

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 18, 2007**

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 pm.

In Attendance

J. DiPrete, A. Beretta, K. Forbes, P. Guida, and R. Camara

Public Remarks

- Donna Lee Houle, Woonsocket Parent – posed several questions to the Regents concerning the selection of curriculum and math programming at the local level. The questions were referred to Sharon Osborne for response.
- Allen L. Auclair, a member of the Woonsocket School Committee and parent – expressed his concerns about changes in the Woonsocket mathematics curriculum and special needs expenditures.

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 is in the last phase of planning for their yearly state conference scheduled for February 11 and 12. Also, the state presidents and state directors from each of the New England States met in January and interviewed candidates to represent Rhode Island on the National Association Board. Michaela Tracy from Coventry High School was selected. A complete copy of Ms. Groh's report is available.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of December 14, 2006

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2006.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Principal Certificate Requirements

Paula Jo Gaines, Director of the Office of Educator Quality & Certification gave the Regents an overview of the process for reviewing the proposed Principal certificate requirements and then reviewed, in detail, the proposal recommending the following changes:

- Experience as a certified educator, rather than only as a certified teacher, will meet the experience requirement for principal certification;
- Implementation of a requirement for the completion of a field experience component, either college/university based or school district based, for applicants seeking principal certification through transcript analysis;
- Implementation of standards for the approval of district level field experience programs.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary & Secondary Education adopt, effective August 31, 2007, the attached regulations found in Appendix II for the certification of elementary/middle principals and for the certification of middle/secondary principals.

AND THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary & Secondary Education adopt, effective August 31, 2007, the attached standards found in Appendix II for the Approval of District Field Experience Programs for School Principals.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Request of Waiver to Principal Certification Requirements

Chairman DiPrete requested that this item was removed from the agenda. There were no objections.

Approval to Waive Section 3.05 of the Board of Regents Personnel Policy

Commissioner McWalters explained to the members of the Board that now that Jennifer Wood is leaving the Department, there is a need to re-organize and re-evaluate the position of Chief of Staff. Therefore it is recommended that:

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education waives the requirement of Section 3.05 of the personnel policy manual and Authorizes the Commissioner to Fill the Position of Chief of Staff/Director of Policy as Expediently as Possible.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

NECAP Report

Commissioner McWalters reported that the Department hasn't received any final results on the NECAP testing, but the three states (Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont) are receiving preliminary results and are working on the final report which will be made public sometime next week. The Commissioner told the Board that the first reports look as if Rhode Island students have made significant gains.

Budget Update/Statewide Efficiencies/Uniform Chart of Accounts

Director of the Office of Finance, Carolyn Dias reported that the Department has received notice from the Governor that there is a major state budget deficit and therefore a freeze on all non essential expenses and travel. Also, that the Governor's budget may be released next week. The Department will come back to the Regents with a full report as soon as the budget is released. The Chairman of the Board of Regents Finance Committee, Bob Camara reported to the group on the status of the work on statewide efficiencies and the proposed new construction regulations. Mr. Camara told the Board that he had met with Representatives Constantino and Lewis and Senators Alves, Montalbano and Paiva-Weed to talk about the Regents priorities. They were all especially interested in the proposed new school construction regulations. He told them that the proposed new housing regulations DRAFT will be ready within the next couple of weeks for Regents approval for public hearing, with final approval by May, 2007.

Legislative Update

RIDE Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Legislative Relations, Andy Andrade, distributed an information package on the 2007 General Assembly and a legislative report as of January 18, 2007. He will keep the Regents updated as the legislative session proceeds.

Regents' Committee Reports

Administrator & Teacher Quality - Regent Forbes reported that the Administrator and Teacher Quality Committee is looking at ways toward alternate certification, however wants to make sure whatever is done ensures quality and uniformity.

Finance & Personnel – Regent Camara reported that his committee had met and reviewed the first draft of the new regulations on school construction which would be coming to the Regents for approval for public hearing within the next couple of months. Budget hearings will be starting in approximately three weeks.

PS&I – Regent Guida reported to the members of the Board that the Face-to-Face meetings have begun and will be held throughout the next five months. Commissioner McWalters reported that he has spoken to the superintendents of the five urban districts about the possibility of working together as part of an “urban agenda” to prioritize issues. We will come back with dates and topics.

Commissioner's Report

Central Falls Update – Commissioner McWalters reported that Central Falls Acting Superintendent Dr. William Holland met with the Governor; the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Frank Caprio; and URI President Robert Carothers on a URI-Central Falls Education Partnership. All agreed to proceed and will be developing a plan over the next couple of months.

Chairman DiPrete read a letter of resignation from Regent Maurice Paradis. The letter is enclosed.

Adjourned to Executive Session 6:15 p.m.

Executive Agenda

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(2), the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 6:25 p.m.

Adjournment

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.