



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.

December 13, 2016

Approved

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:07 p.m.

Attendees: Sengkeo Bouchard, William Cotton, Stephanie Enos, **Tonya Glantz**, Candace L. Harper, Geraldine McPhee, Hannah McIntire, Daniel P. Smith, Dina Paliotta Toolin, Diane Tourangeau,

Absent: Christina Batastini, Maria Camarena, Lisa Valentine

Lead by: William Cotton and Geraldine McPhee

Quorum Present: Yes

Guests: Education Commissioner Ken Wagner

Minutes: Minutes from the October 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Bill and Geraldine opened the meeting by: welcoming members and invited guests, providing a brief overview of mission and work of FEAC, and facilitating introductions. Stephanie then noted the change in order of business for the meeting noting the meeting would begin with the evening speaker, Commissioner Wagner, followed by regular business. The Commissioner was then welcomed and the floor opened for conversation.

Guest Speaker: Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner, RI Department of Education

Key Talking Points

The Commissioner's discussion centered around the top three things he is thinking about right now with the group:

- rigorous learning opportunities for students – PreK to early college – how does RI create more concrete opportunities
- how to design learning opportunities to create more student centered approaches to learning that are interdisciplinary and hands-on – not enough
- power sharing - what are we doing to support effective leadership, parent engagement

Commissioner Wagner stated he was willing to nurture the relationship between the Council and RIDE to work on common goals and work in partnership together.

Opportunity to Continue the Conversation

The Commissioner is open to the idea of FEAC serving as RIDE's Parent Cabinet. He also hopes that parents would bring the idea of a Parent Cabinet back to their local districts to start them there as well. Geraldine will follow-up with the Commissioner and his staff after the meeting to explore this idea further.

FEAC's time with the Commissioner ended with a question and answer session. Bill then thanked the Commissioner for his time.

A brief break was taken followed by an abbreviated business portion of the meeting.

Business Meeting

Minutes reviewed and approved.

Survey Works

The survey works survey for families will be sent to districts after the first of the year. Thanks again from Peg Votta, a previous guest speaker from RIDE, for FEAC's input into the survey. Stephanie will send a link to the group with the latest information. Members discussed the best ways to help publicize the survey to through their networks. To stay apprised of the latest information, visit the RIDE website at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InformationAccountability/RIEducationData/SurveyWorks.aspx>

Elections

Geraldine shared that new officers will be needed for the coming year. Anyone interested in serving in that capacity should contact Geraldine. Members were asked to indicate their interest on tonight's sign in sheet as well, and Geraldine will follow-up with them.

Membership

Membership continues to grow. Geraldine and Bill outlined how interested guests could start the application process. Guests were asked to indicate their interest on tonight's sign in sheet as well, and Geraldine will follow-up with them.

RI's State Plan Update

Thanks to all who participated in the Community Input sessions. There will be one more round of input sessions in the spring, followed by the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft plan. To stay apprised of the latest information, and share it with others, visit the RIDE website at:

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

Wrap-up

Upcoming Meetings

- **February 7th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, RI Parent Information Network**
- **March 28th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, RI Parent Information Network**

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.

Meeting Adjourned 7:35