

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 08, 2006

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, A. Beretta, C. Callahan, B. Camara, K. Forbes, G. Grove, P. Guida and M. Paradise.

Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

Chairman's Remarks

- ◆ Chairman DiPrete reported that he had attended graduation exercises and end of year celebrations at RIC, CCRI and URI. He remarked about how proud he is to be a part of the work that is being done at the PK-12 level when you see the results of that work in our college graduates and their accomplishments.
- ◆ Mr. DiPrete also reported that Board members have visited the three charter schools that are up for re-accreditation. The review process is going well and the recommendations on the schools will be brought before the Regents for consideration during July.
- ◆ This weekend he will be attending NASBE's Governmental Affairs meeting in Washington and Sharon will be attending the Board of Directors meeting.
- ◆ Getting ready to meet with NASBE's Executive Director, Brenda Welburn who will come to Rhode Island to conduct a workshop for the Board later this month.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2006.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Members and Chairman to the Central Falls Board of Trustees

The Chairman of the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee, Gary Grove reported that the committee had met with the candidates for the Central Falls Board of Trustees - Chairman, Ann Cano-Morales; and members R. David Cruise and Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and enthusiastically endorses the appointments.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve R. David Cruise and Sonia Rodrigues-Carr as Members of the Central Falls Board of Trustees and Anna Cano-Morales as Chairman of the Central Falls Board of Trustees, as Recommended by the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Motion to Remove from Probationary Status the Beacon Charter School

Chairman of the Regents' State and Charter Schools Committee, Gary Grove, told the members of the Board that the State and Charter Schools Committee had met on May 30, 2006 with representatives from the Beacon Charter School and based on that meeting is recommending removing the school from probationary status. He said that as per the Board's conditions placed on the school in August 2005 and the restrictions on the operation of the school under a new management and governance structure for the 2005-06 school year, the school had fulfilled the terms of the order. Additionally, the school has demonstrated significant improvement in the management, financial stability, and programmatic design. The school has also resolved its permanent location dilemma by locating in a more suitable and less costly building in close proximity to the Stadium building.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education remove the Beacon Charter School from probationary status. However, the school shall continue to operate under direct monitoring of the Rhode Island Department of Education and under the enrollment restrictions of the previous order, as per the Recommendation of the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

School Performance Classification

Commissioner McWalters told the members of the Board that he had hoped to be able to release the performance classifications this week, but because of ongoing discussions with the feds about the classification process, had to postpone the release until late next week.

2005 NAEP Science Results

RIDE Director of the Office of Assessment, Maryann Snider, handed out a document outlining the overall observations on NAEP Science 2005 as follows:

- ◆ There was a 12pt increase in the Average Scale Score of 4th grade Hispanic students from 2000 to 2005. There was a 9% increase in the percentage of Hispanic students reaching at or above the Basic level from 2000- 2005.
- ◆ There was a 15pt increase in 4th grade ELL students' average scale score from 2000 to 2005.
- ◆ There was an 8pt decline in the average scale score of 4th grade special education students.
- ◆ The average scale score for Rhode Island for 2005 is below the national average for 4th grade students.
- ◆ The percentage of Rhode Island's 4th grade student reaching at or above Basic was 63%.

- ◆ Eighth grade students with disabilities scored significantly higher than the Nation on the NAEP 2005 Science test. Also, significantly more 8th grade students with disabilities achieved at or above Basic in Rhode Island than the Nation.
- ◆ Eighth grade students in Rhode Island's urban fringe and rural communities scored significantly higher than the Nation on the NAEP 2005 Science test.

The Context:

- ◆ Since NCLB, emphasis has been on reading and math – not science
- ◆ Rhode Island has not had a state-wide curriculum in science. One is currently under development.
- ◆ RI has never had a state science assessment. We will be piloting the newest addition to the NECAP in grades 4, 8, and 11 in March, 2007.
- ◆ RIDE Science specialists, Peter McLaren and Linda Jyzck, rolled out the Grade Span Expectations in Science in April. They are similar to the reading and math GSEs in that both the curriculum development and the test development will be based on these standards.

The science test will assess the same domains as NAEP: i.e., Earth, Life, and Physical sciences; it will have the same item types: multiple choice, short answer, extended response, and a hands-on lab kit. Those schools that received the extra science kits will have a good understanding of the inquiry task that will be on the NECAP test.

The group discussed what the state is doing to get scientists certified so that they can teach science in the schools.

Chairman DiPrete recognized Sara Groh for her work on the Board of Regents – Ms. Groh will be back next year; and congratulated Shane Lee who graduated from Central High School last night. Mr. DiPrete presented Shane with a Regents' Certificate.

Regent Committee Reports

Administrator & Teacher Quality – Committee Chair, Karin Forbes has scheduled a meeting on June 27th.

Finance & Personnel – Chairman Bob Camara told the members of the Board that he, Chairman DiPrete and Commissioner McWalters had met with the Governor regarding the short fall for the Central Falls school district. He said that they are looking to make cuts in personnel and exploring savings in school operating costs. The discussion is ongoing. Mr. Camara also reported that they met with representatives from the House and Senate and local school officials on statewide efficiencies.

CASP – Committee Chair, Colleen Callahan reported to the group that the work on the High School & Middle School Regulations has been completed and will come before the Board for approval for public hearing in August or early September.

State & Charter Schools – Gary Grove reported that three schools have been reviewed for reauthorization by the Board and will come for approval at the July 13th meeting.

Commissioner's Report

- ◆ Commissioner McWalters reported that the legislative session is winding down and will probably end in two weeks. He also said that he and Andy Andrade have spoken with Representative Lewis and Crowley and will be contacting members of the Senate about building strong lines of communication between the Board/department and the legislature.
- ◆ The U.S Office of Adult Education has completed its first audit review of our program. They were very impressed with our work but concerned about the state funding.
- ◆ Deputy Commissioner Todd Flaherty spoke to the group about the Commissioner's Review and promised to forward a summary of best practices to the Regents.
- ◆ RE: PS&I-Providence Mayor and Superintendent press conference – “stepped forward” to take action on a plan to include student achievement for Providence students.
- ◆ The Commissioner reported that the Lincoln CCRI and Davies and the School for the Deaf have reached an agreement on the placement of the new School for the Deaf.
- ◆ Chairman DiPrete distributed a copy of a letter from him and the Commissioner to the Governor about the concerns of the proposed FTE cuts to the department. The Commissioner told the members of the Board that the biggest “victory for us: was that the personnel cut number didn't include any of the state schools and that the Governor/RIDE and Regents are all on the same agenda.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjourn

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned immediately at 5:30 p.m.