

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a
March 1, 2012

Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, February 2, 2012 - 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 4:20 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 Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, 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, 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 Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

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

January 5, 2012 - Board of Regents Meeting
January 19, 2012 - Board of Regents Meeting
January 19, 2012 - Board of Regents Executive 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 gave an update on the following:

Health Regulations

The School Health Regulations are reviewed and updated annually and are jointly shared by RIDE and the Department of Health.

This year the regulations have been revised to be consistent with statutes that had been put into place the year prior.

This year's updates include the new bullying-prevention legislation, the new protocols for training and response related to concussion injuries, and improved dental screening, as well as other changes.

The Department of Health manages the public hearing process.

At its next meeting, the BOR will discuss the proposed regulations and summary of changes.

State of the State Address

Commissioner Gist shared that she was pleased and very enthusiastic with the Governor and his incredibly strong support for education and his deep understanding of the importance of education to the community, to the health of the state, and to the economy and as well as to the children and to the overall quality of life of all RI families.

The Governor has asked for a \$69-million increase in funds for education, including \$36 million to fully fund Year 2 of the funding formula, which will accelerate payments for the most distressed communities.

Governor Chafee's budget will provide for:

- career-and-technical education;
- instances of high-cost special education;
- continuing and expanding the Rhode Island Prekindergarten Program; and
- out-of-district transportation costs.

Also included in the Governor's budget is a \$20-million technology bond, which would fund infrastructure investments in our schools, which is needed to prepare for digital learning and for the online assessments coming in 2014.

The Recovery School

She next shared some background information on the Recovery High School, which had been previously shared with the BOR.

RIDE sent out an RFP and received one application in response.

The Commissioner plans on sharing a draft recommendation with the BOR at its February 16th meeting, and she will be requesting final approval at the March 1st BOR meeting.

The Recovery High School is expected to begin operation in September.

Grace Mayoral Academy

RIDE has received one application for a charter public school seeking to open this coming fall.

The application is being submitted by Mayors Lombardi and Taveras, in collaboration with the Meeting Street School, to open the Grace School Mayoral Academy.

The school will serve 240 students in prekindergarten through grade 8, in North Providence and Providence, through an inclusive model that will integrate general-education students and students with disabilities.

The application, which has been posted on the RIDE website, is in the period of public comment, and RIDE has scheduled two public hearings to gather public feedback.

Greene School

The Greene School, a charter public school currently located within the Exeter-West Greenwich School District, is seeking BOR approval to make a temporary move outside of the district in order to address overcrowding at its current location.

The current facility is too small to serve anticipated enrollment.

The school has investigated the use of modular classrooms at its current location, but the leasing cost is too high.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

Public Remarks

Chairman Caruolo requested that public remarks be kept to 3 minutes or less and asked those individuals who had testified previously on the same topic to refrain from testifying again.

There was public comment from the following individuals:

Steve Brady – Teacher, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Meagan Hienz – Providence resident, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

John Ficarra - Instructor, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Christopher Bianco - Instructor, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Mary Rounds – Instructor, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Michael Haynes – Instructor, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Ann Hourahan – Instructor, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Bill Cilli - Instructor, Warwick Career and Technical Center, testified in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Chris Mastrangelo – Providence resident, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Joanne Spaziano – Teacher, Park View Middle School, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Osiris Harrell – [Providence resident], spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Doug Gablinske – Former member of the House of Representatives, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Julie Latessa – Teacher, Providence, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Michelle Marold – Warwick resident, spoke in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Aaron Regenberg – Providence resident, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Bryan Principe – [Providence City Councilman], spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Approval Items

a. Approval of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy Proposal

Next Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to approve the Achievement First Mayoral Academy Proposal.

Regent Shimberg so moved, and the motion was seconded by Regent Adrain, but Regent Callahan asked if she could interrupt to share a message from Steve Smith, President of the Providence Teachers Union, who could not be present but wanted to reiterate his opposition to the proposal, particularly in light of the news of that morning about the issues facing the Providence public schools and the city of Providence.

Regent Callahan then went on to voice her own concerns with the proposal, particularly in light of the strong opposition from elected officials who represent the four communities and who have been elected by the citizenry that oppose the proposal.

Hearing no further discussion, Chairman Caruolo then asked for a roll call to vote on the approval of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education grant preliminary approval for further planning and development to Achievement First Mayoral Academies toward a 2013-2014 school year opening, contingent upon final approval to operate by the Board of Regents.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 4 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, M. Santos

b. David J. Alba v. Cranston School Committee

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

VOTED: That in the Matter of David J. Alba v. Cranston School Committee, it was voted that the decision of the Commissioner is Affirmed.

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

Discussion Items

Board of Regents Regulations Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island

Commissioner Gist talked about the importance of providing excellent career and technical education that will result in industry-recognized certificates, how she very much understands the importance of having that done in a high-quality way, how pleased she is that the new Governor's budget includes \$3 million to support career-and-technical education in Rhode Island, and how that support is in part reflective of the work that RIDE has been doing around career-technical education.

She went on to say that the multitude of discussions and hearings around the new career-technical regulations have generated a lot of rich conversation across the state and how it has focused Rhode Islanders on the importance of career-and-technical education to individual students, families, the economy, and the education system as a whole.

Next, Andrea Castañeda echoed Commissioner Gist's comments on how, unlike the 1991 regulations, which dealt very little with program quality, the new regulations promote program quality in powerful ways: rigorous national standards, approaches taken in others states, and emerging federal standards. She then went on to answer questions from the BOR.

Finally, Chairman Caruolo took the opportunity to share how CTE is an area that he is very interested in, how vital it is to the future of Rhode Island, how very important it is for a lot of students who need access to the resources; he shared the concerns that he is hearing, not only from his own board members, but also from others. He went on to say that although this topic is not on the same level as some of the other controversial issues that the Board has taken on, it is far more technical, and perhaps more far-reaching. He feels that this is the kind of decision that everyone should be behind. He suggested that the need to get it done quickly is second to the need to making sure that the best possible job is done, and he gave RIDE staff credit for working very hard at it, and he noted the importance of ensuring that there is as much buy-in as possible and that we need more people to get involved in it. The people who are spending so much time coming to these meetings are obviously riled up about this, he said, and he is hearing unease from them; he noted that he would be far more comfortable if we try to talk to these people before the regulations are approved. He suggested that the more people that can get on board on these, the more that would make for regulations that have a chance to be as good as they can possible be – but, more important, people would be ready to work with them from day one. He went on to share his thoughts on how, if the leaders of this kind of education were saying that they thought this was wonderful and the rank-and-file teachers that the Board is hearing from were saying the same things, he would not feel that the Board would be questioning the hard work that RIDE

staff has been doing because it has respect for their work. But, they are getting enough a lot of push-back on a noncontroversial topic.

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 convene in executive session to discuss:

1. Commissioner's Evaluation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)
2. Pending Litigation (City of Central Falls vs. Central Falls Teachers' Union, et al. C.A. No.: 11-AP-01094 (the "Declaratory Judgment Action") pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2)
3. Pending Litigation pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2) regarding action pending before the Human Rights Commission

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 6:00 p.m. the Board of Regents went into recess to convene an executive session.

The Board of Regents returned to public session at 6:30 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: 8 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, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Vice-Chairman Guida had to leave the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.