



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.

March 28, 2017

Approved

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Sengkeo Bouchard, William Cotton, Stephanie Enos, **Tonya Glantz**, Candace L. Harper, Geraldine McPhee, Daniel P. Smith, Dina Paliotta Toolin, Diane Tourangeau, and Lisa Valentine

Absent: Christina Batastini, Maria Camarena and Hannah McIntire

Lead by: William Cotton and Geraldine McPhee

Quorum Present: Yes

Minutes: Minutes from the December 13, 2016 were reviewed and approved as written and minutes from the February 7, 2017 were reviewed approved with changes.

News and Updates

SurveyWorks

As of March 22, more than 82,000 students, 13,000 parents and 9,500 staff have participated in SurveyWorks. There is still one week to go so please don't stop now! The survey closes in a week – stay informed about your school's participation rates via our [interactive visualization](#), or share a shout-out on social media to your school or district for their success (tag @RIDeptEd and we'll re-tweet).

Looking for information about parent participation? Check out the [Parent Response Rate Thermometer](#). A list of parent ranges has also been updated on the [SurveyWorks Resource Center webpage](#).

Discussion:

Members discussed the importance of completing the survey, which closes on March 31st. They were also encouraged to reach out to those they know and ask them to do the same.

Members were interested in having a follow-up conversation about the survey in order to provide feedback to RIDE. Geraldine shared one avenue for providing feedback would be through the Parent Design team, which both she and Bill serve on on behalf of FEAC. Another option is to reach out to Peg Votta to share feedback, which she encouraged during her previous visit to FEAC.

Members voted to have a discussion to provide formal feedback to RIDE at the next meeting. In the meantime, members will reach out to others in their community to gather additional input.

SAT timeline for spring administration

SAT Test Administration (Test Center Supervisor): **April 5, 2017**

Reading Week – April 10 – 13th

Reading Week is coming up in April, and Commissioner Wagner wants to know what schools have planned. The Commissioner and his colleagues from other departments are eager to volunteer, so if your school has openings, let RIDE know and they can help facilitate getting guest readers into your community.

Discussion

Members were interested in learning more and possibly securing guest readers. Stephanie agreed to forward the latest Field Memo to members tomorrow, which contains the complete announcement from the Commissioner, including contact information. Requests can also be sent directly to Stephanie and she will forward them to her colleagues at RIDE.

Special Education Parent Survey

RIDE has once again partnered with Panorama Education to release the 2017 [Special Education Parent Survey](#). The goal of the survey is to improve the academic, social and post school success of students with disabilities ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education services.

The survey will be offered online beginning **April 3, 2017** and on paper starting **April 10, 2017**. Online confidential surveys will be sent to those parents who have valid email addresses on file with their district. Those parents who do not have a valid email address on file will receive a confidential paper survey. The survey window will close on **May 26, 2017**.

The Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports (OSCAS) is kindly asking to acknowledge the importance of this survey in order to gain insight into how to enhance school and family partnerships; educational supports for children and youth with special needs; and goal setting and school improvement planning.

If parents have questions or need assistance completing the survey they can call the Call Center at the RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) at 401-270-0101 or 800-464-3399. Additional questions may be directed to Kerri Sorensen at kerri.sorensen@ride.ri.gov.

ESSA Update: RIDE schedules five public forums for ESSA community outreach

Public engagement for transition to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) continues in late April and early May. RIDE will host five regional community forums to share updates and gather feedback on the draft recommendations for the state's ESSA plan. Students, parents, teachers, community members, and community leaders across the state are invited to share feedback to help inform the ESSA decision-making process.

The five forums will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on these dates:

- *Providence Area*: Monday, **April 24**, at Cranston High School East, 899 Park Avenue, Cranston (Spanish language interpretation services are available)
- *Southern Rhode Island*: Wednesday, **April 26**, at Narragansett High School, 245 S Pier Road, Narragansett
- *East Bay*: Thursday, **April 27**, at Pell Elementary School, 35 Dexter Street, Newport
- *Northern Rhode Island*: Monday, **May 1**, at Cumberland High School, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland
- *West Bay*: Wednesday, **May 3** at West Warwick High School, 1 Webster Knight Drive, West Warwick

The forums are open to everyone, but if you would like to reserve a spot at any of the forums, please click [here](#). A shareable flyer can be found [here](#) (for a black-and-white version, click [here](#)).

For more information about these community forums, please email ESSA@ride.ri.gov.

To view materials from Fall ESSA forums, visit: www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA

Harvard Family Research Project becomes the Global Family Research Project

The Harvard Family Research Project is now the Global Family Research Project at Third Sector New England. While HFRP will no longer be affiliated with the Harvard Graduate School of Education, HFRP's publications and materials will continue to be available on a [legacy website](#) through **September 1, 2017**.

