

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2
October 18, 2012

Meeting

RIDE

**Thursday, October 4, 2012
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

**Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers,
Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg**

Absent: Lorne Adrain, Karin Forbes

Carolina Bernal joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

The meeting convened at 4:12 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 Callahan, it was

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

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

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

NAYS: 0

Regent Bernal joined the meeting after the approval of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

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 approves the minutes of the September 20, 2012, Board of Regents Meeting and the September 20, 2012, Board of Regents Executive Session.

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

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

NAYS: 0

Regent Bernal joined the meeting after the approval of the minutes.

Commissioner's Report

In Commissioner Gist's absence, Acting Commissioner David Abbott gave an update on the following:

Update on Commissioner Gist's Recovery

Acting Commissioner Abbott gave an update on Commissioner Gist's recuperation since her surgery in late September.

SAT Results

Rhode Island's participation rate continues to rise and, at 65 percent, it places us at 14th in the country. Scores declined nationwide, which pretty much matched the slight dip in R.I.

Advanced Placement participation has been increasing rapidly, much faster than the national rate. This increase is attributed to more of our students, including those in our urban districts, getting access to more rigorous, challenging courses.

Rhode Island Social Studies Standards

As we move toward adoption of the Common Core, in November RIDE will be asking the Regents to vote to adopt the Social Studies Standards (they do not need to be promulgated as regulations, and therefore do not require public hearings), an expansion of the current Civics Grade Span Expectations (GSEs), which will now include geography.

A team of K-12 educators, higher education, community-organization representation, and educators from the existing State Panel on Civics Education was formed to determine the best option to pursue, and it was decided that GSEs, following the same structure as our current Civics GSEs, would be the best choice.

These standards, which are reflective of the national standards, will be posted for public comment beginning on October 9th through October 24th.

Update on Charter Schools

RIDE is in the process of holding public hearings in the communities (Central Falls, East Providence, Providence, and Warwick) in which the two proposed virtual, blended-learning high schools (Nowell Leadership Academy and the Village Green Virtual Charter High School) will have physical sites.

Providence has narrowed its original intent to convert nine of its schools to in-district charter-school models to two (Spaziano Elementary School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School).

Each of the proposed schools wrote its application in partnership with currently operating charter schools - Highlander Charter School and the Learning Community Charter School - but the Providence school district is the sponsoring organization.

Public Remarks

The following individuals spoke and pleaded with the Regents to halt or delay the implementation of "high stakes testing" for high-school graduation: Melinda Lemos Jackson, Steve Brown, Carla Russo, Sandy Medeiros, Anne Mulready, Dina Silvaggio, Rita Mauss, Suzanne da Silva, Julie Motta, Kim Hewson, Ivanildo Soares, Ikone Foly, Alan Yuhanne, Cauldierre McKay, Bryan Varela, Veronica Kot, Karen Travers, Brother Michael Reis, and Joanne Quinn.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

Discussion Items

GED

The Rhode Island GED Regulations , which were last promulgated in 1988, need to be repealed and streamlined in order to comply with federal regulations. Most notably,

beginning in January 2014, the GED test will be administered only via a computer-based system and taken at a testing center. There is also the need to make the tests more rigorous by aligning them with the Common Core, and adding the Alternative Learning Plan component for 16 and 17-year-olds since R.I.'s compulsory-attendance law has changed to 18 years old.

RIDE will be bringing a draft of the revised regulations to the Regents to the October 18th meeting and asking for a vote allowing them to go out for a 30-day public-comment period.

At this time, Chairman Caruolo took the opportunity to inform the Regents that since there is lots going on that requires dialogue and/or approval by the Regents, and the current Board will not be in existence after January 1st, he would suggest turning the next few meetings to voting meetings and note the possible need for a December meeting. Acting Commissioner Abbott stated that RIDE will provide the Regents at the October 18th meeting a list of priority issues that require their attention into the spring.

Regents' FY 2013 Revised Budget and the Regents' FY 2014 Requested Budget

Considering that the budget is still in draft form and it will look much different by the time the Regents have to vote on it, Chairman Caruolo asked if anyone had questions on the draft that was provided to them.

Regent Santos asked about the actual number of FTEs at RIDE vs. the number listed on the budget, which includes RTTT and other grant-sponsored positions. Regent Carothers asked whether RIDE had an FTE cap, to which Acting Commissioner Abbott answered, yes, and that unlike Higher Education, RIDE does not have a separate category for FTEs and therefore has to get additional legislative authority to hire federal grant-funded FTEs. Regent Carothers then asked if there were any provisions to absorb the current FTEs from Higher Education. Chairman Caruolo answered that none of that was on the table as of yet.

Approval Items

Voting Delegates at the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference

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

VOTED: That Vice-Chairman Guida represent the Board of Regents as a Voting Delegate, and Regents Forbes and Adrain as Alternates, at the NASBE Annual Conference on October 9-13, 2012 in Chicago, IL.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

Regent Shimberg had left the meeting at this point.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.