

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 9, 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, K. Forbes, P. Guida,

Chairman's Remarks

- Chairman DiPrete reported to the group that he had attended the Wallace Foundation Annual Leadership for Learning Grantee Meeting in St. Louis, MO on October 25-28, 2006;
- and then introduced 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 had held their annual President's meeting and it had been very well attended by students and advisors. She then distributed a report – attached.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of September 28, 2006

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2006.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Alternate Assessment GSEs and Science GSEs

RIDE assessment staff member, Cynthia Corbridge reviewed the process for consideration of the alternate assessment grade span expectations, as presented. She explained that the alternate grade span expectations (AGSEs) are for the 1% of Rhode Island's students who participate in the Alternate Assessment Program. The AGSEs are extensions of the GLEs/GSEs in reading, writing, mathematics and science for students in kindergarten through the twelfth-grade. They were developed and reviewed by Rhode Island educators and serve as a blueprint for the state Alternate Assessment and as a guide to instruction and curriculum. They are year long assessments that look at tasks that the student can perform, rather than just testing academic materials.

RIDE staff member, Linda Jzyc then reviewed the process of developing the science grade span expectations for grades K-12. She explained that these were developed in partnership with the state of New Hampshire and identifies the content knowledge, enduring themes and inquiry skills needed in life, physical and earth/space science. Ms. Jzyc also told the group about the work of the PK-16 science advisory committee on the GSEs.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Grade Span Expectations for the AGSEs in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science and the GSEs in Science.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

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

The Commissioner requested that this item be re-scheduled until December. There were no objections.

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 changes that were made based on the public hearings and a recent CASP meeting. She said that the suggested changes are reflected in green and red. She also told the Board that most of the proposed revisions are to clarify language. Additionally, that most of the feedback from the public hearings was positive, but there were some concerns expressed around issues related to graduation requirements for special needs students. Ms. Callahan told the members of the Board that CASP has engaged a lot of people at the community level and worked closely with RIDE’s Legal Counsel, Jennifer Wood to ensure that the document is consistent with regulatory language and state law. Chairman DiPrete noted that the strengthening of the language in the revised document is great.

Regent Callahan thanked the Board for their comments and asked that they read the document over and let her know of any additional comments or concerns they might have prior to the next Board meeting on December 14, 2006.

Update on Central Falls

Dr. William Holland, Interim Superintendent in Central Falls, reported to the Board that he has been looking at all the reports that have been written over the years about Central Falls and is now ready to begin putting together some recommendations to go to the Commissioner and then to the Regents for consideration. He has worked closely with the Central Falls Board of Trustees for options for Central Falls High School. He said that he is encouraged by what he sees in grades K-8 noting that there is good leadership there and would like to leave them alone for the time being to “see what unfolds”. He noted that while the high school needs significant change, there is a window of opportunity there. Mr. Holland also told the Board that a change in leadership and governance structure of the high school needs to be implemented immediately and that the state PS&I system is one of the most positive things that has happened.

The Regents discussed if the redesign of the school should be left to the new leadership/Superintendent and the importance of a smooth transition.

Chairman DiPrete noted that it is essential that the best person possible be hired to work with the district, but that shouldn’t happen until after Mr. Holland’s recommendations have been implemented. The Chairman said that a Regents work session will be scheduled to review the re-structuring plan in detail.

Presentation on Department Web Site (in development) and Data Warehouse

Ed Giroux, RIDE Director of Office of Network & Information Systems (ONIS) introduced this item and gave a special thanks to his development staff, Chris Poirier, Andrew Beardsley, Derick Ariyam, and Betty Landry. He also told Board members that with the new system each office has a person designated to help coordinate the posting of the publishing information for each department and that each director is responsible for the content for their individual department. RIDE staff Christopher Poirier then gave the Board a demonstration of the new website.

Regents' Committee Reports

Educator Quality – Chairman of the Regent's Educator Quality Committee, Karin Forbes reported that the group will meet on December 11th at 3:30 p.m. 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. On November 15th there will be a meeting to review an RFP for a statewide school lunch contract. RIDE and the Auditor General's Office are collaborating on developing a unified chart of accounts. The first draft will be completed by January 1st with a final recommendation completed by June 2007. All districts to implement the plan by 2009. Districts will test the system 2007 and 2008.

PS&I – Chairman of the Regents' PS&I Committee, Patrick Guida gave the group a status report on the PS&I districts.

State and Charter Schools – Reporting for the Chairman of the BOR State and Charter Schools Committee, Regent A. Beretta reported that committee members had visited four Charter Schools during the past month: Times², Textron, CVS Highlander, and the Learning Connection. She gave the Board a brief overview of each school, highlighting strengths and weaknesses, future plans, student population, and state test results.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner spoke briefly about Governor Carcieri's re-election and his ongoing focus on education. As part of that discussion, the Regents talked about re-structuring their monthly meetings so that once a month, instead of a regular meeting of the Board, the group would meet in a topic oriented work session addressing such topics as the urban education agenda, high school and restructuring, professional development, and alternate certification possibilities.

Executive Agenda

There was no Executive Meeting.

Adjournment

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