

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**December 14, 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 5:05 p.m.

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**In Attendance**

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

**Public Remarks**

- Sherilyn Brown, Director, Education Program RI State Council on the Arts spoke to the Regents to request a meeting with the Commissioner on the secondary regulations and “arts proficiency”. Ms. Brown also distributed suggested revisions to the regulations including a requirement that the districts submit to RIDE a plan for student proficiency (in the arts). A complete copy of her testimony is available.
- Ann Galligan, Research Director RI Council on the Arts - Supports Sherilyn Brown’s remarks and spoke about Massachusetts test results – failing in Math and Science. However, she has seen in low performing, poor schools where there is an arts intervention program, that the lowest performing students are showing improvement – because of the arts. She also told board members that careers in the arts, specifically graphic arts is the fastest growing job market.
- Dorothy Brayley, Exec. Director Kid’s First – Spoke in favor of including Physical Education in the high school regulations to the list of required courses for graduation. A complete copy of her testimony is available.
- Allen Auclair – Woonsocket School Committee –Thanked Commissioner McWalters for meeting with him and thanked Mary McClure, the Chairman of the Providence School Committee for including Woonsocket in a two day school committee training session sponsored by CRSS ; and urged the board to support mandatory school committee training.
- Steven Coaty, attorney for Simon Richardson requested that the Regents place Mr. Richardson’s appeal to the Board on the Board’s executive session agenda.
- Michael Barnes, Assistant Superintendent Foster/Glocester Public Schools – Suggested that the Regents consider using a “steering type” committee to “field test” the pieces of the regulations – especially the pieces connected to graduation by proficiency. There is a need to create a dialogue between RIDE, Regents and the districts. And on sec. 5.6 – strike section – should be placed in a separate guidance document.
- Toni Torozza, the University of Rhode Island – Support the original regulations and the revisions, especially, addition of language pertaining to the sections including the middle schools.

**Chairman’s Remarks**

- Chairman DiPrete asked Sara Groh, President of the Rhode Island Association of Student Councils to report to the Board on the activities of her association. Ms. Groh reported that the Association held their Kickoff Leadership Dinner on December 4<sup>th</sup> with over 45 student council officers in attendance as well as various adult leaders from the education community including advisors and administrators and Chairman DiPrete. The event focused on “Catching the Wave of Commitment”. The evening featured student presented roundtables on topics related to building and maintaining strong relationships between the executive board and the general membership; the

importance of mission statements and constitutions; and the need for student leaders to focus on the “big picture” – looking at the global impact of student councils. A complete text of her remarks is available.

- Chairman DiPrete reported to the group that he had attended the “Kids’ Count” event; a two day post election conference sponsored by NASBE; the Governor’s Newport conference on collective bargaining; the release of the school classifications at Hope High School; and the RI Association of School Business Officials luncheon.
- Mr. DiPrete also thanked all of the Regents for their support and attendance at all of the various conferences, meetings and workshops over the past few months.

#### Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of November 9, 2006

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2006.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously.

#### Approval of Appeals

##### Simon Richardson v. Providence School Board

As per the request of Steven Coaty, attorney for Simon Richardson, Chairman DiPrete requested that the matter of Simon Richardson v. Providence School Board be heard in Executive Session. There were no objections from the members of the Board.

##### Michael Sadow v. Department of Department of Children Youth and Families

Attorney for the Board of Regents, Howard Haronian, read the recommended decision of the Board of Regents Appeals Committee, as attached. Following a brief discussion of the facts of the case, the Board acted as follows:

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** THAT, in the Matter of Michael Sadow versus the Department of Children Youth and Families, the Decision of the Commissioner is Affirmed.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously

#### Adoption of Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test and the Early Childhood Education Test for Early Childhood Educators

The Director of the Office of Teacher Preparation, Certification and Professional Development, Paula Jo Gaines, reviewed the process for the implementation of the early childhood tests and the proposed recommendations. She explained that the Department is proposing the elimination of the current testing requirement for Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education and adopt, effective January 1, 2007, the Early Childhood Education Test and the Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test for the issuance of an Early Childhood Special Educator Certificate. Additionally, that the Board adopt a passing score of 171 for the Early Childhood Education and a passing score of 169 for the Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test. The group discussed the testing

validation process. The Commissioner asked that the Regents review the change in the testing requirements after a period of time to make sure that it doesn't require any additional work.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education eliminates the current testing requirement for Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education and adopt, effective January 1, 2007 the Early Childhood Education Test and the Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test for the issuance of an Early Childhood Special Educator Certificate.**

