



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Monday, December 1, 2014, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone to the second quarterly meeting of the R.I. Board of Education, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. She stated for the record that Member Gaines would not be joining the meeting as she was being inaugurated as the new Chair of the Newport School Committee. She also welcomed the three ex-officio, non-voting members of the R.I. Board of Education. Connie Howes, Chair of the Governor's Workforce Board; Marcel Valois, Governor Chafee's representative as Chair of the R.I. Commerce Corporation; and John Rainone, a student at R.I. College, who also serves as the student representative on the Council of Postsecondary Education.

Attendance was as follows:

Antonio Barajas: present
Amy Beretta: present
Michael Bernstein: present
Colleen Callahan: present
Dennis Duffy: present
Karin Forbes: present
Jo Eva Gaines: **absent**
Patrick Guida: present
Constance Howes: present
Thomas Izzo: present
Eva-Marie Mancuso: present
Judy Ouellette: present
Lawrence Purtill: present
Kerry Rafanelli: present
John Rainone: present
Mathies Santos: present
John Smith: present
Joyce Stevos: present
Marcel Vallois: present (arrived at 5:15 p.m.)
Jeffery Williams: present

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of December 1, 2014.

Vote: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the August 4, 2014, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 4, 2014, meeting

Vote: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Mancuso reminded everyone wishing to address the Board that they would be limited to two minutes. The following individuals spoke:

- Edward Kalonian, Copy Editor – The Unfiltered Lens - addressed the Board on the increase of tuition costs at the public institutions of higher education.
- Sheila Resseger, Retired Educator, addressed the Board in opposition of the Common Core State Standards
- Jo-Ann Schofield, CEO of the R.I. Mentoring Partnership, shared her organization's mission as she is looking to see if there is any synergy around the Board's plans in working together with the R.I. Mentoring Partnership in the future.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Chair Mancuso reported that on Thursday, December 11, 2014, at 5:00 p.m., the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education will be hosting a special ceremony to honor the 2014 R.I. Commended Schools. These 30 schools have earned the highest rating in our classification system based on a combination of factors, including percentage of students attaining proficiency and proficiency with distinction, progress toward annual goals, closing achievement gaps, and, in the case of high schools, graduation rates.

She then turned to President Dooley who had a special announcement to make.

President Dooley shared with the Board an education story about a young woman, Morgan Brien, who grew up in a small family farm in West Greenwich, CT., whose parents both earned their undergraduate degrees at the University of R.I. and their graduate degrees at R.I. College. He emphasized that aside from running a farm, the young woman's parents are also public school teachers. Ms. Brien earned her Bachelor's Degree from U.R.I. where she was a participant in the school's honors program. She studied abroad multiple times, pursued undergraduate research in anthropology and archeology and is a certified diver. Aside from completing lots of undergraduate research, she has also won numerous awards at U.R.I., and more recently, the first URI student to be awarded recognition as a Marshall Scholar.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gist began by reporting that this evening RIDE is hosting the first of two informational sessions for all the individuals who applied to be on the Ambassador Design Team that will develop the next strategic plan. She then shared some high-level information of the results of both the statewide survey and of the applicants pursuing service on the Ambassador Design Team.

She went on to give an update on the Common Core and the PARCC Assessments, which are being administered for the first time in the spring. RIDE is really excited about the work and in partnership with postsecondary education and school districts, conducted more than 30 community forums and informational sessions on the Common Core State Standards, and held day-long workshops in preparing for the PARCC assessments. She conveyed that over the last five years R.I. has invested countless hours and 11.3 million dollars in preparation for the transition to the standards. More time and resources have been invested in this transition than on any other transition in R.I. history.

She completed her update by sharing how fortunate R.I. is that the White House invited two Rhode Island educators, Gara Field, Principal at the Pleasant View Elementary School in Providence, and West Warwick Superintendent Karen Tarasevich, to participate in "ConnectED to the Future," a day-long conference held two weeks ago to "explore the potential of education technology and the innovations needed to bring America's schools into the digital age."

Commissioner Purcell deferred his remarks.

