



Enclosure 2a  
June 2, 2011

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

**Tiverton High School Library  
100 North Brayton Road, Tiverton**

**Thursday, May 5, 2011**

**MINUTES**

**Attending: G. Caruolo (chairman), L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,  
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg**

**The meeting convened at 4:08 p.m.**

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Tiverton School Department for hosting it. He also noted that the meeting was being digitally recorded and that all meetings will be recorded and posted on the RIDE Web site to make Regents' proceedings open and available to all.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Guida and seconded by the Regent Callahan it was

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

March 3, 2011 - Board of Regents Meeting  
April 21, 2011 - Board of Regents Work Session

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

## 2. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Being Teacher Appreciation week, Commissioner Gist recognized all teachers and thanked them for all their hard work and commitment to the students and families across Rhode Island.

Next, Commissioner Gist gave an update on:

### **Race to the Top**

- The previous Friday, a team from the U.S. Department of Education came to RIDE for an on-site program review of our Race to the Top initiative.
- The team reviewed RIDE's work to date toward building strong, statewide capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain proposed plans, with particular focus on the work toward supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments.
- RIDE reported on its accomplishments and successes to date, anticipated challenges, key deliverables, and areas in which the U.S. Department of Education can provide support and technical assistance.
- As of the end of April, RIDE has kicked off Study of the Standards training and held the first five sessions, reaching six LEAs and training 175 educators.
- RIDE is working with the Steering Committee, Co-Chaired by Neil Steinberg and Colleen Jermain, on ways to increase communication, innovation, and support for all Race to the Top work, which will be a focus of the May 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting.

### **Certification Redesign**

- The Certification Redesign group has developed a working draft for certification redesign.
- The working draft includes a tiered certification system that includes an Initial Certificate, Professional Certificate, and an Advanced Certificate.
- The working draft includes recommendations for revisions to certification areas, testing requirements, routes to certification, and how an individual who does not meet full certification requirements can earn a preliminary certificate.
- RIDE is hosting four open meetings in May to roll out the design and gather input from the field.

## **Budget Update**

- RIDE continues to work with the General Assembly as the FY 2012 budget continues to move through the final deliberations by the General Assembly.
- RIDE continues to advocate for Year One of the implementation of the funding formula, as proposed by the Governor.
- RIDE is currently finishing its 3<sup>rd</sup>-quarter year-end expenditure report for FY 2011.

## **Legislative Update**

- Commissioner Gist shared that she testified in Senate Labor in opposition to legislation for binding arbitration for teacher contracts and on legislation on contract continuation.
- RIDE opposes these bills and believes that collective bargaining works best when elected officials and union representatives negotiate in good faith and agree upon a schedule of wages and benefits that is fair to educators and taxpayers and, most important, ensures an excellent education for students in our system.
- The continuation-of-contracts bill, in particular, could have a disastrous impact on our reform agenda and it could even jeopardize the entire \$75-million Race to the Top grant.

## **Update on Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools (PLAs) – Providence, School for the Deaf, and Central Falls High School**

- Within the last several weeks, five additional PLA schools were identified – four in Providence, and the School for the Deaf. Officers from the Providence School District have already begun the process by holding staff and stakeholder meetings to discuss the Protocol for Interventions and the timeline for identifying which of the four federally approved models will be recommended for each school.
- Even with major changes in leadership and the larger financial issues at play in the district, Providence continues to move forward in its efforts to transform its four PLA schools from last year.
- Among this year's identified schools is the School for the Deaf, which has held two stakeholders meetings and whose Board of Trustees is working with representatives of the RIDE Offices of Transformation and of Accelerating School Performance, each of which is providing technical support.
- Central Falls High School continues to receive a variety of supports in mathematics, which is positively influencing student performance.

- Through the use of the Study Island intervention software, students have logged almost 3,000 hours of time on the site since the fall of 2010.
- Students continue to take full advantage of some alternative programs, such as “PM” school and the Guide to Success, increasing their credits earned toward graduation.
- A second round of evaluations has been conducted for every teacher, and the Central Falls team is in the midst of the third round of classroom observations in an effort to provide supports and feedback to educators.
- With the help of Mass Insight, an organization whose expertise focuses on school turnaround, Central Falls is receiving help with its transformation efforts.
- Teacher absenteeism continues to be a problem, and RIDE is concerned about teacher attendance. On average, 17 teachers are absent each day from a staff of 88.
  - o Regent Callahan shared that although she, too, is concerned with teacher absenteeism, she asked if RIDE is getting the accurate reporting on the days that are long-term leaves and approved leaves versus daily sick. She is worried about the messaging and would like to see a breakdown of the data.
  - o Regent Carothers asked if, when the Commissioner testifies before the General Assembly, she does so on her behalf or on the behalf of the Board of Regents. She responded that, although she testifies on her behalf, there have been times when the Board of Regents has made decisions and she testifies on its behalf.

