

RIASC and the New Normal

March, 2021

Over the past year, RIASC has adapted to supporting our membership through the new normal. Thanks to the leadership of our Executive Director Tim Duffy, members have remained at the forefront of Rhode Island public education. Tim has coordinated vital meetings with school committee chairs and the Commissioner of Education, whereby chairs could ask questions and receive guidance on operating during the pandemic.

Tim conducted many meetings, via Zoom, on timely topics, and with the collaboration of the League of Cities and Towns and the Hassenfeld Institute, developed the Newly Elected Leader's Orientation.

The RIASC board met throughout the year to plan and navigate through the changes, while keeping the membership informed and educated.

Tim is currently following the activities of this General Assembly session and will keep the membership informed of current legislation impacting public education.

Lastly, a survey was sent to all members regarding RIASC professional development. Be sure to respond to the survey so that we will be able to further understand and meet the needs of our members.

RIASC OFFICERS

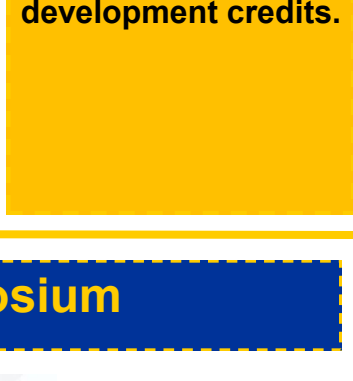
- Liana Fenton**
President
- Erin Dube**
President-Elect
- David Testa**
Secretary/Treasurer
- Mary Anne Roll**
Past President

BOARD MEMBERS

- Mark Fiorillo**
- Jean Harnois**
- Kathy Patenaude**
- Susan St. Amand**
- David Testa**



RIASC Annual Meeting

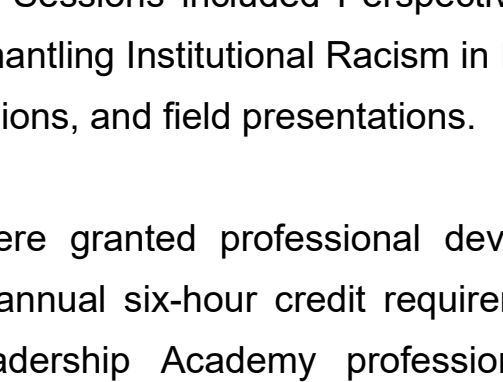


The RIASC Board has been busy planning RIASC's 2021 Annual Meeting.

Watch your email for the date and program details for this virtual meeting.

Attendees will receive professional development credits.

NSBA Equity Symposium



On February 10, the RIASC Board and a variety of school committee members attended the virtual 2021 NSBA Equity Symposium. Sessions included Perspectives on Race and Racism, Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education (DIRE) panel discussions, and field presentations.

Attendees were granted professional development credits toward their annual six-hour credit requirement and toward RIASC's Leadership Academy professional development program.

HOWARD KAY AWARD NOMINATIONS

RIASC is seeking nominations for a school committee member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership.

ELIGIBILITY

- Any committee member who has served at any time from May 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021 is eligible to be nominated. This includes members retired after May 1, 2020, and
- has attended two or more RIASC functions from May 1, 2020—April 1, 2021, and
- serves on a school committee that is a RIASC member.

Please submit a brief written statement about the nominee explaining his or her attributes as a school committee leader.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS APRIL 2, 2021.

Email nominations to: info@ri-asc.org

The Award will be presented at our 2021 Annual Meeting.

RIASC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Plan to achieve your 6 hours in 2021!

According to State law, Rhode Island school committee members must engage in six hours of professional development every calendar year.

Did you participate in the Newly Elected Leader's Orientation in January? If so, you have been credited your six hours for 2021.

RIASC Members have until the end of December to obtain their six hours for 2021.

RIASC'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY Why Stop at Six Hours?

In 2004 The Rhode Island Association of School Committees created the Leadership Academy, a voluntary professional development program for school committee members.

After completing 15 hours of RIASC professional development, Academy graduates receive recognition from the Rhode Island Board of Education at our Annual Meeting.

2020 NSBA ANNUAL MEETING EARN RIASC CREDITS FOR ATTENDING



Registration is now open for NSBA's 2020 Annual Meeting April 8-10, 2021

Visit www.nsba.org to register for this virtual conference.

RIASC attendees will be granted professional development credits for attending.

Members who attend should submit their hours to RIASC to receive RIASC professional development credit.

EXTERNAL TRAINING CREDITS

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT EXTERNAL CREDITS! The RIASC Board met and approved a policy for its members allowing them to gain credit hours for attending external training sessions. External training sessions are sessions that have relevance to your role as a school committee member but are not sponsored by RIASC. In order to qualify for external credit, a *Request for Approval* form must be completed and submitted to RIASC.

The form can be obtained by visiting our website at www.ri-asc.org and linking to the "Professional Development" page.

NEED A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RESOURCE?

Are you on the contract negotiations team for your district? Do you want to conduct research during the negotiation process? RIASC has you covered.

RIASC hosts the Collective Bargaining Electronic Resource, that includes teacher contract language for all school districts.

We encourage you to visit the site and to make sure your district has submitted their latest electronic contract to RIASC so that we can provide you with the most current information for your teacher contract negotiations.

The site is located at <http://ntlong.com/cber/>

BUYBOARD PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE SAVING DISTRICTS \$\$\$

Do you know if your district takes advantage of the cost savings of BuyBoard? Why not find out?

The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative is a national online purchasing cooperative formed between the National School Boards Association and several state school boards associations to streamline the buying process for schools, municipalities and other public entities.

Developed to comply with state laws which require government entities to make purchases from an approved list of vendors who have gone through a competitive procurement process, BuyBoard gives districts the advantage of leveraging the cooperative's ability to obtain bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online, web-based shopping and ordering. Save time and money with BuyBoard.

Visit our Website!

Visit the RI-ASC website at www.ri-asc.org where you will find training videos on essential school committee topics, information on upcoming professional development sessions, past newsletters, data files, photos, and the Rhode Island General Laws regarding the powers and duties of school committee members.