

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2b  
February 2, 2012

**Meeting**

RIDE

Thursday, January 19, 2012 - 11:30 a.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 11:40 a.m.**

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

**Acceptance of Agenda**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida 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 follows:

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

NAYS: 0

**Approval of Minutes**

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

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

November 17, 2011 – Board of Regents Work Session

November 17, 2011 – Board of Regents Executive Session

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Abstained: P. Guida, C. Callahan, M. Santos (absent at November 17<sup>th</sup> BOR Work Session and Executive Session)

Chairman Caruolo proposed that the agenda be adjusted to allow the BOR to take action on approval items 7a, 7c, and 7d and wait to take action on approval item 7b until after public comment.

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

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education alter the agenda to take action on approval items 7a, 7c, and 7d and wait to take action on approval item 7b until after public comment.

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 gave an update on the following:

#### **Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools (PLAs) - Report on Progress**

The most recent schools identified in October have completed the stage where they choose the model that they want to implement.

Identified schools include the R.I. School for the Deaf, two high schools in Pawtucket, and five schools in Providence.

In each instance RIDE has set some expectations for the districts, and progress updates are due on February 15<sup>th</sup> for Providence and March 15<sup>th</sup> for R.I. School for the Deaf and Pawtucket.

## **Grace School Mayoral Academy Charter School**

RIDE has received an application from the Grace School Mayoral Academy Charter School, an affiliate of the Meeting Street School.

They are proposing to open in the fall 2012.

The application was received in March 1, 2011, but the review of this application is taking a little longer than usual due to some particular questions RIDE had on enrollment and sustainability of an inclusive-classroom model.

Public comment period began on January 13, 2012, and will end on March 13, 2012.

RIDE will be scheduling 2 public hearings to gather broad public feedback.

## **Quality Counts Release**

Education Week released the Quality Counts annual report, and R.I. has made a significant jump and has been ranked 20<sup>th</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia, a dramatic improvement from previous years.

The improved rankings are largely the results of new initiatives to improve educator quality and of significant improvements last year on the NAEP scores.

## **RTTT Meeting in D.C.**

Last week, a group of Rhode Islanders, which included Commissioner Gist, Mary Ann Snider, and Mary-Beth Fafard from RIDE; Stephen Hourahan from the Governor's Office; Susan Lusi, Steve Smith, and Colleen Jermain from Providence; Neil Steinberg from the RI Foundation; Georgia Fortunato from Lincoln; Victor Mercurio from East Greenwich; Michael Obel-Omia from the Paul Cuffee Public Charter School; Larry Purtill from NEARI; and Pat Hines from the RI Association of School Principals, went to D.C. to attend the Race to the Top Team Convening.

Overall, the team had a great experience and came out with specific next steps on how to better communicate and work together to strengthen the communication between all stakeholders and on different ways to collaborate more effectively, specifically about ways to build more principal capacity to support their teachers.

## **RTTT Early Learning Challenge**

RIDE has had its first call with the USDOE and is working on the scopes of work, which need to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Unlike the other RTTT grant, this one is a partnership with multi-state agencies (DCYF, Health, Health and Human Services).

## **The Council of State Science Supervisors (CSSS)**

Under the leadership of RIDE Science and Technology Specialist Peter McLaren, the Council of State Science Supervisors will be hosting a national conference in February in an effort to bring together science specialists from other states to build capacity in the framework for K-12 Science Education and the development of Next Generation Science Standards.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **ESEA Flexibility Request**

RIDE is in the process of completing a request for the flexibility around the No Child Left Behind Act, which will be submitted by the end of February.

RIDE has conducted webinars, public forums, and meetings with targeted groups to gather feedback to assist in the development of the request, and RIDE will post a draft of the request on its website on Friday.

Next, Deputy Commissioner Abbott gave an overview of the flexibility request and answered questions from the Board of Regents.

#### **Achievement First Proposal**

Achievement First has submitted an application to open up two Providence-based public charter schools, one elementary school to open in 2013 and a second elementary school to open in 2014.

The catchment area will include Providence, North Providence, Cranston, and Warwick, with Mayor Taveras being the sponsoring mayor.

RIDE will ask the BOR for preliminary approval of the application at its February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Preliminary approval will allow RIDE to monitor the development of program elements and to be regularly updated on planning and progress.

### **Approval Items**

#### **b) Approval of the Board of Regents Bylaws for the purpose of public comment**

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 approve, for the purpose of public comment, the Board of Regents Bylaws (Series A)

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:

**c) Approval of the Space Allowance Exception requested by the Newport School Committee**

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 approve the Space Allowance Exception Request by the Newport School Committee

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:

**d) Approval of Delegating the Authority of Granting Space Allowance Exceptions to the Commissioner**

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 delegating the authority of granting space allowance exceptions to the Commissioner

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:

## **Public Remarks**

There was public testimony from the following individuals:

Paul Jabour - State Senator - District 5, Providence, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Ellie Wyatt - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Osiris Harrell - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Susan O'Connell - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Eileen Gorman - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Richard Tomlins - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Peter Nero - Cranston Superintendent, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

John Santangelo - Cranston teacher, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Kathy Torragrossa - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Jed Katch - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Paul Ouelette - Senior Vice-President of the Northern R.I. Chamber of Commerce and Member of Davies Board of Trustees, spoke in opposition to the CTE regulations.

Bryan Principe - Providence City Council, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Steve Smith - President, Providence Teachers Union, on behalf of Providence teachers - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Jean Link - Providence resident, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Ed Benson - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Christine Lopes - Mayoral Academy, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Steve Smith, President, Providence Teachers Union - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral application.

Aaron Regunberg – Student Organizing Program, Providence, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to recess the meeting and retreat into Executive Session. He pledged that those individuals who did not have a chance to speak would be the first in line to speak at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> BOR meeting.

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. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

At 1:30 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 2:20 p.m. Chairman Caruolo reported that no votes were taken in executive session and that the minutes were sealed.

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

**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 2:20 p.m.