

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**April 27, 2006**

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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.

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**In Attendance**

J. DiPrete, A. Beretta, C. Callahan, B. Camara, F. Caprio, K. Forbes, P. Guida, and M. Paradise.

**Public Remarks**

There were no public remarks.

**Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman DiPrete reported that this year one of NASBE's focus agenda items will be high school reform. As part of that effort, they will be coordinating some of their activities with Governor Carcieri's education initiatives. At a recent NASBE meeting in Washington, Chairman DiPrete spoke to NASBE's Executive Director, Brenda Welburn who asked him to speak with NASBE's new High School Reform coordinator, Carlas McCauley, about involving Rhode Island in their work. On Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Mr. McCauley visited Rhode Island and met with the Commissioner, Chairman, and Colleen Callahan about Rhode Island's high school reform initiatives. Following an in-depth discussion about NASBE's work and the Rhode Island initiatives, the group agreed that Rhode Island would be part of NASBE's work.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2006.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously.

**Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Cumberland, Narragansett, Scituate, Smithfield, and Warwick**

[Regent Guida recused himself from all discussion and vote on the Cumberland project because his law office is chief bonding counsel.]

RIDE staff members, Celeste Bilotti and Kristen Cole reviewed each of the projects and the Board approved as follows:

**Cumberland**

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Necessity of School Construction for Cumberland School District for asset development and improvement projects totaling \$2,930,000 pursuant to 16-60-(9) (d).

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Necessity of School Construction for Cumberland School District (revised project) for asset development and improvement projects totaling \$23,212,439 pursuant to 16-60-(9) (d).

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Narragansett

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Necessity of School Construction for Narragansett School District for asset development and improvement projects totaling \$21,500,000 pursuant to 16-60-(9) (d).

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Scituate

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Necessity of School Construction for Scituate School District for asset development and improvement projects totaling \$5,000,000 pursuant to 16-60-(9) (d).

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Smithfield,

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Necessity of School Construction for Smithfield School District for asset development and improvement totaling \$43,038,551 pursuant to 16-60-(9) (d).

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Warwick

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Necessity of School Construction for Cumberland School District for asset development and improvement totaling \$25,000,000 pursuant to 16-60-(9) (d).

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

**Approval of Series “A” Board of Regents Regulations for Public Hearing**

RIDE Legal Counsel/Chief of Staff, Jennifer Wood presented the first round of Board of Regents regulations that are being reviewed and updated. Ms. Wood explained to the Board that many of the Regents’ regulations have been in effect for forty or fifty years without much review and that during that time many of the regulations have been replaced or changed by state or federal law or other policies and regulations. She explained that pending Board approval the revised regulations will go to public hearing and then back to the full board for final approval.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Enclosure “Series A – STATE AGENCY” of the Board of Regents Regulations for the Purpose of Conducting a Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Regulations.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

**Election of NASBE President-Elect and Northeastern Area Director**

Chairman DiPrete requested that the item be removed from the agenda for discussion and approval at the next meeting. There were no objections.

**Budget Update/Legislative Update**

RIDE Director of Finance, Carolyn Dias and legislative liaison, Andy Andrade came to the Regents’ table to report on the budget and status of education related legislation. Ms. Dias reported on budget priorities, as follows:

- Personnel FTE’s issues/looking for funding from the Governor’s office for the two high school reform fellows;
- Workforce reduction/Department 5.5 FTE’s reductions and \$515,000;
- The department requires two FTE’s for Title I program;
- The Governor recommended \$200,000 for the development of a statewide curriculum;
- The department is working to fund the building of the School for the Deaf at CCRI;
- Central Falls – working closely with Central Falls. \$4 1/2M short fall – the Governor may fund \$2M but is asking that the city put in 2% of the budget;
- Education Aid – The Governor put \$18.7M into the budget – primarily for teachers’ retirement.

Next Mr. Andrade distributed a package reviewing the status of all the education related legislation.

### Regents' Committee Reports

**Educator Quality** – Regent Karin Forbes reported that the Educator Quality Committee had met yesterday and discussed and re-worked the proposal for field experience programs for leaders. She explained that now that the Regents committee has reviewed it and offered revisions to the proposal, it will go back to the CPAB for review before coming to the full board.

**Finance & Personnel** – Regent Bob Camara reported that his committee would be scheduling a meeting with the Department of Administration to continue the discussions about statewide efficiencies.

**PS&I** – Regent Patrick Guida reported that the Regents PS&I committee had met on April 4<sup>th</sup> and one of the agenda items concerned the drafting of a resolution on standards for school committee operations. The resolution will be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting of the School Committee Association and brought back to the Regents for consideration. Mr. Guida then gave the group a brief update on the status of the PS&I districts.

**CASP** – Regent Colleen Callahan told the members of the board that the final review of the revised high school regulations would take place on May 15, 2006. Additionally, the National Education Alliance will meet in Rhode Island May 16 – 18.

### Commissioner's Report

In the absence of the Commissioner (Commissioner McWalters was out of state attending the Education Commission of the State (ECS) Steering Committee) RIDE Chief of Staff, Jennifer Wood reported on the status of the building of the new School for the Deaf at the CCRI/Davies campus. She explained that the Regents had approved the project to move forward, but since, concerns had arisen about the placement of the school on the Lincoln campus. Discussions between Elementary and Secondary Education and the Office of Higher Education are ongoing. Regent Caprio addressed the Board on the issue and outlined some of the higher education Commissioner's concerns.

### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

### Adjourn

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned immediately at 5:20 p.m.