



## 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.*

### June 6, 2017 Minutes

#### Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m.

*Present:* Sengkeo Bouchard, William Cotton, **Tonya Glantz**, Geraldine McPhee, Daniel P. Smith, Dina Paliotta Toolin, and Lisa Valentine

*Absent:* Christina Batastini, Maria Camarena, Stephanie Enos, Candace L. Harper and Diane Tourangeau

*Lead by:* William Cotton and Geraldine McPhee

*Quorum Present:* Yes

*Minutes:* Minutes from the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed approved with changes.

#### News and Updates

##### Snow Days Legislation

Members discussed a recent law passed through the RI Legislature allowing district to submit a plan for students to have homework on snow days. <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText17/SenateText17/S0101.pdf>

*Discussion:* Members wondered how this policy will play out for families who lack computers.

##### SurveyWorks

2017 has closed and the results can be accessed online at: [SurveyWorks Resource Center](#).

*Discussion:* Members reported on what they're hearing in their communities. Some mentioned concerned over how long it took to complete the survey (1/2 hour for those who had multiple students or for parents with low computer or literacy skills). Others mentioned that some of the questions seemed unclear or repetitive. Members are encouraged to share feedback directly with Peg Votta at: [margaret.votta@ride.ri.gov](mailto:margaret.votta@ride.ri.gov).

*Actions:* Members asked Geraldine and Bill to share their input with the commissioner's Parent Design Team meeting on 6/8/17.

##### Special Education Parent Survey

The 2017 Special Education Parent Survey closed on May 26, 2017 and results are now being compiled. Questions related to this survey may be directed to Kerri Sorensen at [kerri.sorensen@ride.ri.gov](mailto:kerri.sorensen@ride.ri.gov).

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Planning for use of federal education funds**

RIDE held five regional forums this spring with to gather feedback from students, parents, teachers, community members, and community leaders on the state's ESSA Plan. The Draft ESSA State Plan is now available for public comment from June 1 - June 30. Each section is posted separately and many have a corresponding feedback survey included at the start of each section. These documents can be found at: [www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA](http://www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA)

## **Online Professional Development Opportunities**

- Harvard University has a free online course on Family Engagement, taught by Karen Mapp. For an additional fee, participants can receive a certificate of participation. <http://online-learning.harvard.edu/course/introduction-family-engagement-education>
- There is a recording of the webinar "How Schools Improve by Engaging Families" with Commissioner Ken Wagner and Peg Votta, Dr. Karen Mapp, and a representative of Denver Public Schools at: [EdWeek](#).

## **Committee Updates**

### *By-laws Committee*

Lisa Valentine presented proposed amendments to the bylaws. She explained that these changes would bring the bylaws in closer alignment with the state statute. She suggested that we may want to develop a separate document in the future that details our operational processes. She proposed that for now we schedule a special summer meeting to vote on changes line by line.

*Discussion: Holding the meeting in the end of August would provide time for member to submit concerns and counter-amendments through email.*

*Actions: Members agreed to hold a special summer meeting and preferred either August 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. Geraldine agreed to send out a meeting request to see which date works best for most members.*

### *Nominations Committee*

Lisa and Geraldine proposed that a nominating committee be elected tonight and that part of the special summer meeting be reserved for electing new officers. Members reviewed how the bylaws require the following process and timeline for electing new officers.

1. At least two months prior to election of officers a (3 member) nominating committee shall all be elected by the Council at a regular general membership meeting.
2. The nominating committee shall elect its chair.
3. The nominating committee shall nominate for each office at least one month prior to election.

*Discussion: Members considering a leadership role were encourage to reference the duties outlined in the by-laws and to reach out to the board with any questions or concerns.*

*Actions: The members agreed with the proposal and elected Lisa, Sengkeo, and Ramona to the Nominations Committee. The committee elected Lisa as their chairperson and made plans to develop a slate of candidates so that they could present nominees to the committee (through email) by mid-July.*

### *Communications and Public Relations Committee*

Dina shared ideas for communication plan on google docs. Team reviewed group effort to edits language that could be used in outreach efforts. Dina proposed that FEAC create a Facebook page.

*Discussion: Geraldine mentioned that because the C & PR committee work is broad, it will be important to continually link activities to the duties outlined in the statute.*

*Actions: Member agreed that Dina should begin drafting a Facebook page and outlining an overall communications plan. Geraldine will send Dina some templates to reference.*

**Wrap-up***Upcoming Meetings*

TBD - Either: August 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., RIPIN

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., RIPIN

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., RIPIN

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:25 p.m.