**And that, the Board of Regents adopt a passing score of 171 for the Early Childhood Education Test and a passing score of 169 for the Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test.**

**Finally, that the Board of Regents continue to accept the two tests required for elementary educations (Elementary Content Knowledge Test and Elementary Content Area Exercises Test) as meeting the testing requirements for early childhood certification. The two early childhood tests would not be acceptable in meeting the testing requirement for elementary certification.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously**

#### **Approval of Alternate Assessment Standard Setting**

Director of the Office of Assessment and Accountability, MaryAnn Snider, and RIDE staff member, Cynthia Corbridge reviewed the proposal for the alternate assessment cut scores, as attached. Ms. Corbridge explained to the group that the purpose of standard setting is to develop "cut scores" that will be used to classify students' RIAA performance relative to proficiency levels of proficient or non-proficient. She told them that the Standard Setting Report is for the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment Pilot in Reading and Mathematics for grades 2 through 8 and 10. This assessment is for the 1% of Rhode Island's students with significant cognitive disabilities. A committee of Rhode Island educators representing both general education and special education used a standards-validation process to make their determinations and recommendations.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Accept the Standard Setting Report for the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment Pilot Design, and Approve an Overall Cut Point of 133.5 for the Pilot Assessment and Establish Individual Cut Scores for Reading (70.5 points), Writing (61.5 points) and Mathematics (69.5 points).**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

### Report on Statewide Curriculum

RIDE Director of the Office of Instruction, Diane Schaefer, distributed a DRAFT copy of the Statewide Curriculum – enclosed. She told the members of the board that there will be an official roll out with the Governor’s Office, the legislature and the teacher unions sometime within the next month. The department will schedule, with the BOR CASP Committee a briefing meeting/workshop before the event.

### Review of Proposed Changes to “Regulations of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Regarding Literacy, Proficiency Based Graduation and Restructuring of the Learning Environment at the Middle and High School Levels”.

Regent Callahan reviewed the work of the Board of Regents Committee on Academic Programs (CASP) on the proposed changes to the Secondary Regulations highlighting the addition of section 5.4 (Authority to Grant Diploma). She distributed revised copies outlining the proposed changes that were made based on the public hearings, meeting with constituencies and CASP committee members. She noted that work in ongoing and meetings with various constituencies is being scheduled. The Commissioner told the Board that they will probably have to schedule another public hearing on the proposed changes.

### Regents’ Committee Reports

PS&I – Chairman of the Regents’ PS&I Committee, Patrick Guida told the group that he, Regents Callahan and Camara had visited the Central Falls school district on Tuesday for the Commissioner’s review visit.

Educator Quality – Chairman of the Regent’s Educator Quality Committee, Karin Forbes reported that the group will meet on December 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. On the agenda will be a Discussion of Early Childhood Certification; Administrator Certification; and a discussion of Alternate Teaching Certification.

Finance & Personnel – Chairman of the Regents’ Finance/Personnel Committee, Bob Camara reported on the proposed changes to the school construction process and the need to form a partnership with the Department of Administration. He also told the Board that his group is looking at school lunch contracts and working with “Kids First” and the Departments of Administration and Corrections on a purchasing program. RIDE and the Auditor General’s Office are collaborating on developing a unified chart of accounts. The first draft will be completed by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 with a final recommendation completed by June 2007. All districts to implement the plan by 2009. Districts will test the system in 2007 and 2008.

State and Charter Schools – Reporting for the Chairman of the BOR State and Charter Schools Committee, Regent A. Beretta reported that committee members will visit the Beacon Charter School on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner McWalters distributed the white papers on Adult Education and the Urban Agenda and explained to the Regents that the papers would now be sent over to the state budget office for consideration.

### Executive Agenda

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** As per RIGL 42-46-5(1) personnel issues/Appeal of Simon Richardson versus the Providence School Board, the Board voted unanimously to recess into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. [A role count was taken to recess into Executive Session as follows: DiPrete – yes; Guida – yes; Callahan – yes; Beretta – yes; Camara – yes; Forbes – yes; Paradis – yes]

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:20 p.m.

Chairman DiPrete reported that during Executive Session, the Board voted unanimously to Affirm the Decision of the Commissioner in the matter of Simon Richardson versus Providence School Board. [A role count was taken on the Appeal as follows: DiPrete – Affirm; Guida – Affirm; Callahan – Affirm; Beretta – Affirm; Camara – Affirm; Forbes – Affirm; Paradis – Affirm]

Moved and Seconded: As per RIGL 42-46-5(1) personnel issues, the Board voted unanimously to recess into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:33 p.m.

### Adjournment

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.