



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The second meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Education was held on Monday, April 8th, 2013, at Rhode Island College, Student Ballroom, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence 02908. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Present: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

Absent: None

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of March 11, 2013.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2013 MEETING

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2013.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mancuso thanked President Carriuolo for hosting tonight's meeting and asked Dr. Carriuolo to introduce Sarah Pothier, a Rhode Island College student and 2013 winner of the Richard Maltby Jr. Award for Excellence in Musical Theater, who performed a song for the board and audience.

4. OPEN FORUM

Chair Mancuso explained to the audience that the Board of Education would allow 30 minutes for public comment, limited to two minutes per person and beginning with comments pertaining to approval items on tonight's meeting agenda before accepting comments on other topics. Speakers wishing to speak on the same topic as others were welcome to appear on record stating that they agree with what others may have said on the same topic.

Members of the Board of Education were asked to give their full attention to speakers but were reminded that they could not engage speakers in conversation or answer questions. If concerns or questions were raised from Open Forum topics, the Board could direct staff to follow up.

Jennifer Effland, a founding teacher at Achievement First, spoke in support of Achievement First. Jean Yen Gilbert, a parent of two students in the school, and Julie Casimiro also each spoke in support of Achievement First. In lieu of speaking, Mayor Taveras' office distributed a letter (Appendix A) to Board members in support of Achievement First.

Deborah Perry, CEO of the YWCA of Rhode Island, and Jeremy Chiapetta, executive director at Blackstone Valley Prep, each spoke in support of the Skip Nowell Leadership Academy.

The following individuals each addressed the Board of Education in opposition to NECAP as a graduation requirement: Nancy Cloud of the Rhode Island Teachers of English Language Learners; Ken Fish, who identified himself as a former employee of the RI Department of Education; Robert Mayne, president of NEA, Chariho; Dawn Marouz, parent of a North Providence high school student; Steven Brown, executive director of the ACLU of Rhode Island; and the following members of the Providence Student Union: Cauldierre McKay, Monique Taylor, Yvette Gonzalez, Jinnelle Harrison, and George Perry.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

a. Report of the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Deborah Gist had four announcements:

1. Last Wednesday, she joined school leaders and teachers to discuss the international assessment project participated in last year. Participating schools include Central Falls, Chariho, East Greenwich, Westerly High School and two Pawtucket high schools.
2. Providence schools won a \$450,000 grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation to advance student learning.
3. Providence Career and Technical Academy has advanced two teams, the Rhody Girls and the Rhode Rebels, to compete in the world robotics competition. Best of luck was wished to the teams.
4. Rhode Island student musicians participated in the 47th annual Berkeley Jazz Festival at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Sixteen Rhode Island students

from six high schools participated and won awards at this very prestigious festival.

b. Report of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Commissioner Ray Di Pasquale had several announcements as well:

1. The Senate Finance Committee and House Finance Committee hearings were held, with Chair Mancuso and William Maaia having attended from the Board of Education. The hearings seem to have gone well and the public higher education system asked for the budget that had been recommended by Governor Chafee. Commissioner Di Pasquale stressed that URI, RIC and CCRI have never asked for a supplemental budget. O'Connor and Drew have been retained to perform an external audit for the system, and their findings will be reported back to the Board. Each institution is planning their budget to submit to OHE for review.
2. The Rhode Island Partnerships Project event begins at 7:30 a.m. on April 16th, and Governor Chafee is expected to attend.
3. The commissioner's report distributed to Board members includes an update on the Sawyer School. It is disappointing that few students chose to transfer to other institutions. Transportation and cost appear to be barriers for those students.
4. Michael Trainor is monitoring bills, and OHE will present on the fiscal impact and will testify to the House regarding a proposed bill regarding faculty.

6. APPROVAL ITEMS

Item 6a1 – Motion to Grant Charter to Rhode Island Charter Schools: Achievement First Rhode Island

Commissioner Gist explained that this was the first round of Board approval for granting a charter to Achievement First, and as presented at last week's work session, Achievement First has met all readiness requirements.

Lawrence Purtill asked for Achievement First attrition rates and for a summary of public hearings regarding the proposed charter school. Chief of Accelerating School Performance Andrea Castaneda addressed the attrition rate, which had been validated against peer data but is not generally published. The rate is between 6-7% once student relocations have been accounted for in calculations.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to issue final approval on Achievement First Rhode Island's charter application and award it a charter authorizing its operation for a five-year term beginning in the 2013-2014 school year and ending in the 2017-2018 school year.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: Colleen A. Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

Item 6a2 – Motion to Grant Charter to Rhode Island Charter Schools: Sheila C. Skip Nowell Leadership Academy

Antonio Barajas asked about the physical location of the school, the number of students, and financial aid. Ms. Castaneda explained that Skip Nowell will be in two locations, both certified to provide occupancy to pregnant and parenting teens. The number of students will correspond with that for what the school is able to provide staff and accommodations. The funding formula (in which the money goes with the student) covers attendance at Skip Nowell, so there will be no separate tuition and fees for families of students.

