

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a
January 5, 2012

Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, November 3, 2011 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

Acceptance of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Bernal, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

October 6, 2011 – Board of Regents Meeting
October 20, 2011 – Board of Regents Work Session

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Gist thanked those Board members who were able to participate in all of the activities around Secretary Duncan's visit to Rhode Island.

She then gave an update on:

NAEP Release:

For the first time in the history of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), sometimes called "the Nation's Report Card," Rhode Island students scored at or above the national average on all four mathematics and reading tests.

Results that the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recently released show that Rhode Island students in grade 4 scored above the national average in both mathematics and reading, while Rhode Island students in grade 8 scored at the national average in mathematics and above the national average in reading.

Public Remarks

Chairman Caruolo requested that public remarks be kept to 3 minutes or less.

There was public testimony from the following individuals:

Todd Flaherty, College Crusade - Wanted to personally and publicly thank RIDE for the support it provided the College Crusade throughout the Gear Up application process, which resulted in the College Crusade being awarded \$18 million from the federal government.

Sasha Sidorkin - [Dean at the Feinstein School of Education at R.I. College and member of the Certification Policy Advisory Board (CPAB)] - Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Pat D'Alfano, Educator - Spoke in opposition to linking certification to teacher evaluation.

Ned Draper, Business Manager, North Kingstown School Department - Spoke in support of the North Kingstown School Department's Capital Improvement Project.

Phil Auger, Superintendent, North Kingstown School Department - Spoke in support of the North Kingstown School Department's Capital Improvement Project.

Richard Welch, Vice-Chair of the North Kingstown School Committee – Spoke in support of the North Kingstown School Department’s Capital Improvement Project.

Roderick E. DaSilva, Cranston School Teacher – Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

John Santangelo – Spoke in opposition to the student achievement piece of the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Jacquelyn Antonelli, Special Education Teacher – Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Steve Smith [President, Providence Teachers Union] – Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Frank Flynn, President of the RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals and Chair of the Certification Policy Advisory Board (CPAB) – Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Charlene Lataille, Speech and Language Pathologist, Cranston School Department – Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Donna Rowland, Educator – Spoke in opposition to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Next, Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to approve the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I. and opened the floor for discussion:

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Adrain the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I. was open for discussion, which included these topics:

- Timing of implementation
- Concerns around the assessment of special education and early childhood students
- The lack of RIDE’s response to public comment on suggested changes to the regulations
- Monitoring the progress of the regulations as it goes along
- Quality control around professional-development plans and incentives for advanced degrees
- Educator Evaluation System
- Tying student achievement to certification
- Student Learning Objectives
- Pilot Testing - Transitioning from NECAP to PARCC
- Safeguards in case plan does not prove to be effective
- Build report periods by which RIDE has to report on progress

Chairman’s Remarks:

Chairman Caruolo took the opportunity to address the BOR on the proposed Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I. by stating that he is not a teacher or university president, nor has he ever educated special-education students, but it is his insight that these things are never as good as they sound in the beginning or as bad either, and what this system is, is a change from a system that has been in place for a long time and has some problems. It is not going to be used to fire thousands of teachers; no one will stand for that. He believes that the system has been mis-marketed, and what has not been stressed, even by RIDE, is that there are two elements to it: one is to evaluate teachers and the other to make them better. This new system works at making teachers better by giving them the tools to help them. If the system falls flat on its face, the BOR will be the first to pull the plug on it. There shouldn’t be expectations of this system that are unreasonable, either good or bad. It is not going to be a save-it-all system, but it is a step in the right direction. It is a step to address a public-school system that’s ossified over decades and is not functioning adequately by many measures. Five years from now, no one will be talking about this; it is not going to look exactly the same in five years as it is being proposed – the business with the tests may or may not work, and the idea that principals will be vindictive, no one is protected from injustice or unfairness, and teachers going forward, if they ever were, won’t be either. But what principal in his or her right mind is going to be trashing good teachers because of an agenda? The changes that the BOR makes in the next few years on principals’ powers and in other governance issues in conjunction with the regulations will be far more meaningful than the proposed regulations. He would say that any teacher who is trying hard and is committed to his or her work and works hard every day has nothing to fear, and he does not see that these regulations are going to fire anyone or prevent anyone from teaching because long before five years pass there are enough safeguards built into it and the standards are flexible enough that he would hope that such a person would no longer be there.

APPROVAL ITEMS:

a) Approval of the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

On a motion duly made by Chairman Caruolo and seconded by Regents Adrain, Carothers, Forbes, Guida, Santos, and Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in R.I.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: C. Bernal and C. Callahan

b) Approval of the Board of Regents FY 2012 Revised and FY 2013 Budget Proposal

On a motion duly made by Regent Bernal and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the Board of Regents FY 2012 Revised and FY 2013 Budget Proposal

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

c) Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Little Compton School District

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$11,306,519, pursuant to 16-7-41-1.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

d) Approval of Necessity of School Construction: North Kingstown School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$6,460,627, pursuant to 16-7-41-1.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

e) Approval of the Academy of Career Explorations Amended Bylaws

On a motion duly made by Regent Adrain and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Academy of Career Explorations (formerly the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy) amended bylaws.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

f) Approval of Appeal – Tiverton School Committee v. Town of Tiverton

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That in the Matter of the Tiverton School Committee v. the Town of Tiverton, the Decision of the Commissioner is Upheld.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education convene in executive session to discuss a personnel matter: Commissioner's evaluation.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,
K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

At 5:40 p.m. the Board of Regents went into recess to convene an executive session on the Commissioner's Evaluation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)

The Board of Regents returned to public session at 6:20 p.m. Chairman Caruolo reported that no votes were taken in executive session and that the minutes were sealed.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.