

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a  
May 3, 2012

**Meeting**

RIDE

Thursday, April 5, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Lorne Adrain (joined meeting in progress), Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

**Absent:** Carolina Bernal

**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 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:** 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, 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 Callahan, it was

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

March 1, 2012 – Board of Regents Meeting  
March 1, 2012 – Board of Regents Executive Session  
March 15, 2012 – Board of Regents Work Session

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner’s Report**

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the following:

#### **Rhode Island Model for Educator Evaluation**

The work around educator evaluation is moving along at a fast pace with the work around gradual implementation. Last week, RIDE released to the education community some pretty significant changes that it will be making to the tools that are being used, the process, and the trainings. These changes are based on all the feedback that RIDE has collected throughout the year (focus groups, surveys), and so far the reaction to the changes has been very positive.

The NEA-RI (National Education Association - Rhode Island) did vote on a resolution that would add an additional year of gradual implementation, which RIDE is not going to do, but has been in close contact with the NEA, particularly around the adjustments that are being made, and is going to continue moving forward as planned.

#### **RI Safe Schools Act - Statewide Bullying Policy**

Commissioner Gist presented the BOR with the final Statewide Bullying Policy, which the General Assembly directed RIDE to develop in conjunction with the local school districts.

As per the R.I. Administrative Procedures Act, the policy was posted inviting public comment, was made available for public inspection, from January 24<sup>th</sup> – February 24<sup>th</sup>, and a public hearing was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Necessity of School Construction Applications**

RIDE’s School Construction team is currently working with four districts (Barrington, Chariho, Middletown, and Portsmouth) and has targeted a June 2012 Board of Regents approval of their districts’ Necessity of School Construction applications.

As per Article 10, Section 3, of the FY2012 Appropriations Act, the Board of Regents is being forwarded only projects necessitated by immediate health and safety concerns.

These projects are still under review, and the budgets may be adjusted during the review process; once the review process is complete, the projects will be forwarded to the House and Senate Finance Committees, as required by statute.

Pending release from the House and Senate Finance Committees, RIDE is targeting the May 3, 2012, meeting to brief the Board of Regents on these projects.

Lincoln, Pawtucket, and Providence will also be seeking BOR approval of their Necessity of School Construction applications at a later date.

### **State of Education Address**

Commissioner Gist reported that she is looking forward to her third annual state of education address before the General Assembly, confirmed for Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

### **Grace School Mayoral Academy**

Commissioner Gist reminded the Regents of her update to them on the application from Mayors Lombardi and Taveras and the Meeting Street School to open the Grace School Mayoral Academy in the Fall of 2012.

The application is still active and in the process of preliminary approval, but the school will now have an anticipated opening of September 2013.

### **Charter School Renewals**

At the April 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session, RIDE will bring the BOR a set of charter-school renewal recommendations for the Blackstone Academy, the Compass Charter School, and the New England Laborers' Academy and requesting final approval at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> BOR meeting.

### **Recognition of the 2012 Teacher of the Year - Julie Lima Boyle**

Chairman Caruolo congratulated Julie Lima Boyle, Rhode Island's 2012 Teacher of the Year, for her dedication and commitment to her students, and he presented her with a BOR Certificate.

Karen Davis, Vice-President of Community Relations of Hasbro, Inc., and Dan Sullivan, President and CEO of Collette Vacations, presented Ms. Boyle with gift certificates.

### **Recognition of the Recipients of the 2012 Rhode Island Green Schools**

- Nathan Bishop Middle School, Providence
- Providence Career and Technical Academy
- Classical High School, Providence

Chairman Caruolo congratulated Superintendent Lusi and the school principals, commended them for their commitment to the health and safety of their students and staff, and recognized them with a BOR certificate.

**Chairman’s Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman’s Remarks.

**Public Remarks**

There were no public remarks

**Discussion Items**

**Virtual Learning Regulations**

Commissioner Gist began by sharing how excited she is about the work around Virtual Learning, and she shared an outline that will be used to draft the new set of regulations that RIDE has been working on with input and feedback from the discussions with the BOR.

This new set of regulations will be an important part of RIDE’s ability to ensure that virtual learning, digital learning, and blended learning in Rhode Island are of high quality, promote flexibility, and broaden educational opportunities for all students.

Sharon Lee, Director of the Office of Multiple Pathways, went over the outline and answered questions from the Regents.

**Approval Items**

**a. Approval and Adoption of the Board of Regents Regulations - Title A**

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

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves and adopts, effective May 1, 2012, the Board of Regents Regulations - Title A, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

**b. Approval of the Learning Community Charter School’s Request for Enrollment Increase**

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

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Learning Community Charter School’s Request for Enrollment Increase, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0.

**c. Approval of the Proposed Certification Tests and Passing Scores for the Purpose of Public Hearing**

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 approves, for the purpose of public hearing, the Proposed Certification Tests and Passing Scores, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0.

**Executive Session**

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 convene in executive session to discuss:

Pending Litigation (Portsmouth School Department’s declaratory judgment action) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

At 5:10 p.m. the Board of Regents went into recess to convene an executive session.

The Board of Regents returned to public session at 5:30 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 Santos, 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, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.