Colleen Callahan wondered if there was information on a program within Central Falls public schools that addresses pregnant and at-risk teens. Ms. Castaneda responded that there are a variety of such programs around the state and she would be happy to provide that information to Dr. Callahan.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Patrick Guida and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to issue final approval on Sheila C. Skip Nowell Leadership Academy's charter application and award it a charter authorizing its operation for a five-year term beginning in the 2013-2014 school year and ending in the 2017-2018 school year.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6b – Approval of FY '14 Statewide Budget Model Elements

Commissioner Gist explained that a standardized budget model would help with district accounting compliance requirements. These model elements were communicated to all town councils. Phase One would be enacted in FY '14, with the full phase beginning in FY '15.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the FY '14 Statewide Budget Model Elements as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence

Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6c – Approval of Cranston Area Career & Technical Center Transfer Agreement

Commissioner Gist explained that there are ten regional centers in Rhode Island, and all have been working to transfer ownership from the state to the county where the centers are operated. Woonsocket, Warwick and Cranston are the last three regional centers that have yet to transfer ownership. A \$3.2 million renovation is recommended, subject to capital budget funds.

The RI Department of Administration just notified the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education today of an amendment to the transfer agreement, amending this agreement from a quit claim deed to a bargain sale deed. Patrick Guida noted that a quit claim deed generally falls between a warranty and a bargain sale deed and requested more information regarding the deed. He understood that, from a state perspective, a bargain sale deed would have less risk than a quit claim deed, but he desired more information before the Board voted. Because the information was not immediately available due to the late notification by the Dept. of Administration, he suggested tabling this item until the Board's next meeting.

Cindy Brown expressed the urgency of this transfer agreement, noting that the item is scheduled before the State Properties Committee tomorrow and that an RFP is already out for the HVAC replacement, which must be done over the summer when students and staff are not in the building. David Abbott also said that the Attorney General's office had informed him that, if the language change is an issue, it was noted that the change is not officially going into effect until 2014, so the Board does have an opportunity to approve the original motion without the language change. After a brief discussion, the Board preferred to table this item and receive more information regarding the language change.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center Transfer Agreement be tabled until the Board of Education's next meeting.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: Jo Eva Gaines

Item 6d – Revised Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program Standards

Commissioner Gist explained that most of these revised standards changes are organizational and support alignment. The changes are voluntary and meet or exceed national standards.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves, for the purpose of public comment, the revised Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program Standards as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6e – Approval of Nominations for the Boards of Trustees of the William M. Davies, Jr. Career-Technical High School and the Central Falls School District

Commissioner Gist noted that each of these nominees was chosen for their leadership, experience, and commitment to education.

Antonio Barajas wondered if all board members were volunteers and asked about the length of term. It was confirmed that all are volunteers and for three-year terms.

Those board of trustees nominees were invited to stand and be recognized if in attendance. Skip Burns, one of the two nominees to the William M. Davis, Jr. Career-Technical High School Board of Trustees, was present and was recognized.

Colleen Callahan suggested that she would like to learn more on the process for selecting candidates. Lawrence Purtill agreed that he would like to know more on the candidates' views on education, for instance. It was agreed that it would be helpful for Board of Education members to learn more about school board candidates.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the appointments as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6f – Consideration of the adoption of a resolution authorizing the borrowing of up to \$65,000,000 in connection with the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Refunding Bonds, Board of Education Issue.

Associate Commissioner for Finance and Management Susan LaPanne explained that the system reviews bonds regularly in coordination with financial advisors in order to identify opportunities to save debt service interest. Currently, five series of bonds provide significant savings of approximately \$500,000 annually and \$6 million over the remaining life of the bonds.

Bond Counsel Normand Benoit from Partridge, Snow & Hahn, LLP and URI Vice President for Finance and Administration Robert Weygand were both present and available to answer any questions. There were none.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED:	That	the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the resolutions authorizing the borrowing of up to \$65,000,000 in connection with the issuance of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Refunding Bonds, Board of Education Issue.
	Vote:	11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
	NAYS:	0

Item 6g – Recommendation on the Mid-year Review for Fiscal Year 2013 Higher Education Budgets and Tables of Organization

Dr. LaPanne explained that initial budgets have been updated with confirmed enrollments, and current trends and activities are monitored. She explained reasons to review the budget throughout the year and noted that funds are not reallocated between the institutions or the Office of Higher Education.

