



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 6, 2018

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting opened at 6:11 p.m.

Attendees: Sengkeo Bouchard, William Cotton, Stephanie Enos, Tonya Glantz, Carol Hall-Walker, Geraldine McPhee, Dina Paliotta Toolin, Ramona Santos, Daniel Smith, and Lisa Valentine

Absent: Candace Harper and Diane Tourageau

Guests: Yeimy Bakemon-Morel

Led by: Ramona Santos

Quorum Present: Yes

Minutes: Minutes from the December 5, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Ramona Santos opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming guest Yeimy Bakemon-Morel to the meeting.

News / Events

Upcoming Elections and Membership Recruitment

The council discussed recruiting efforts to fill vacant membership positions. Lisa Valentine is no longer with the State PTA and will serve the council as a parent representative. Therefore, the PTA is currently vacant. Geraldine McPhee will be reaching out to COZ to see if there is any interested party to fill COZ's open position. The council is still seeking members to fill the school committee member position and a school administrator position at the district level.

Upcoming Events

Carol Hall-Walker shared with the group about an upcoming event with Sistersong. The organizers will present their strategy and discuss how to fight for reproductive justice for women of color. Carol Hall-Walker will send out flyers to council members.

Student and Academic Achievement Grants (Title IV-A)

Stephanie Enos shared with the council details on a new grant program in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) called the "Student and Academic Achievement Grants." Districts can apply for funds to assist their identified schools with:

- Providing all student with access to a well-rounded education.
- Improving school conditions for student learning (including social and emotional learning).
- Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Districts need to involve stakeholders in the development of their plans, including parents. Rhode Island received an initial allocation of approximately \$1.8 million dollars, and eligible LEAs will receive at least \$10,000. Carol Hall-Walker then suggested the council should discuss funding opportunities during news/event updates at each meeting so we can connect with each other.

Children's Cabinet Meeting

Geraldine McPhee shared details on her experience with the Children's Cabinet Meeting. The city of Cranston presented their kindergarten initiatives which was an open source curriculum. The children interacted with their materials leading up to 3rd grade reading. Stations were set up and storytelling was part of the curriculum and the whole experience was truly inspirational.

Committees

PR/Communications

Obtaining new members and increasing capacity is the committee's main goal. This will be done through:

1. Contact List (should be all set for June, all members will add to it).
2. Newsletters (Geraldine's Survey)
 - "Newsy"
 - Seasonal (end of year to get parents back on track in the summer and to be distributed by the end of June)
3. Facebook

Members/Outreach/Potential Populations (these will make up our contact list, "allies", we will work on building these relationships)

- PTA/PTO/PTF-Parents
- RIDE
- Commissioner
- Board of Education
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Early Intervention
- Community Agencies (ie. social workers)
 - Two way communication-they may have helpful resources we can learn from and share
- Emails/meeting invites to "allies"/parents at prior meetings
 - Meetings are open: anyone can attend, only members can vote

- “Cheat sheet” for allies should be available at meetings so that they know the “protocols” for when they can join in the conversation and when they can observe (no voting)
 - “If you feel the urge to vote-please join our team!”
- School Districts

Current Vacant Positions

- 5 Parents
- School Committee Member
- District Administrator (superintendent, curriculum director, etc)
- COZ Representative (Ongoing communications to appoint a member, meeting/phone call with one of the COZ directors next week)
- PTA (position on hold until new leadership is elected in March)

Google Drive

- Will be the platform we use to create and/or store flyers, info, etc.
- Information will be stored in work in progress, completed work, and interesting information with the potential to share/resource files
 - All members can add resources
- This will allow us to forward information to future members/leadership
- The possibility of a training so we all feel comfortable
- Google emails for FEAC members are recommended to guarantee that we all can add to docs, help with work, etc.
- Both internal and external communication is important for our council

Policy Discussion Committee

The committee is a newly formed subcommittee and will focus on discussing policies, data, research and best practices on family engagement. The committee can be in partnership with agencies that can review data and policies in the form of workshops, community conversations and informational meetings. The name of committee could possibly be changed in the near future as to avoid confusion between policies and bylaws.

Action Items

Rhode Island Foundation

The foundation could be a potential source of funding for the council. Ramona Santos and Daniel Smith met with Keith Catone as a possible fiscal agent. Tonya Glantz offered to help with grant writing. She and Lisa Valentine will further explore the funding guidelines contained in the council’s bylaws.

Wrap-up

Next Meeting

- **June 12th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm at RIPIN – Full Committee.**

Meeting Adjourned 7:34

Glossary of Terms

- COZ – Child Opportunity Zone
- FEAC – Family Engagement Advisory Council
- PTA – Parent Teacher Association
- PTO - Parent Teacher Organization
- PTF – Parent Teacher Foundation
- RIDE – RI Department of Education
- RIPIN – RI Parent Information Network