

# **MINUTES**

## **RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**July 25, 2014**

**The 341st meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held Friday, July 25, 2014. Chairwoman Ms. LaSalle called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.**

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

**Ms. Faith LaSalle, Chairwoman**

**Mr. John Howell**

**Mr. Daniel Egan**

**Mr. Christopher Feisthamel, designee for General Treasurer Gina Raimondo**

**Ms. Christine Jenkins**

**Ms. Leah Williams Metts**

**Mr. Robert Delaney**

### **Members Absent:**

**Dr. William Croasdale**

### **Also Attending:**

**Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Acting Executive Director**

**Mr. Joseph Palumbo, Legal Counsel**

**Mr. Charles Miller, CIO**

**Mr. Marc Lacroix, CFO**

**Ms. Linda Makhlouf, HR**

**Mr. Thomas Pearce, Account Resolution**

**Ms. Dana Peterson-Fatuda, Administration**

**Mr. Michael Joyce, Scholarship & Grants**

**Ms. Winnie Antos, Accounting**

**Ms. Lisa Shevlin, WaytoGo**

**Ms. Patia Bertram, Accounting**

**Mr. Kevin Elliott, Account Resolution**

**Mr. Gregory Stack, Budget Analyst**

**Ms. Liza Cohen**

**1. The Minutes of the Board of Director's meetings held on June 27, 2014 were unanimously approved.**

**2. Chair's Report: Ms. LaSalle stated that we will continue to explore the issue of endowing the reserves. Meetings with House and Senate Leadership will be scheduled to discuss RIHEAA's Strategic Plan.**

**Ms. LaSalle stated once we receive more information regarding the Sallie Mae contract we will need to discuss the options presented.**

**Ms. Mance-Rios stated she is talking with other G/A's. The Sallie Mae contract expires October 1, 2014. Mr. Palumbo stated we could go month-to-month if needed. Ms. Mance-Rios stated she spoke with Council 94 President and provided him with an update on the status of the Strategic Plan.**

**Ms. LaSalle reported the Morningstar aged based index fund began in March 2014.**

**3. Election of Officers: A motion to keep officers as is was made by Mr. Egan and seconded by Mr. Howell.**

**Voted in favor: Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Delaney, Mr. Howell, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Mr. Feisthamel, and Ms. LaSalle**

**Voted against: None**

**Ms. Jenkins was added to the Personnel Committee.**

**4. Acting Executive Director's Report: Ms. Mance-Rios reported that the Default Aversion RFP should be resolved in two weeks.**

**Ms. Mance-Rios stated that the ILP (Individual Learning Plan) Enhancement training will begin August 15th. We are working with RIDE (Rhode Island Department of Education) to deliver the messaging. Currently, 42,000 students are using ILP's.**

**Ms. Mance-Rios stated next week she is attending a meeting with the Rhode Island Foundation, Federal Reserve and FAME (Finance Authority of Maine) regarding the Universal College Savings plan.**

**Ms. Mance-Rios reported that NCHER (National Council of Higher Educational Resources) is sponsoring Bill 4511 and has asked states to reach out to their delegation for their support of this Bill.**

**Ms. Mance-Rios stated that in response to the Boards' request last year she would like to have the RIHEAA & RIHEST reports completed in a timely manner; this will afford the Board sufficient amount of time to review both documents before submission.**

**Mr. Lacroix stated that there are other accounting responsibilities occurring simultaneously. Audits occurring are: RIHEAA's Single Audit, RIHEAA's Budget Audit – due October 1, 2014, and the RIHEST Audit – due November 1, 2014.**

**Mr. Feisthamel suggested having a conversation with Marcum (formerly Braver) to discuss the production schedule. This will help the Finance Committee with planning and expectations so that the board is informed ahead of schedule.**

**A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Ms. LaSalle and seconded by Mr. Howell pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) of the**

**Open Meetings Law to receive an update and advice from legal counsel and/or discuss the status of pending or threatened (Kerwin v. RIHEAA)(Lacroix v. RIHEAA) litigation matters at 9:15 a.m.**

**Voted in favor: Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Feisthamel, Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Mr. Howell and Mr. Delaney.**

**Voted against: None**

**Public Session resumed at 9:45 a.m.**

**Chairwoman LaSalle reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session. Chair LaSalle made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session seconded by Mr. Egan.**

**Voted in favor: Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Feisthamel, Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Mr. Howell and Mr. Delaney.**

**Voted against: None**

**5. Scholarships & Grants: Item tabled.**

**6. WaytogoRI Sponsorships: Item tabled.**

**7. Schedule of Cash & Investments 6/30/2014: Item tabled.**

**8. Financial Reports: Item tabled.**

**There being no further business to come before the Board of Director's, the meeting adjourned.**

**Adjournment was at 9:45 a.m.**

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**Mr. John Howell**

**Secretary**