



## HELPING POLICYMAKERS UNDERSTAND HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN

**Providence, Rhode Island**

**March 12-13, 2008**

**Final Agenda**

### **Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

#### **Marriott Providence Downtown**

One Orms Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02904

401-272-2400

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pvdri-providence-marriott-downtown/>

### **Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

**7:30 – 8:00 am Breakfast (Available starting at 7:30am)**

Marriott Providence Downtown

Breakfast buffet

**8:00 – 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions**

**9:00 – 11:00 am High School Redesign in Rhode Island**

Location: Marriott Providence Downtown, (One Orms Street), Canal Room

Speakers: Judge Robert Flanders, Chair of the Board of Regents for Elementary and

Secondary Education; Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Education; Colleen Callahan,

Director of Professional Issues, Rhode Island Federation of Teachers; Janet Durfee-

Hidalgo, Education Policy Advisor of Governor Donald Carcieri.

**11:15 am Board bus for Site Visit**

**11:30 – 3:00 pm Site Visit to Hope High School Complex (Lunch served)**

Location: 324 Hope St. Providence, RI 02906 401-456-9161 (Leadership)

*Hope High School is a comprehensive high school that houses a diverse community of learners of nearly 1400 students, who speak more than 41 different languages. In 2002 Hope High School was reconstituted by the Rhode Island State Department of Education (RIDE), resulting in the creation of three small learning communities, each located within the Hope High School Campus: Hope Leadership School, Hope Information Technology School, and Hope Arts. RIDE focused on four areas for improvement: a) the establishment of three autonomous, small learning communities, b) increased "personalization" of learning for students, c) professionalizing the workplace with and for staff, and d) the involvement of parents, students and community members as full partners. The schools have made significant progress in these four areas, especially the creation of Individual Learning Plans. Hope's graduation requirements include course work, end of course*



*exams, a graduation portfolio, and NECAP testing. The portfolio should demonstrate proficiency in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, and the arts.*

- 3:00 – 4:00 pm**      **Secondary School Reform in Providence, Rhode Island**  
Speaker: Mr. Donnie Evans, Superintendent, Providence Public Schools  
Location: 324 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906 401-456-9161
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm**      **Peer-to-Peer Learning**  
Location: 324 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906 401-456-9161
- 5:00 pm**              **Board bus to hotel**
- 6:00 – 6:30 pm**      **Networking Reception at Hotel**  
Location: Marriott Providence Downtown, (One Orms Street), Angel Room
- 6:30 – 8:30 pm**      **Dinner and Informal Conversation**  
Location: Marriott Providence Downtown, (One Orms Street), Angel Room  
Dinner Speaker: Jack Warner, Commissioner of Higher Education

### **Thursday, March 13, 2008**

- 7:30 -8:30 am**      **Breakfast and Networking**  
Location: Marriott Providence Downtown, Canal Room
- 8:30 – 9:25 am**      **Meeting with Nicholas Donahue**  
*Nicholas Donahue is President and CEO of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. In 2005, when Hope High School was reorganized into three smaller learning communities, Nicholas Donahue was appointed Special Master to oversee the changes called for by RIDE's Consolidated Corrective Action Plan and report to the Department of Education. In his fourth and final report in 2006, Donahue acknowledged the progress at the schools, as well as set forth recommendations for the state regarding continued support to Hope High. Donahue has also served as Commissioner of Education, New Hampshire State Department of Education.*
- 9:30 am**              **Depart hotel for Site Visit**
- 10:00 – 11:50 am**      **Site Visit to Coventry High School**  
Location: 40 Reservoir Rd., Coventry, RI 02816 401-822-9499

*Coventry High School currently educates close to 2000 students in grades nine through twelve. Coventry's graduation requirements include completion of a minimum of 24 academic credits, completion of the Rhode Island State Assessment, a graduation portfolio, and a Capstone Project. The Capstone projects are being presented by students at all levels, including special education students. Student supports include Capstone classes and ramp-up*



*and practice opportunities, while teacher support is evident through their active participation in an engaged Performance Based Graduation Requirement (PBGR) Steering Committee. Teachers and outside judges have been trained to evaluate Capstones against a common rubric.*

**11:50 am**      **Depart Coventry for Site Visit to Shea Senior High School**

**12:30 – 2:30 pm**      **Site Visit to Shea Senior High School (Lunch served)**

Location: 485 East Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860 401-729-6445  
*Charles E. Shea Senior High School is a diverse high school with over 1000 students from over 50 countries speaking more than 25 different languages. They are striving to improve student literacy, personalize the school, and implement a performance based diploma system. The class of 2008 has been working on a performance-based graduation portfolio, in which comprehensive course assessments are an integral part of the evaluation. An academic advocacy program provides each student with an adult advocate who helps plan for their future. Proficiency in math and English Language Arts has increased steadily from 2005 onwards, accompanied by a decline in the dropout rate.*

**2:30 – 3:00 pm**      **Debrief and Adjourn** (Return trip to Providence Airport)