### **Charter Schools**

- RIDE is pleased to announce that the Office of Transformation has posted an application for start-up, disseminations, and expansion sub-grants as part of the use of the Charter School Program grant award received last year.
- RIDE has already been in discussion with the leadership from the R.I. Nurses Institute Middle College and the Paul Cuffee School about the creation of applications to support their programming.
- The hearing for public comment on the Nurses Institute was held last week, which was well attended by board members, parents, potential students, and school leaders.

### **3. UPCOMING WORK - SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

- At the May 19<sup>th</sup> BOR Work Session, Regents will review the school-construction projects for Little Compton, Paul Cuffee Public Charter School, and Bristol Warren Regional School District and will be asked to consider them for approval at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> BOR meeting.

- The Board of Regents reviews and certifies necessity of school-construction projects for district-owned schools reimbursed through the Housing Aid program, which is governed by RIGL 16-7.
- With the School Construction Regulations adopted by the Board of Regents on May 24, 2007, there is a rolling application process that allows districts to submit their applications whenever they are complete, so Regents will be asked to review and approve projects on an ongoing basis. All projects undergo a thorough, multi-stage review process, which includes extensive collaboration with each LEA stakeholder and consultant, prior to their being presented to the Regents for consideration.
  - o Regent Santos requested that a legislative update be part of a future Board of Regents Work Session.

#### 4. PUBLIC REMARKS

There were no public remarks.

#### 5. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Caruolo echoed Commissioner Gist's tribute to Rhode Island educators, which served as the perfect segue to the presentation of awards to some outstanding Rhode Island educators who were recognized for their dedication and contributions in elevating the level of teaching and learning in our schools.

#### 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### Career and Technical Education

**Commissioner Gist set the context for the Career and Technical Regulations discussion, which will take place at the Board of Regents Work Session on May 19<sup>th</sup>.**

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a complex and important subject, both because it plays an important role in public education and in an emerging, statewide approach to workforce development.
- Along with the Board of Governors for Higher Education, Department of Labor and Training, adult education, and business and industry, RIDE has been one of the key players in the early stages of building a state career-pathway structure.

**Andrea Castañeda walked the Board through a PowerPoint presentation as a first deep dive into Career and Technical Education on:**

- The role of CTE within RIDE's vision for secondary-school reform;
- The relationship between CTE and the other responsibilities held by RIDE;
- The basic information about the current CTE system in Rhode Island; and

- The elements of a vision for the reinvention of CTE and the major regulatory and statutory elements.

**The presentation created rich dialogue among the BOR around the future of Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island:**

- CTE is incredibly important but an underutilized and underemphasized part of RI's educational system.
- RI can on its own come up with a thoughtfully constructive system that will secure the future of Career and Technical education in the state.
- Funding and supporting CTE is something that the Board needs to grapple with.
- Although it shouldn't be, CTE remains the stepchild, even within the new funding formula.
- Funding question need to be brought up with the top policy makers and purse-string holders in RI, which will require a lot of effort on the Board's part.
- The categorical funding that was put into the funding formula was a set-aside for high-cost CTE programs, and the concept in the funding formula that the money follows the child means that that money will follow the child regardless of whether that child attends a comprehensive high school or a Career and Tech Center.
- Should we be reinventing the system or should it be integrated into some of the programs that are already in existence, such as those at the community colleges?
- Who is engaged in this work, and who is thinking this through?
- To ensure transparency, RIDE needs to engage other stakeholders, such as Career and Tech directors/principals, in the development process.

**7. APPROVAL ITEMS**

**Approval of the Engineering and Technology Standards:**

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

**VOTED:**      That                      the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the adoption of the Engineering and Technology Standards

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

YEAS:                      George Caruolo, Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Karin Forbes, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

NAYS:                      0

**Approval to ratify Chairman Caruolo's decision on the posting of the Teacher Competency in English Cut Score on the Secretary of State's Web site.**

Board members asked for clarification on what the Board was being asked to vote on, and Chairman Caruolo clarified that the vote was to ratify a decision he made on the afternoon of Friday, April 29, 2011, after being notified that, due to a clause on the Teacher Competency in English Regulations, which the Board approved at its February meeting, the Cut Score needed to be posted on the Secretary of State's Web site for a 30-day public-comment period.

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve to ratify Chairman Caruolo's decision of the April 29, 2011, posting on the Secretary of State's Web site inviting public comment to the proposed selection of the Versant Pro Speaking and Writing assessments, with a qualifying score of 64 for each assessment, to give effect to section T-1-11 of the Regulation, as presented.

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

YEAS: George Caruolo, Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Karin Forbes, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Before adjourning, Vice-chairman Guida asked that the Board be provided, at a future meeting, with a status report of current legislative proposals that are currently before the General Assembly.

**Adjournment:** With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.