

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2005**

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:10 p.m.

In Attendance

J. DiPrete, C. Callahan, P. Guida, R. Camara, A. Beretta, G. Grove, M. Paradis and K. Forbes

Public Remarks:

There were no public remarks.

Chairman Remarks:

The Chairman reported that he attended the following events during the last couple of weeks:

- November 14-15 – the Congress to Campus civic engagement conference at Rhode Island College;
- November 16 hosted the Externship Recognition Program at Toll Gate High School;
- November 18 attended the annual Academic and Student Affairs Committee Leadership luncheon at RIC followed by the ASAC meeting;
- November 23 attended the Providence College meeting on the K-12 Guidance Program;
- November 30, the Fall Conference held at the Westin Hotel;
- December 2nd, the RI Civic Ed. Commission retreat;
- December 12, the BOG Personnel Committee meeting;
- December 7-8, the States Institute on International Education in Washington, DC;
- December 14, the PK-16 Committee hosted by the Governor;
- And, the Lincoln Commission meeting hosted by Chief Justice Frank Williams.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Meeting Minutes and Executive Minutes of October 27, 2005, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Endorsement of Rhode Island K-12 Literacy Policy

Regent Colleen Callahan, Chairman of the Board of Regents Committee on Student And Academic Programs and introduced the agenda item for approval. She explained that it was being brought forward from the Office of Instruction to expand and revise the original K-3 Rhode Island Reading Policy first published in February 2000 and

legislated in the Rhode Island Literacy and Dropout Prevention Act of 1987. RIDE Director of the Office of Instruction, Diane Schaefer introduced RIDE staff members that have been instrumental in revising the document - Jackie Bourassa, Diane Girard, and Colleen O'Brian from the Office of Instruction. Ms. Schaefer explained that a subcommittee has been working for over a year to revise the policy with continual feedback from constituents and panel members. The revised literacy policy addresses the following components, which were not included in the earlier policy document:

- A focus on literacy acquisition through grade 12;
- Confirmed scientific research about literacy development, intervention, and the prevention of reading difficulties;
- Unifying of all state literacy reform initiatives;
- Mathematics skills within its definition of literacy.

All Rhode Island school districts are expected to utilize the 2005 PreK-12 Rhode Island Literacy Policy to serve as the foundation for their literacy efforts to use proven practices and to maintain congruence among and across curriculum, instruction and assessment. The group also discussed the rollout plan for professional development supporting the policy and the impact on the districts.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Endorse the 2005 PreK-12 Rhode Island Literacy Policy, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Report on Energy Efficient Schools

Chairman DiPrete introduced Elia Germani, The Chairman of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and former Board of Regent member. Mr. DiPrete told the Board that he and Mr. Germani have been working on how to make schools, not only better, but “smarter” as related to energy needs.

Don Fudge from the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) presented a brief orientation of activities to date, and overview of school energy issues and new approval standards. Mr. Fudge told the group that members of the Board of Regents Finance Committee has been working with representatives of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership on issues relating to “high performing schools”. “High Performing Schools” are those that are energy efficient and which have a superior indoor environmental quality. NEEP has also agreed to work with the Department to draft revised regulations for the approval of school construction projects. The regulations will address high performance criteria as well as many other concerns such as cost and design standards to ensure equity among schools statewide. The Rhode Island School of Design is also partnering with us in this effort. Mr. Fudge’s complete presentation is attached, but focused on: forces affecting school construction; the Rhode Island high performance schools working group; the proposal for collaborative effort between RIDE, RISD, Brown University and the working group; the new RI School Construction Regulations and timeline. The chairman of the

Regents' Finance Committer, Bob Camara told the group that this discussion had come about as part of budget discussion on cost efficiency and energy issues.

He recommended to the group that any Regents' recommendations be "built at the highest" level for any new construction.

Tim Duffy, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees talked about the need to act quickly to bring about energy efficiencies as soon as possible. Mr. Germani urged members of the Board to support this project.

Executive Session

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(2), the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman DiPrete reported that during executive session the board had voted 6 to 1 to approve the 2012 Tentative Agreement, as presented. (Regent Beretta abstained; Regent Paradis opposed) The board also voted unanimously to approve the revisions to the executive pay plan, as presented.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the minutes of the Executive Session be sealed.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

PK-16 Report

Commissioner McWalters reported to Board members that he had presented a report to the Governor's PK-16 committee on the status of state testing. He gave a brief overview of the presentation and agreed to do a complete presentation at the next Board meeting on January 12, 2006.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Chairman of the Regents' Finance committee, Bob Camera reported that his committee has spent a lot of time talking about the use of state education dollars and the need for a more efficient education system. Chairman DiPrete and Regent Camara will meet with Governor Carcieri on education funding and programming next week. The Chairman also told board members that he would like to invite the Governor to join them in a work session sometime in January.

Adjourn

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned immediately at 6:15 p.m.