

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 3
September 6, 2012

Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, July 19, 2012 - 11:30 a.m.

MINUTES

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

Absent: Robert Carothers

The meeting convened at 11:35 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 Shimberg, it was

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

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, 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 Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the June 7, 2012, Board

of Regents Meeting and June 21, 2012, Board of Regents
Work Session

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, K. Forbes,
P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Given the level of public interest in agenda item #7h [Commissioner's recommendation not to renew the Charter of the Academy for Career Exploration Charter School (ACE)], Chairman Caruolo thanked the supporters for coming to show their support for their school and informed them that he was going to defer the vote until after the public hearing that RIDE had scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., at the Providence Career and Technical Academy, Fricker Street, Providence.

Hearing no objections to deferring the vote, Chairman Caruolo carried on with the agenda.

Commissioner's Report

In Commissioner Gist's absence, Deputy Commissioner David Abbott, thanked everyone from ACE who came to show their support and gave an update on the following:

Central Falls

Although the Central Falls Board of Trustees declined to approve the budget, it was forwarded to the Commissioner who, at Governor Chafee's request, has assumed temporary control of the Central Falls School District finances, and she has approved a balanced FY13 budget. Although it is a balanced budget, it is built on some assumptions that need certain concessions that were made by both Council 94 and the Teachers' Union. Deputy Abbott thanked RIDE staff and both unions for the progress made, and he is very optimistic that there will be a negotiated agreement with both unions and the opening of a new school year with a balanced budget that will hold up.

Woonsocket

RIDE is involved in Woonsocket purely on a fiscal basis. The Department of Revenue has established a Budget Commission, chaired by Bill Sequino, of East Greenwich. The Commission is making some tough decisions and is scheduled to vote on next year's budget, which should be very interesting because they are forwarding a payment of \$12.5 million of state aid from next year's budget to close out this year with a balanced budget. RIDE expects to be involved in Woonsocket through next year because the District is going to be opening its school year with a significant hole or else will be operating at a deficit. RIDE needs to be

there to ensure that the Budget Commission has the data available to make good decisions. There is going to be a series of cuts similar or probably more draconian than what we have seen in East Providence, where a Budget Commission is also operating, and RIDE will be keeping a close eye on Woonsocket finances.

Educator Evaluation

RIDE has just completed the first year of gradually implementing Educator Evaluation of teachers and principals statewide, and we are very confident that all districts will be ready for full implementation this coming fall.

RIDE is also working closely with Regent Callahan to coordinate training on Student Learning Objectives for districts implementing the i3 Innovation Model.

The next challenges are primarily logistical: making sure that all of our teachers are receiving the right training in their districts around the student learning objectives.

The feedback from the training sessions has been unbelievably strong, and that is in part because RIDE has listened to be field and adapted as the evaluation process went along.

School Classifications

Last Friday, RIDE released the 2012 School Classifications, which are based on the new accountability system approved by the U.S. Department of Education last May.

The whole purpose of the new Accountability System was to deal with some of the biggest weaknesses we saw in No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Under NCLB, there are a set of state targets. All districts and all schools have the same targets, and it is a binary system. You either hit all your targets or you don't. You can miss one target by very little or you can miss many targets by a lot, and the old system treats you exactly the same.

The overarching policy driver in our system was to get at achievement gaps, which are the "dirty secret" in Rhode Island. We know, from our own analysis of data, that, when it comes to achievement gaps, it is not the two Rhode Islands, it is not an inner-city problem and the suburbs are fine. There are achievement gaps in all of our school systems.

With the new system, all of the targets are district-based and much more equitable. We also look at rate of growth by measuring how well students grow and how well schools are moving students from year to year.

Public Remarks

Steve Smith – President, Providence Teachers Union – Spoke in support of the Academy for Career Exploration charter renewal and asked if the public hearing could wait until September when students are back at school.

MaryAnn Rinaldi – Teacher and mom – Spoke in support of the International Charter School renewal.

Mariela Flores – Student at the International Charter School – Spoke about her experiences as a student at the International Charter School.

Julie Nora – Director – International Charter School – Spoke in support of the International Charter School renewal.

Chairman’s Remarks

Chairman Caruolo shared that he has been working with RIDE to begin to look at the process of the current BOR Title A Regulations and the existing structure of the different boards governing the state schools, for which the BOR has responsibility. This review has been long overdue, and Chairman Caruolo plans to send a letter to each of the current board members asking if they are still enthusiastic about continuing to serve on their respective boards.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Approval Items

a. Board of Regents Regulations Governing Virtual Learning Education in Rhode Island

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 approves and adopts the recommended Board of Regents Regulations Governing Virtual Learning Education in Rhode Island, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

b. Certification Redesign – New Testing Requirement – Educational Testing Service Certification Tests and Passing Score

Prior to asking for a motion to accept RIDE's recommendation to adopt the ESOL 0361 test and passing score of 151 as a requirement for initial licensure in Rhode Island, Chairman Caruolo asked RIDE to give a breakdown of the projected pass rates at different scores between the passing score of 146 and 151. Regent Callahan also asked that RIDE provide the BOR with additional information on the appropriateness and the content of the test and on how the test aligns with what is being taught.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adopts the Educational Testing Service certification tests (ESOL 0361) and amended passing score of 146 as a requirement for initial licensure in Rhode Island, with the condition that it be visited in one (1) year of implementation to measure the outcome.

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

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

NAYS: 0

c. Terms and Conditions of Employment for Nancy Maguire Heath, Director of the R.I. School for the Deaf

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 approves the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Nancy Maguire Heath, Director of the R.I. School for the Deaf for a three-year period commencing July 1, 2012, and terminating on June 30, 2015, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

d. Renewal of the Charter of the Beacon Charter High School

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education renews the Charter of the Beacon Charter High School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2013-14 school year to the 2017-18 school year, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

e. Renewal of the Charter of the Paul Cuffee Charter School

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education renews the Charter of the Paul Cuffee Charter School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2013-14 school year to the 2017-18 school year, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

f. Renewal of the Charter of the International Charter School

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education renews the Charter of the International Charter School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2013-14 school year to the 2017-18 school year, as presented.

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, K. Forbes,

P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

g. Renewal of the Charter of the Kingston Hill Academy

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 renews the Charter of the Kingston Hill Academy for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2013-14 school year to the 2017-18 school year, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

h. Non-renewal of the Charter of the Academy for Career Exploration Charter School (ACE)

- Vote was deferred until the conclusion of a public hearing, as noted at onset of meeting.

i. Necessity of School Construction Projects

- **Lincoln School Department**

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Lincoln School Department's necessity of school construction projects totaling \$380,000 pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

- Pawtucket School Department

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 Pawtucket School Department's necessity of school construction projects totaling \$8,000,000 pursuant to R.I. G.L. 16-7-41, as presented.

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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg 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, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.