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS OF THE COUNCIL

Patrick Guida, Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, began by reporting that the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and RIDE have been actively working on the first stage of the PK-12 strategic planning process, which focuses on broad-scale engagement. As part of that effort, a statewide survey was launched with the goal of gathering 10,000 responses by December 31st as well as a statewide recruitment for a community-based team called the Ambassador Design Team. Over 200 applications were submitted from which RIDE and the Council will select between 15 and 20 individuals, who will begin their work in January and will produce 3-4 drafts of the skeleton of our PK-12 strategic plan over the coming months.

Next, he shared that the 16-member working group appointed by Governor Chafee a year ago to develop a set of recommendations to increase educator autonomy in Rhode Island, will present its report and recommendations to Governor Chafee on December 15th.

The working group, which included Commissioner Gist, Karen Castagno, a professor in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development @ RIC and Chair Guida, met monthly in public sessions to discuss the issue of educator autonomy and to develop the recommendations. The group also conducted interviews with various education experts from around the country on how to expand educator autonomy. He encouraged Board members to take the group's recommendations very seriously and to work in reviewing existing laws and regulations that will give educators more freedom to make more autonomous decisions about what goes on in the classroom and beyond.

Michael Bernstein, Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, began his update by sharing that it has been an honor to serve with each and every Board member and

commended Commissioner Purcell and the staff in the Office of Postsecondary Education for their hard work over the last few months during challenging times. He went on to say that notwithstanding the fact there are a lot of important issues being addressed, he is also trying to focus on where postsecondary education needs to be in the out years. He also commended the very competent staff at the three public institutions of higher education in developing the budget and tuition increases, which the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education presented to the Board for consideration that evening.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Enclosure 6a - Mental Health First Aid Training and Grant

Board Chair Mancuso introduced the first topic of discussion and welcomed Dr. Richard Leclerc, President of Gateway Healthcare (a Lifespan partner) who walked the Board through a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed implementation of Mental Health First Aid training as a consistent, simple, cost-effective, large-scale measure to assist in dealing with the increasing pressures of mental health issues in the educational environment. She also announced that she had asked Members Callahan, Izzo and Purtill to serve on an-hoc committee of the Board that she is putting together to look for ways in which the Board can join the education community in addressing mental health.

Enclosure 6b - Strategic Planning for 2015-2020

Chair Mancuso began by reminding everyone that both the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education have been working on their respective strategic plans and that the Full Board needs to start having a conversation about their larger vision for public education in Rhode Island. She went on to say that she has been working with the Chairs of both Councils and the Commissioners to ensure their respective planning activities are all moving toward an aligned system of governance, policy-making, and implementation. As the Board Chair, it is her responsibility to make certain that there is a process that ensures alignment between the Councils and Departments and that the plans that are produced are coordinated and all serving a shared set of goals. She then walked Board Members through a set of slides displaying how the plans fit together and how she sees the planning process unfolding over the coming months.

7. ACTION ITEMS

Enclosure 7a - Approval of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner Plan for 2015, as presented

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner Plan for 2015, as presented.

Vote: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7b - Approval of the Proposed Regulations for Dual Enrollment for Public Review and Comment

On a motion duly made by Jeffery Williams and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Proposed Regulations for Dual Enrollment, for the Purpose of Public Review and Comment, as presented.

Vote: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7c - Approval of the PK-12 FY 2015 Revised, FY 2016 Current Service Level and FY 2016 Constrained Budget Requests, as transmitted to the R.I. State Budget Office

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Kerry Rafanelli, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the PK-12 FY 2015 Revised, FY 2016 Current Service Level and FY 2016 Constrained Budget Requests, as transmitted to the R.I. State Budget Office.

Vote: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7d- Approval of the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for FY 2016, Budget Estimate for FY 2017, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations and Supplemental Request for FY 2015.

On a motion duly made by Kerry Rafanelli and seconded by John Smith, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Public Higher Education System's budget request for the 2016 fiscal year as presented, and further

That the R.I. Board of Education approves the Public Higher Education System's tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the 2016 fiscal year as presented, but reserving the right to readjust tuition and fees as needed upon notification of the Governor's recommendation and, later, upon the action of the legislature, and further

That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Public Higher Education System's Tables of Organization for the 2016 fiscal year, as presented, and further

That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Public Higher Education System's budget allocation for the FY 2015 fiscal year, as presented.

Vote: 15 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: Amy Beretta

8. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made Kerry Rafanelli and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 16 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Thomas Izzo, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, Mathies Santos, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.