

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 26, 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 4:15 pm.

In Attendance

J. DiPrete, A. Beretta, B. Camara, P. Guida, K. Forbes and G. Grove.

Public Remarks

- There were no public remarks, however Regent Patrick Guida requested to be recognized. Mr. Guida announced that Chairman DiPrete would be retiring at the end of June and distributed a press release from the Governor announcing his retirement. Mr. Guida expressed the Board's sorrow at Mr. DiPrete's retirement and thanked him for his service.

Chairman's Remarks

- Ms. Sara Groh, President of the Rhode Island Association of Student Councils spoke to the Board about the end of the year activities that her association is planning. A full report is available.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2007.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Appointments to Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees

Chairman of the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee Gary Grove, told board members that his committee had met earlier to discuss the appointments of Mary Wambach and Travis Zellner to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Grove recommended Ms. Wambach and Mr. Travis' appointments.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Appointments of Members to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, as Recommended by the Board of Regents' State and Charter Schools Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Appointment of Chairman to William M. Davies Career & Technical School Board of Trustees

Once again, Mr. Grove addressed the Board and recommended, on behalf of the State and Charter Schools Committee, the appointment of James Segovis, Executive-in-Residence at Brown University and currently serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Davies Board to fill the vacancy of Chairman to the Davies Board of Trustees.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Appointment of Chairman to the William M. Davies Career and Technical School Board of Trustees, as Recommended by the Board of Regents' State and Charter School Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Perkins Career & Technical School Plan for Transmittal

RIDE staff member, Vanessa Cooley reviewed the agenda item for the group as presented in Enclosure 6 of the Board of Regents package. The Regents had hosted a Board work session earlier in the week on this item, so Ms Cooley gave a brief explanation of the agenda item. She explained that the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan is a federal requirement for continued funding that must be authorized for transmittal by the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Carl. D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 State Plan for Transmittal to the U.S. Department of Education, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Alternate Assessment Alignment Study

RIDE Director of the Office of Assessment and Accountability, Mary Ann Snider, and RIDE staff member, Cynthia Corbridge reviewed the agenda item for Board consideration. Ms. Corbridge explained that the purpose of this study was to examine the alignment between the Rhode Island content standards (i.e. NECAP Grade Level Expectations) and the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment Grade Span Expectations in reading, writing and mathematics and that this assessment is for the 1% of Rhode Island's students with significant cognitive disabilities. She said that the alignment study was designed by the National Center for Assessment, applying the conceptual framework developed by the National Alternate Assessment Center and The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. A committee of Rhode Island educators representing both general education and special education conducted the study.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Accept the Alignment Study Report for the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Alternate Assessment Standard Setting

Again, Ms. Corbridge explained that the assessment is for the 1% of Rhode Island's students with significant cognitive disabilities and explained that the purpose of standard setting is to develop "cut scores" that will be used to classify students' RIAA performance relative to four proficiency levels. A committee of Rhode Island educators representing both general education and special education used a standards-validation process to make their determinations and recommendations.

The group discussed the difference between the 1% of the of the students that the agenda item is referring to versus the group of students that are behind in their grade level academics, but with time, will be able to catch up.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Accept the January 2007 Standard Setting Report for the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment Pilot Design, and Approve Cut Points for Each of the Four Achievement Levels: Substantially Below Proficient, Partially Proficient, Proficient, or Proficient with Distinction by Content Area.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards for Public Hearing

Director of Office of Educator Quality and Certification Paulajo Gaines and RIDE Deputy Commissioner David Abbot explained that the RIBTS [the Rhode Island Beginning Teaching Standards] are now becoming the RIPTS [Rhode Island Teaching Standards]. He explained that the RIBTS are the expectations of what teachers need to know and be able to do and have been used as part of the Standards for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs since 1996 to assess candidate performance in pre-service preparation programs. It has been recognized for some time that the RIBTS needed to be transformed into the RIPTS that will be recognized by all Rhode Island educators and will be used in a variety of ways to support educator quality. Ms. Gaines then reviewed the proposed changes in detail, as enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve, for Purpose of Public Hearing, the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS) as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Chairman DiPrete requested that the Board allow Mr. Timothy Duffy, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees to address the Board as part of public comments. Mr. Duffy had been held up at the State House and was unable to get to the meeting in time for public comments. There were no objections. Mr. Duffy requested that he be allowed to make a presentation to the Regents on his work with various education constituents (RI Federation of Teachers, NEA, Superintendents Association, the Education Partnership, RIPEC) on state education funding. Chairman DiPrete told Mr. Duffy that he will entertain Mr. Duffy's request.

Update on Changes to Special Education Regulations

Regent Amy Beretta told the members of the board that the Regents had a work session on this item and that the Regents in attendance had requested that the RIDE Office of Special Needs address some issues that had come up during the session – the funding of special education services to private school children, personnel, and the length of the school year. There is a second work session scheduled for Thursday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Regents' Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Chairman Bob Camara reported on the two public hearings held on the proposed changes to the School Construction Regulations and the Finance Committee meeting held earlier today. He highlighted changes to the following sections of the new school construction regulations that have been revised in response to the public hearings: Section 1.06-2 Space Allowance Guidelines; Section 1.07-3 Ineligible Costs; and Section 1.11-1 Asset Protection and Maintenance. There were also changes to Section 1.03-1 General Requirements (#10), Section 1.05-4 Consolidation (#1), and Section 1.11-2 Certified Educational Facilities Manager (b).

Administrator & Teacher Quality - Regent Forbes reported that the committee will be reviewing the Highly Qualified Teacher Plan one more time and then will come to the full board for approval for public hearing. The committee will also be considering the certification or endorsement of literacy coaches.

PS&I- Regent Guida – Regent Patrick Guida reported that Hope High School has been taken off probationary status by the Association of Schools and Colleges; and the district face-to-face meetings are ongoing.

CASP – Regent Callahan reported that the secondary regulations are undergoing a final legal review and would then be brought back to the Regents for review and discussion.

State and Charter Schools – Regent Grove told the group that the Committee is scheduled to visit the Cranston Construction Career Academy and the Blackstone Academy.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner McWalters reported on his trip to Dubai.

Executive Agenda

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.