answered questions from the group.

FEAC was asked to give feedback on its top priorities for topic feedback. The group welcomed the opportunity. As the first group to participate in this feedback process, Peg also offered to provide the Council with its own initial survey data from the Council, and invited guests, provided individuals complete the survey by **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

After November 2<sup>nd</sup> the survey will be open to a broader audience for input, and members are welcome to distribute the link throughout RI.

## **Family-School Partnerships in Rhode Island**

Members and their invited guests worked in small groups to begin sharing and documenting record family engagement activities that are occurring in their local schools and communities. After recording their ideas, they then grouped them in the following categories: early childhood, elementary, middle, high school, transition to adulthood and other. Members were then encouraged to walk around and take a quick break.

After the break, Stephanie provided an overview of *Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnership*. The tool was designed by Dr. Karen Mapp, a leader in the family engagement field, and Paul Kuttner for SEDL in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education. The group focused on the set of “process conditions” research on promising practices in family engagement has shown need to be present for successful capacity-building interventions. Process conditions include: linked to learning, relational, developmental, collective/collaborative, and interactive.

After the discussion, the group then revisited their charts to indicate which conditions each activity appears to meet. The group then engaged in a second gallery walk to look for emerging themes, areas for further discussion and the like, as time for an in depth discussion was limited. Some initial thoughts included:

- people’s differing perceptions/definitions of terms/words, such as interactive;
- that the needs of families from schools may differ over time/by context (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> child vs 4<sup>th</sup>; part time working parent vs parent with two jobs);
- resources available to schools to support these efforts (e.g. financial, time, staff availability);
- the fact that schools may need a menu of options specific to the needs of their families and every activity does not have to serve every; and
- the idea of thinking about the rationale for how you engage families in activities (Do people think about process conditions? Do they even know about them, as this is an emerging resource in the field?).

Hannah then offered to create a google document and template for the Council to use and grow this tool. She, Tonya and Dina each volunteered to take charts and record ideas shared by the group. Go team! The tool can then grow with the group over time.

## Wrap-up

### *Next Meeting*

- **December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, RI Parent Information Network:** Commissioner Wagner will share his vision for education in RI and answer questions, barring any unforeseen scheduling changes. Members of the community are welcome to attend. If the Commissioner cannot attend, work will focus on the newly created tool.

Thanks to Tonya, Stephanie and RIPIN for providing refreshments for this meeting. If you are interested in bringing refreshments to the next meeting, please let Geraldine know.

### *Save the Date*

Upcoming FEAC Meetings

- February 7, 2017 – Regular FEAC Meeting
- March 28, 2017 – Family Engagement Topic Meeting

**Meeting Adjourned 7:35**