

MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

August 22, 2014

The 342nd meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held Friday, August 22, 2014. Chairwoman Ms. LaSalle called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Ms. Faith LaSalle, Chairwoman

Dr. William Croasdale

Mr. John Howell

Mr. Daniel Egan

Mr. Christopher Feisthamel, designee for General Treasurer Gina Raimondo

Ms. Christine Jenkins

Ms. Leah Williams Metts

Members Absent:

Mr. Robert Delaney

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

Ms. Lisa Shevlin, WaytoGo

Ms. Patia Bertram, Accounting

Mr. Stephen Strychaz, Council President

Ms. Heather Hudson, General Treasurer's Office

Ms. Erica Olibri, Marcum

Ms. Laurie Brayton, Legislative Analyst

1. The Minutes of the Board of Director's meeting held on July 25, 2014 were unanimously approved. The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on August 7, 2014 were unanimously approved.

2. Chair's Report: Ms. LaSalle stated after the last board meeting Mr. Howell made attempts to schedule meetings with the House and Senate Leadership. Mr. Howell asked board members to accompany him, Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Feisthamel, and Ms. Metts volunteered. Mr. Howell asked for additional attendees, Mr. Egan, and Ms. Jenkins

agreed to attend.

Mr. Feisthamel stated we should have points of discussion or a planning meeting prior to these visits. We should discuss the endowing of the reserves, which should include the amount we plan to endow, general revenue allocation, the impact of the State Grant and reasons why RIHEAA is necessary for the state.

Ms. LaSalle asked about the expiration of the Sallie Mae contract. Ms. Mance-Rios stated that she and Mr. Miller will visit Maine to review their full-service contract, their Life Long Learning Account Program and the Universal College Savings Program. Ms. Mance-Rios stated RIHEAA's contract with Sallie Mae expires on September 30, 2014. Mr. Palumbo suggested moving month-to-month with Sallie Mae (with the same contract language currently in place) until the contract can be finalized.

It was determined that the next board meeting date needs to be changed to: September 25th at 8:30 a.m., and a Finance Committee meeting on September 23rd at 8:30 a.m. Due to scheduling conflicts, the October Board meeting has been changed to October 17th at 9:30 a.m. Erica Olibri will circulate draft audit materials, therefore no Finance Committee meeting in October.

3. Acting Executive Director's Report: Ms. Mance-Rios asked Erica Olibri from Marcum to provide an overview of the Audit. Ms. Olibri

distributed the working PBS list. A discussion ensued. Ms. Olibri stated she needs an updated footnote page and the management letter. Ms. Olibri will provide a draft of the audit material to the Finance Committee to review before the October Board meeting.

Children's Savings Account Project: Ms. Mance-Rios distributed a draft outline of the Children's Universal Savings Account Program and asked board members to review and provide their feedback regarding the program. Ms. Hudson asked the board to add comments to the account management and statement sections, as this will be helpful with putting the proposal together. It was agreed that the Finance Committee will review this program and make recommendation to the board. Ms. LaSalle asked to add this topic to the next board meeting.

4. Schedule of Cash & Investments 7/31/2014: Dr. Croasdale stated that once the audits have been completed, he is going out to bid on the investments in order to get better returns.

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

Adjournment was at 10:35 a.m.

Mr. John Howell

Secretary