

A Message from President Jan Bergandy

Summer, 2014
RIASC OFFICERS

The Association was busy this legislative season making our voice heard by the legislature. You may have seen the many Providence Journal articles, where our Executive Director, Tim Duffy, was quoted. Also, there was a reference to one of his quotes during a recent gubernatorial debate. There were some compromises and we were successful in changing the teacher layoff notice date to June 1. Many of our members had called for this change.

- Jan Bergandy**
 President
John Saviano
 President-Elect
Kathy Patenaude
 Past President
- BOARD MEMBERS**
David Coughlin
Liana Fenton
Jo Eva Gaines
Sonia Grace
Patrick Guida
Nicholas Hemond
Scott Mueller
Mary Anne Roll

RIASC Board members have been meeting and completed the Executive Director's evaluation process. We are also planning our popular session, School Committee 101, to be held in November, 2014. New and seasoned members are encouraged to attend.

RIASC Upcoming Professional Development

Remember, RIASC is a resource for you throughout the year. We can provide you with information to assist with teacher negotiations, including our teacher data and our teacher contract database. We also are ready and willing to answer any questions and address your concerns. We look forward to seeing you at our future professional development sessions.

School Committee 101 will be held in the fall. Watch your email for upcoming Professional Development Sessions.

RIASC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOT SIX?

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

If you attended RIASC's 2014 Annual Meeting, you have accrued your six hours for 2014.

Please contact Judy Spremulli at jspremulli@ri-asc.org or at 272-9811, Extension 10, if you have any questions regarding our upcoming sessions or need information regarding your professional development hours.

RIASC'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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, graduates receive recognition from the Rhode Island Board of Education.

Did you know that RIASC members have logged over 6,500 hours of professional development?

EXTERNAL TRAINING CREDIT

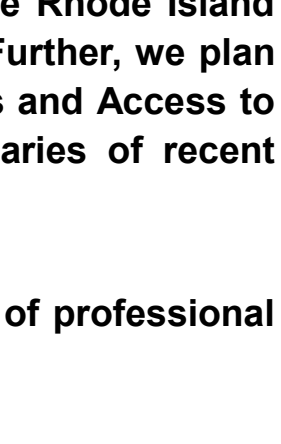
The RIASC Board met and approved a policy for its members allowing them to gain credit hours for attending external training sessions.

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 at least two weeks prior to the training session.

A copy of the form was e-mailed to all members and the form can also be obtained by visiting our website at www.ri-asc.org and linking to the "Professional Development" page.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By and large local schools did fairly well. The FY 2015 budget included the scheduled phase in of the funding formula and while the moratorium on school construction aid was continued it was only for 10 months.



Our concerns on the Teacher Evaluation Bills were heard and the final act reflected the changes we requested

- School Principals classroom observations were restored
- RIDE's cyclical model, of 3 years for highly qualified and 2 years for qualified was adopted
- The right of school committees to negotiate additional evaluation criteria was preserved.

The layoff notification date was changed from March 1, to June 1, a proposal we have been seeking for a long time.

The Assembly did elect to impose a freeze on the use of NECAP and other assessments as a graduation requirement until 2017.

A Legislative Commission to study how Charter Schools are funded also passed and will report back next year.

ELECTRONIC TEACHER CONTRACTS

RIASC is also in the process of updating the Teacher Contract Database. Please forward me your electronic teacher contract as soon as it is available.

Remember, this site is a great resource for school committee members to view contract language to assist in teacher contract negotiations.

<http://www.ntlong.com/cber/>

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPEN MEETING SESSION

This year's Open Government Summit will take place on Friday, August 1, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at the Roger Williams University Law School in Bristol. The agenda is available by clicking [here](#).

If you have questions regarding this Summit, or to reserve seating, please contact us by email at agsummit@riag.ri.gov or by telephone at (401) 274-4400 x2101.

We achieve a more open government through education and open dialogue than we do by waiting for and punishing mistakes. This Summit is an important part of that education and discussion strategy and will focus on the key elements of open government in this State: The [Access to Public Records Act](#) and the [Open Meetings Act](#). Recent developments at the Department of Attorney General, the Rhode Island Courts and the Rhode Island General Assembly will be emphasized. Further, we plan to distribute copies of the Open Meetings and Access to Public Records Act statutes and summaries of recent Attorney General findings/opinions.

RIASC members will receive three hours of professional development credit for attending.

RIASC DATA

To assist you with your teacher negotiations, RIASC continues to compile the 2014/2015 Teacher Data. Please contact me at jspremulli@ri-asc.org and I will register you on our website so that you can access the data.

SCENES FROM RIASC'S 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

HASSENFELD INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

The Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership provides public officials and others involved in the development, management, and execution of public policy with the tools and skills needed to make informed decisions and manage responsive organizations in order to govern and lead public sector and non-profit organizations effectively

Visit the Institute's website at:
<http://www.bryant.edu/about/centers-and-institutes/bryant-institute-for-public-leadership.htm>

eBoard offers school districts the ability to hold paperless board meetings and provides users with a uniquely integrated suite of web-based tools that aligns the work of the Board and system with its strategic plans, policies, meeting agenda, assessments and evaluations.

For further information, or to get your district started with eBoard contact RIASC today.

Visit our website at www.ri-asc.org