Check out the Global Family Research Project [website](#) for their new work, including the Ideabook for family and community engagement with libraries, and materials we will be moving from the legacy website.

Online Professional Development Opportunity

Candace shared that Harvard has a free online course on Family Engagement, taught by Karen Mapp. For an additional fee, participants can receive a certificate of participation. She will forward the information to the group.

Commissioner's Parent Cabinet

As requested by the Commissioner, Geraldine followed up with Chanty Del Rosario in the Commissioner's Office to discuss the possibility of FEAC serving as the Commissioner's Parent Cabinet. Chanty shared with Geraldine that the Commissioner is interested in FEAC serving as his cabinet, rather than creating a stand-alone group that would operate outside of FEAC. In order to support this effort, Chanty would like FEAC to reserve 15 to 20 minutes on the agenda at each meeting for this purpose. The role of the cabinet would be to help spread the word on new initiatives and provide the Commissioner with feedback.

Discussion

The committee was happy to hear of the Commissioner's decision and offer. However, there were concerns about the length of time this would require, as the meeting is currently considered parent friendly at 90 minutes. The group decided that 15 minutes might work, provided that members are able to receive information in advance to prepare and ask questions, and that information is provided in parent friendly language.

The group agreed to provide time for the Commissioner or his representative as part of the quarterly agenda at the next meeting. They would like to hear more about what is expected of a Parent Cabinet before making a more formal decision.

Annenberg Institute

Geraldine provided the group with an update from the Annenberg Institute, whose current focus is on family leadership development. The group is willing to provide professional development to the committee to help build our own skills in leadership.

Discussion

The Committee saw this as an excellent opportunity, and would like to accept the offer, provided that:

- 1. Information could be shared prior to the meeting to help members prepare.*
- 2. The lecture/direct teaching portion of the evening is short.*
- 3. There is time for interaction/Q&A with the presenters.*

The committee would like this to be a standard format for interacting with others moving forward.

Geraldine will share the upcoming meeting dates with the group to choose the best date.

Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP)

Danny shared with the group that the Association is hosting a Summer Conference. This might be the ideal time to ask principals about their family engagement activities as it could provide an opportunity to share and gather information (two-way conversation).

Discussion

Idea to bring back to the table in June. Perhaps group members would be willing to share the Dual Capacity Framework at the conference, and collect information from districts/schools as part of the same workshop.

Committee Updates

Communications and Public Relations Committee

JWU Family Engagement Course Update

Geraldine spoke on behalf of FEAC to Tonya's students in her parent and family engagement course.

Friends of RIDE Memo

Members who wish to the RIDE updates directly were encouraged to let Stephanie Enos know, and she would share their information. Members were also provided with the following email address to use themselves or share with others:

Email info@ride.ri.gov and ask to be subscribed to the "Friends Memo".

Daniel, Candace, and Geraldine agreed to serve on this committee with Dina acting as chairperson.

By-laws Committee

Amending By-laws

It appears as if it will be possible to amend the by-laws. With that in mind, the group continued the discussion about the possible changes to the by-laws, while continuing to follow Robert's Rules and staying true to the enabling legislation. Lisa Valentine agreed to lead this effort, Tonya, Geraldine and Stephanie agreed to work with her. Geraldine will stay in touch with the Governor's Office to provide additional feedback to the group. It is hoped that a draft version of the proposed changes would be available for discussion, and possibly voting on, at the next meeting.

Nominations Committee

Upcoming Elections

Members were reminded that the current slate of officers is serving on an interim basis, and new officers would need to be elected to fill the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Members were encouraged to consider running and to reach out to existing office holders, who could answer any questions they may have about the position. The goal is to hold elections during the June meeting for a September start.

Action Item

Anyone wishing to run should speak to Geraldine.

Action Items

Family Engagement Scan

The group discussed next steps on the family engagement scan. It was decided to make time on the next agenda to build a consistent interview question format. Once that is done, members could begin by reaching out to principals they know to gather information. Danny also shared another possibility. The Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP) hosts an Annual Summer Conference (summer is also a good time of year to reach out to principals). This might be the ideal time to ask principals about their family engagement activities as it could provide an opportunity to share and gather information (two-way conversation).

Discussion

Idea to bring back to the table in June. Perhaps group members would be willing to share the Dual Capacity Framework at the conference, and collect information from districts/schools as part of the same workshop.

Future Meeting Dates

The group agreed to move to a 5 time a year, 90 minute format for future meetings. See below for agreed upon dates. Two more meetings need to be set: one in early February and one in late March. The group will look at dates in September.

Wrap-up

Upcoming Meetings

June 6th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., RIPIN

September 26th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., RIPIN

December 5th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., RIPIN

Two more meetings to be set in early February and late March of 2018.

Meeting Adjourned