The FY 2013 operational budget for the system of public higher education is \$1.05 billion, with \$147.4 million of that having been appropriated by the state. She reminded the Board of the difference between unrestricted funds (state appropriations, tuition and fees, and other operational income) and restricted funds (auxiliary enterprises – parking, bookstores, dining services, etc. – which are ancillary to education and must be self-supporting). She led the Board through a PowerPoint presentation explaining the different variances such as the differences between the projected and actual enrollments. Last year, the tuition and fees had increased 9.5%, 4.5% and 7.5%, respectively, at URI, RIC, and CCRI. This year, all three public higher education institutions are freezing their tuition and fee rates, with the exception of a \$4 Student Union fee increase at Rhode Island College.

At mid-year, there is a request to increase the unrestricted budget by \$4.9 million, which reflects a \$418,765 reduction in state support between the Governor's recommended budget and the mid-year enacted budget; an increase of \$700,000 in general obligation debt service; an increase in tuition of \$2.7 million; and an increase of \$1.3 million in other revenue combined with URI's use of fund balance of \$600,000. The \$418,765 reduction in state support was reflected in <\$133,191> at the University of Rhode Island and its crime lab, <\$127,549> at Rhode Island College, <\$148,982> at CCRI, and <\$9,043> at the Office of Higher Education.

Dr. LaPanne pointed out that although tuition will be frozen for the 2014 academic year, financial aid to students will increase 6.8% at URI and 5.3% at CCRI (with a very slight decrease of 0.02% at Rhode Island College). She stressed that URI will now be contributing \$93,792,261 in financial aid while only receiving \$58,000,000 in state appropriations – a fact that some board members found significant and surprising – and that CCRI's student aid, which is budgeted at \$3,949,606 for next year, is greatly helped by federal awards such as Pell grants.

Dr. LaPanne walked the Board through a tuition and fee comparison to peer institutions, which at the Board's request had been expanded to include non-New England states such as New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Rhode Island College is the best in-state "deal" among all its peers, while CCRI and URI are both comparable to their peers.

Rhode Island's public higher education tuition and fees are the 8th highest in the nation, but state funding for higher education per capita in Rhode Island is the 8th lowest in the country. However, Dr. LaPanne also noted that Governor Chafee's 2014 budget recommendation continues his effort to increase funding for public higher education.

Michael Bernstein applauded the system's decision to freeze tuition, noting that a recent *USA Today* article had reported some community colleges raising their tuition and fees to nearly unattainable levels.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by William Maaia and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED:	That	the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the mid-year budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2013 as presented.
	Vote:	11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
	NAYS:	0

Item 6h – Approval of a Nursing Education Planning Study

Commissioner Di Pasquale cited a need to avoid duplication in nursing programs in Rhode Island while meeting our state's needs. While this nursing education planning study is being conducted, new nursing programs would not be brought before the Board of Education for approval. Chair Mancuso added that this is a separate issue than the feasibility study done for the combined URI/RIC nursing school building proposal in December at the request of the

former Board of Governors for Higher Education's Facilities, Finance and Management Committee and stated that board members should receive a copy of that study.

Mathies Santos inquired whether there are plans to look at articulation between the Board of Regents-approved Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School and the three public institutions and was informed that all nursing education programs will be included in this study, whether offered at public colleges, private colleges, middle colleges, or state or private medical institutions. A systemic approach will be taken to this study.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the creation of a nursing education planning study, with the costs to be shared by the public higher education institutions and with the Board's Executive Committee charged with overseeing the study and providing its results to the Board upon completion.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6i – Approval of the Creation of a Nurse Anesthetist Program at the Rhode Island College School of Nursing in Conjunction with the St. Joseph Hospital School of Anesthesia for Nurses.

