

**Starting the New School Year
 We got this!**

You are not alone as you begin a new school year filled with challenges and change. The Rhode Island Association of School Committees is your advocate during these tumultuous times. We have been working with RIDE, the legislature, your administration and school committee chairs. We have heard your concerns and the chairs have had access to the Commissioner, State leaders and the RI Department of Health, with regard to the pandemic. We have facilitated many meetings to keep members informed and engaged, and this year RIASC has provided over 50 hours of professional development opportunities. As we move forward, we will be coordinating Quarterly School Committee Chair meetings and providing timely professional development opportunities for all members. Please remember to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have or to just get the support you need to continue to do what is best for your district. Our discussions lead to best practices and can provide support and encouragement to you as you navigate through this new school year. Take advantage of the resources your colleagues and our Association can provide to you. So, you got this, and RIASC is here for you!


September, 2021

RIASC OFFICERS

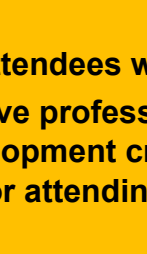
Liana Fenton
 President
 Erin Dube
 President-Elect
 David Testa
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Mary Anne Roll
 Past President

BOARD MEMBERS

Gina Bae
 Paul Bourget
 Diane Chiaradio Bowdy
 Sandra Flowers
 Jean Harnois
 Kathy Patenaude
 Susan St. Amand
 David Testa



RIASC's 2022 Annual Meeting



Plan to Attend!

RIASC's Annual Meeting

April 30, 2022

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Attendees will receive professional development credits for attending.

2022 Professional Development

The RIASC Board is in the process of planning the 2022 Professional development sessions. We are seeking your feedback:

- Is there a topic you would like us to cover?
- Would you be interested in more in-person meetings in 2022?
- Do you have an idea for the theme of the Annual Meeting?

Future topics being considered:

- Superintendent Evaluations with SuperEval
- Legislative Review for Policy Chairs—Adjusting your policies to address recent legislative changes
- Student Privacy Policies
- Developing Policies through an Equity Lens

Send your responses and ideas to info@ri-asc.org

QUARTERLY CHAIR MEETINGS

RIASC will be reinstating quarterly Chair meetings. We would like to plan dinner meetings that will include a professional development topic and time for roundtable discussions with your colleagues from across all districts.

As usual, if you cannot attend, we will be asking Chairs to send a designee from their committee to represent them.

Watch your emails for your Chair meeting invitation.

RIASC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Got Six?

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 or RIASC's Annual Meeting in May? If so, you earned your six hours for 2021.

In addition to these sessions, RIASC offered over 50 hours of opportunities to members in 2021.

*Congratulations to the **Tiverton School Committee** and the **Woonsocket School Committee**, as all of their school committee members have completed their six-hour professional development requirement for 2021!*

WELCOME NEW RIASC BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations and welcome to the newest member of the RIASC Executive Committee:

Gina Bae
Barrington School Committee Chair

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.

RIASC has offered and granted credits for over 50 hours of professional development in 2021.

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 for your negotiation research and to ensure your district has submitted their latest electronic contract to RIASC so that we can provide you with the most current information.

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.