

MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
February 22, 2013

*Anthony J. Santoro*  
*Chairman*

*William Croasdale*  
*Vice Chairman/Treasurer*

*John Howell*  
*Treasurer*

*Patricia Doyle*

*Gina Raimondo*  
*General Treasurer*

*Solomon A. Solomon*

*Faith LaSalle, Esq.*

The 319<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held Friday, February 22, 2013 in the McKenna Conference Room at 560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI. Chairman Santoro called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Anthony J. Santoro, Chairman

Dr. William Croasdale, Vice Chairman

Mr. John Howell, Secretary

Ms. Faith LaSalle, Esq.

Mr. Solomon A. Solomon

Mr. Christopher Feisthamel, designee for General Treasurer Gina Raimondo

Patricia Doyle

Also Attending:

Mr. Charles P. Kelley, Interim Coordinating Officer

Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Deputy Director

Mr. Charles Miller, Chief Information Officer

Mr. Marc Lacroix, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Linda Makhlouf, RIHEAA

Mr. William Golas, Budget Office

Mr. David Ferry, RIDE

1. Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting held on December 22, 2012 were unanimously approved.
2. Chairman's Report: Dr. Santoro had no report. Dr. Santoro asked Michael Joyce to make his presentation concerning the Matching Grant program.
3. Matching Grant Program. Mr. Joyce made his presentation and board members asked questions and discussed the matter.

On motion made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Dr. Croasdale, it was **VOTED** to transfer \$400,000 from the Adult Education account to the Matching Grant fund.

**Voted in Favor:** Dr. Santoro, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Howell, Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Feisthamel, and Ms. Doyle.

**Voted Against:** None

Dr. Croasdale left the meeting (at 10:15AM).

#### 4. Strategic Options.

Dr. Santoro initiated a discussion about Strategic Options for RIHEAA in which board members participated. The discussion included ideas on the future administration of the tuition savings program, WaytoGoRI, the Scholarship and Grant Program, and the Loan Guaranty operation. Dr. Santoro indicated that based on the discussion there seems to be a consensus that the board should explore the potential transfer of the tuition savings program to the General Treasurer's office by the legislature and the potential transfer of WaytoGoRI to RIDE. Dr. Santoro also indicated that there is a consensus about having staff make recommendations concerning the loan guaranty operation.

5. Financial Report: This report is deferred.

6. WaytoGoRI Update: Ms. Mance-Rios provided the update.

7. RIHEAA Travel Policy: Mr. Kelley indicated that he would like to see RIHEAA's travel policy in line with State guidelines.

On motion duly made by Mr. Feisthamel and seconded by Ms. Doyle, it was **VOTED** that RIHEAA's travel reimbursement policy be in accordance with State guidelines.

VOTED in Favor: Dr. Santoro, Mr. Howell, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Solomon, Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Feisthamel.

VOTED Against: None.

8. State Grant System Upgrade: Charles Miller made a presentation to the board. Board members asked questions and engaged in

discussion. Upon motion duly made by Ms. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Feisthamel, it was **VOTED** to authorize the expenditure of \$391,000 for the upgrade of the software system for the scholarship and grant program as proposed by GBPI.

Voted in Favor: Dr. Santoro, Mr. Howell, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Solomon, Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Feisthamel.

VOTED Against: None.

Mr. Miller indicated that the terms of a contract will be negotiated and presented to the board at the next meeting.

9. Academic Decathlon. On motion duly made by Mr. Solomon and seconded by Mr. Feisthamel, it was **VOTED** to authorize the expenditure of \$1500 for advertising at this event.

Voted In Favor: Dr. Santoro, Mr. Feisthamel, and Mr. Solomon.

Voted Against: None.

Ms. Doyle, Ms. LaSalle, and Mr. Howell recused themselves.

The board expressed its appreciation for the service of Clordine Cox, Sonia Rodrigues and Dana Fatuda, who have transferred to other agencies/employment and extended its congratulations to Mr. Thomas Pearce on his promotion to head of Loan Collections.

10. Collegeboundfund Marketing. Ms. Mance-Rios made a report concerning the program, including the agreement with a subsidiary of Xerox called Missing Money which provides an on-line interface to search for unclaimed funds and on which Collegeboundfund will have a banner ad.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment was at 11:30 a.m.

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Mr. John Howell  
Secretary