President Nancy Carriuolo explained that this M.S. Nurse Anesthetist program will be part of an existing M.S.N. program at RIC and will be in collaboration with the St. Joseph Hospital. Currently, students studying at St. Joseph's School of Anesthesia for Nurses then go to the University of Maine to complete their studies. This new anesthetist program will keep more nursing students in Rhode Island rather than losing them to Maine's existing program.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves Rhode Island College's proposal to add a nurse-anesthesia program option in the Master of Science in Nursing.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6j – Approval of a Fifth-Year M.S. in Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island

President David Dooley referred to his presentation at the Board's work session in which he had informed the board that this fifth-year M.S. would enable Oceanography students to begin working on their master's degree while still undergraduates and obtain their master's degree one year after receiving their bachelor's, saving them time and money. Oceanography is a very desirable program and this fifth-year M.S. is expected to attract even more students.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Patrick Guida, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the University of Rhode Island's proposal to start a fifth-year Master of Oceanography program.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6k – Approval of a Revised Resolution Regarding URI's Facility Clearance and Temporary Exclusion to Classified Information

President Dooley noted that security clearance has been in place at URI in order to bid on classified contracts and that many years ago the governing board had created a managerial group consisting of officers at URI and the current chair of the board. Chair Mancuso has now begun this security clearance process, and the rest of the board members will be spared from the process by designating clearance to a managerial group via that facility clearance resolution.

The purpose of the temporary exclusion is to exclude Chair Mancuso from receiving classified information until she has completed the security clearance process. In the future, President Dooley continued, the Board will be asked to approve a revised facility clearance resolution adding the chair to the managerial group for receipt of classified information.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adopts the attached revised resolution which delegates authority over user agency contracts to a managerial team at the University of Rhode Island; **and further,**

That the Rhode Island Board of Education adopts the attached temporary exclusion resolution which bars access of

classified information from those who have not yet obtained security clearance

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6l – University of Rhode Island Intellectual Property Policy

President Dooley explained that the intellectual property policy, which had been introduced and discussed at the Board's work session last Thursday, is designed to oversee, capture, and protect intellectual property. The policy is highly competitive and will help the University encourage faculty and help license new companies to operate in Rhode Island. The Board's hard copy meeting packets contain the revised version of the intellectual property policy for which approval is being sought.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Michael Grande and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and adopts the proposed University of Rhode Island Intellectual Property Policy.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6m – Approval of the Demolition of a Metal-Sided Building at the University of Rhode Island

Finally, President Dooley requested the Board's permission for URI to demolish a metal-sided building. The originally temporary structure has no meaningful value, and the University would like to remove it and improve parking and access in its place.

Chair Mancuso added that legislative changes will continue to be made to update laws which reference the now-defunct Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Governors for Higher Education. She suggested that agenda items like the demolition of this shed-like structure could be the type of approval that the Board of Education might wish to remove as one of its duties and designate to the institutions to handle themselves.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Michael Bernstein, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education grants permission to the University of Rhode Island for the demolition of the metal-sided building in conjunction with the development of a North District Parking Lot. Upon Board approval, the University will seek the approval of the State Properties Committee.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6n – Approval of the Awarding of Degrees at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island

Commissioner Ray Di Pasquale explained that the Board of Education has the authority to grant degrees and certificates to those candidates who have completed their graduation requirements at URI, RIC and CCRI. This approval is a formality necessary for the institutions to proceed with their commencement exercises. The presidents of each institution and their administrators have certified that the students meet the requirements for graduation.

On a motion entertained by Chair Mancuso, moved by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas and certificates to the candidates who will have completed their requirements at the conclusion of the Spring 2013 semester at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

8. FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

8a. In May, Commissioner Gist will introduce a discussion on the **Rhode Island Diploma System**. She said this is critical for Rhode Island and the education system in order to ensure that students leave high school knowing they are ready for next steps. They must reach a minimum level in both math and reading skills to achieve this readiness. Dr. Gist added that the NECAP is a valid measurement for student achievement and is designed to measure compared to state standards. She also noted that students receive multiple opportunities to meet this portion of the graduation requirement.

8b. President Carriuolo will speak in May about the **Henry Barnard School Tuition Rates for 2013-2014 Academic Year**. The tuition increase request is expected to be between 5% and 10%, which is still a bargain for an excellent education.

8c. President Carriuolo will also introduce the **Demolition of Building #29 (Fruit Hill Ave.) at Rhode Island College**. This was once a residence but has fallen into disrepair, and RIC does not have the funds to renovate it. The College would request the building's demolition for safety reasons.

8d. President Dooley notified the Board that URI may seek **Permission for URI Dining Services to Use Exception in purchasing policy provided to Campus Bookstores** at the Board's May meeting. He explained that the existing exemption provides the campus bookstore with a "resale" categorization. URI's dining services would make a case that they do the same thing as the bookstore – purchase items (food) to resell to students – and there has been some talk on campus of the dining services possibly pursuing the same exemption as that of the bookstore.

9. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley listed the following Notices of Change for the University of Rhode Island: The M.S. in Nursing, Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist area of emphasis; The 15-credit Graduate Certificate in GIS/RS; and the Post-B.S. Entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice. All of these are minor tweaks to existing programs and no board action is required for any of these changes.

Dr. Dooley noted that it has been an eventful month for URI, namely because of the alarming incident on campus. He informed the Board that the State Police and URI police departments are still investigating, looking at the large classroom that was originally evacuated because it was believed that someone with a gun was outside. It was determined that no gun appears to have been on campus that day, and no student who witnessed a gun has been located. President Dooley expressed gratitude that there were no injuries and said the faculty, staff and students did a great job. On the bright side, this was the most realistic simulation URI could have had without putting anyone in danger, and it helped the University identify what worked and what did not work. Cell phones and URI's website became overwhelmed with traffic, while both URI's Facebook and Twitter feeds remained functioning and helpful for distributing information. URI has determined a need for better communications and emergency/contingency

plans. The president thanked the South Kingston, URI, and State of Rhode Island police forces for their excellent responses and will keep the Board informed of findings from the incident.

William Maaia noted that the incident seems to have sparked some discussions on whether to arm campus police, and he distributed copies of two reports to his fellow Board of Education members that examine the issue from several angles and positions: a copy of the 2010 Campus Security Commission report to the RIBGHE, and a 2012 report by a Massachusetts college, "Arming MCLA Campus Police Officers: Background and Considerations." Chair Mancuso also asked that board members be provided with copies of minutes from those meetings of the former RIBGHE's Government Relations Committee, at which testimony was heard in discussions on the arming of campus police in Rhode Island.

b. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo reported that RIC Professor Emeritus of Archeology Richard Lobban has discovered a lost temple of the Meroitic Empire, generating excitement, and that RIC hosted a forum and panel discussion this morning sponsored by the American Democracy Project (ADP) entitled, "The Shifting Tides of Investigative Reporting: Perspectives from Leading Practitioner" and moderated by Jim Taricani of NBC-10.

RIC is working on a sustainability conference with Gilbane Construction and Arpin Movers that will take place on May 7, 2013.

In sports, Bob Walsh, RIC's men's basketball coach, was named Little East Coach of the Year and the men's basketball senior captain was named NCAA All-Star. RIC wrestler Jonathan Murray earned Scholar All-American honors.

Finally, Dr. Carriuolo was pleased to announce that RIC Professor of English Maureen Reddy is the 2013 recipient of the prestigious George N. Dove Award, which recognizes mystery and fiction writers.

c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale reported that this is All College Week at CCRI, which has a number of events, most notably an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to participate in community service at various organizations around the state and provides faculty and staff with a Professional Development Day, which will be held this Friday on the Warwick campus.

Mr. Di Pasquale recognized President Dooley's report on the incident at URI, stating that this is a different time for our nation and praising the State Police for their excellent training services.

In baseball, CCRI's women's team is in a national tournament, while both the men's and women's teams won regionals.

Nine manufacturing CEOs have requested that CCRI offer specialized certificates in exchange for guaranteed jobs for students. Additional training is always needed to fill manufacturing jobs. Jo Eva Gaines wondered if those were two-year degrees, and President Di Pasquale explained that they are specific certificates offered in 16-week (or less) courses that are designed to meet very specific needs identified by the CEOs.

At the conclusion of the presidents' reports, Chair Mancuso noted that Elizabeth Burke Bryant of Kids Count was present at this meeting, noting she she began the day with a 7 a.m. breakfast event with Ms. Burke Bryant at which a 2013 fact book was released. Chair Mancuso

will be happy to share the fact book with interested board members and commended Ms. Burke Bryant and her group for all their work for Rhode Island kids and families.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mancuso entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss an update on pending litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2), noting that any action related to items discussed in executive session would be taken when the Board of Education reconvened in Open Session.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education convenes in Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reason set forth above.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Ray Di Pasquale, Commissioner of Higher Education/President of CCRI; Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Education; David Abbott, General Counsel for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Office of Higher Education; David Dooley, President of URI; and Nancy Carriuolo, President of RIC.

At the conclusion of the discussions, Chair Mancuso asked for a motion to reconvene in Open Session. On a motion duly made by Michael Grande and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education reconvenes in open session.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:08 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seals the minutes of the Executive Session discussion on April 8, 2013.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

13. NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 8th, 4 p.m. work session at the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Shepard Building, Room 501, Providence, Rhode Island.

Thursday, May 23rd (note: original date of Monday, May 20th has changed), 5:30 p.m. meeting at the University of Rhode Island, Ryan Center, Kingston.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Patrick Guida, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.