

Please be advised that these unofficial minutes have not been approved by the RIHEAA Board of Directors and may contain incorrect and/or misleading information. These minutes are being submitted in accordance with the time requirements as specified in the Open Meetings Act. Official minutes will be submitted promptly after they have been approved and adopted by the Board of Directors at its next official meeting.

**DRAFT/UNOFFICIAL** MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
JUNE 29, 2007

A special meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held on Friday, June 29, 2007 in the McKenna Conference Room of the Authority, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Robert J. McKenna, Chair  
Dr. William Croasdale, Treasurer  
Mr. John Howell, Secretary  
General Treasurer Frank T. Caprio  
Mr. J. Michael Costello  
Ms. Patricia Doyle  
Mr. Solomon A. Solomon

Members Absent:

Dr. Anthony J. Santoro, Vice Chair  
Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier

Also Attending:

Mr. William H. Hurry, Jr., Executive Director, RIHEAA  
Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Deputy Director, RIHEAA  
Mr. Marc Lacroix, Chief Financial Officer, RIHEAA  
Mr. Joseph Palumbo, Esq., RIHEAA Legal Counsel  
Ms. Mary Ann Welch  
Ms. Nancy Ann Dooley  
Mr. Michael Joyce  
Mr. Greg Silva  
Mrs. Sue Zube  
Ms. Paula Dominguez, House Educ. Policy Analyst  
Mr. Chad Pastourius, NESLA

1) Dr. Croasdale noted a correction to the April 20, 2007 minutes. The motion to adjourn should be changed from "On motion duly made by Dr. Croasdale and seconded by Mr. Howell ..." to "On motion duly made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Solomon ..."

On motion duly made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Howell, it was

**VOTED:** That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 20, 2007 be approved and placed on file as amended.

Voting in Favor: Chairman McKenna, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Costello, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Howell and Mr. Solomon.  
Voting against: none.

2) Chairman's Report:

Regarding the state budget, the Chairman reported that approximately a \$4 million increase in the general fund appropriation was approved. This had been proposed by the administration. Another appropriation for \$5 million, which was for a new program that the Governor proposed, was removed from the budget by the House Finance Committee. The overall amount of money appropriated was \$5 million less than the Governor had recommended. Revised award notices will be sent out to the students.

3) Executive Director's Report:

With respect to the turn of events with regard to the appropriation, Mr. Hurry commented that the outcome is extraordinary under the circumstances and he is most appreciative to everyone for their support. He personally thanked Ms. Paula Dominguez from the House Finance Committee and her colleagues for their assistance along with the Senate Finance Committee.

Mr. Hurry referred to a newspaper article by Jennifer Jordan which was written after the Board decided to take a conservative approach to the award process. The article is fairly presented.

Secondly, there have been some articles written about the use of lobbyists in the state. The reference has been made to the Authority's contract with Licht Tillinghast

indicating that the contract calls for a \$280 per hour rate for Mr. Licht.

It is noted for the record that General Treasurer Caprio Arrived at 9:14 a.m.

Mr. Hurry explained that the total expenditure through the end of May 31 is approximately \$6,000. The contract was negotiated at an hourly rate for the first year of the arrangement for Mr. Licht and an hourly rate for his associate.

Mr. Hurry echoed the Chairman's comments and thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Hurry asked the General Treasurer if he would give an update on the RFP process on CollegeBoundfund marketing. Mr. Hurry stated that the process is continuing. There is a strong consensus among the Treasurer's staff, RIHEAA staff and Alliance Bernstein staff regarding the presentations and proposals. Alliance Bernstein is in the process of contacting the preferred vendors and they will be handling the negotiating of the terms and conditions with those agencies.

General Treasurer Caprio concurred with Mr. Hurry's report and also noted that Alliance Bernstein is going back to the firms that have been selected to refine their budgets.

4) Action Item: Approval of Modification(s) to 2007/08 State Awarding Formula.

Mr. Hurry distributed copies of the page from the state budget document that reflects the \$10 million appropriation along with a copy of the summary page of the final budget for the 08 year which the Board approved at an earlier meeting.

There were brief explanations and discussions.

It is noted for the record that the General Treasurer left the room at 9:35.

After further discussions, on motion duly made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Howell, it was

**VOTED:** To restore the maximum award amount for the 2007-08 academic year to \$1400 and to make award offers to students on the waiting list as funding allows.

Voting in favor: Chairman McKenna, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Costello, Mr. Howell, Mr. Solomon and Ms. Doyle.  
Voting against: none. One abstention: General Treasurer Caprio was out of the room at the time of the vote.

General Treasurer Caprio returned to the room. The Chairman reported that the vote was taken and the General Treasurer stated that he would vote with the majority and Mr. Hurry explained that it was unanimously voted to go with the \$1400 maximum award and go deeper into the wait list.

Mr. Hurry and Mr. Lacroix asked if there were any questions regarding the two documents that were distributed.

It is noted for the record that Chairman McKenna left the meeting at 9:45 a.m. at which time he turned the meeting over to Dr. Croasdale, Treasurer in light of the absence of Vice-Chairman Santoro.

Mr. Lacroix noted that the top section of the first page is from the budget act. This is what was enacted for the RI Higher Education Assistance Authority. Two categories of general revenues and the line for federal funds and tuition savings program. The second page is the summary document which the Board approved. What was enacted and what the Governor recommended is identical except for the \$5 million academic merit initiative. This verifies what we expected.

5) Date and Agenda for next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2007.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion duly made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Howell, it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting.

Voting in favor: Mr. Costello, General Treasurer Caprio, Mr. Howell, Mr. Solomon and Ms. Doyle. Voting against: none.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

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Mr. John Howell  
Secretary

ADDENDUM (Corrections to Minutes of April 20, 2007)

Page 6 – Motion to adjourn the meeting should read:

On motion duly made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Solomon.....