

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees
The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center
325 Public Street, Providence, RI 02905
March 17, 2016

Present: Lorén Spears, Omar Ajaj, Herb Cummings, Keith Oliveira, Lela Morgan, Kas DeCarvalho, Michelle Curreri

Also present: Dennis Littky, Nancy Diaz Bain, Lucas Lussier, Matthew Plain, Greg Vanden-Eykel

8:10 AM meeting called to Order by Keith Oliveira.

Introduction of new Board of Trustee Member Lorén Spears

Discussion/vote to approve Minutes from 12/2/15

- Motion by Keith Oliveira and seconded by Herb Cummings to approve the December 2, 2015 minutes.
All those in favor: 7; opposed: 0; abstain: 0.

Update on Funding Formula

- Kas DeCarvalho was the Met's representative to the committee.
- There are not enough state resources to fulfill needs.
- Technical Education is still suffering without adequate funding and something we need to continue to push for in the state.
- With the advent of the funding formula, the board's rigorous stewardship plan for the future-Met has helped forestall the financial inevitability of inadequate resources.
- One RI technical school is currently facing restructuring by the state because the current funding formula does not provide the resources necessary to continue to operate the program. The school can no longer afford to continue the program without intervention.
- Technical schools need the funding formula to reflect the extra costs associated with technical education. Other states, including Massachusetts, provide technical schools with a weighted 1.33% formula above the formula applied to traditional schools. The Met will continue to work for the creation of a funding formula in RI that reflects this.
- The committee's conversations centered on traditional schools and charter schools with little attention given to technical schools. The Funding Formula Committee had an impossible task; many needs from all stakeholders and few resources.
- Charles Walton and Dennis Littky suggested contacting Leo Skenyon, House Chief of Staff and Tom Mullaney and creating a reference tool that lists helpful contacts and resources to facilitate work on the funding formula in RI. (Action Item)

Ken Wagner Article

- Commissioner Wagner, in a recent newspaper article, addressed wanting to see change in Rhode Island educational practices: high school students taking college classes, personalized education, etc. In an effort to educate the Commissioner about the Met, which piloted these things and has refined them over the past 20 years, Nancy and Dennis met with him to help him make the connection.

Discussion Regarding Status of Budget/District Issues

- End of 2nd quarter: The biggest revenue deficit is for uncollected tuition as of the 2nd quarter.
- Other line items are within tolerances.
- Banking proposal document shows scenarios of breaking out monies to 3 different banks
 - Funds need to be low risk and highly liquid, perhaps laddered investments.
 - Herb Cummings and Omar Ajaj will form a committee on investments and scenarios. Other interested board members welcome. (Action Item)

At 9:18 AM, Motion by Keith Oliveira and seconded by Omar Ajaj to convene executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2): Sessions pertaining to reasonable anticipated litigation pertaining to the refusal of Coventry, Cranston, East Providence, Foster-Gloscester, Newport, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, North Providence, Pawtucket, and Tiverton to pay tuition for student(s) enrolled at the Met. All those in favor: 7; opposed: 0; abstain: 0. Roll Call Vote: all in favor.

Motion to Conclude Executive Session/Reconvene Open Session by Keith Oliveira and seconded by Lela Morgan. All those in favor: 7; opposed: 0; abstain: 0. Roll Call Vote: all in favor.

9:35 AM Motion by Keith Oliveira and seconded by Michelle Curreri to seal minutes/votes taken during executive session if disclosure of such minutes/votes in open session would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2). All those in favor: 7, opposed: 0; abstain: 0. Roll Call Vote: all in favor.

Discussion/Vote on Public Comment Protocol

Motion by Nancy Bain and seconded by Omar Ajaj to postpone Public Comment Protocol until the next meeting. All those in favor: 7, opposed: 0; abstain: 0. Roll Call: All yes.

Student speakers

Met in the news

Meeting adjourned 9:57 AM.