



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick.

Attendance was as follows:

Colby Anderson: present (ex-officio, non-voting member)
Amy Beretta: present (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Michael Bernstein: present
Colleen Callahan: present
Barbara Cottam: present
Dennis Duffy: present
Karin Forbes: present
William Foulkes: present
Jo Eva Gaines: **absent**
Constance Howes: present (ex-officio, non-voting member)
Thomas Izzo: present
Marta Martinez: present (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
Daniel McConaghy: present
Judy Ouellette: present
Lawrence Purtill: present
Kerry Rafanelli: present
John Rainone: present (ex-officio, non-voting member)
John J. Smith, Jr.: present
Joyce Stevos: present
Stephan Pryor: **absent** (ex-officio, non-voting member)
Jeffery Williams: present

Chair Barbara Cottam welcomed everyone to the 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 this evening.

She also thanked President Di Pasquale and the CCRI staff for hosting the meeting.

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 October 28, 2015.

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith, Jr., Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

[Marta Martinez arrived at 5:40 p.m. and Amy Beretta arrived at 6:15 p.m.]

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the April 27, 2015, Meeting

On a motion duly made by John J. Smith, Jr. and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the April 27, 2015, meeting

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith, Jr., Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

[Marta Martinez arrived at 5:40 p.m. and Amy Beretta arrived at 6:15 p.m.]

2b. Minutes of the July 13, 2015, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Judy Ouellette, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the July 13, 2015, meeting

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John J. Smith, Jr., Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

[Marta Martinez arrived at 5:40 p.m. and Amy Beretta arrived at 6:15 p.m.]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam reminded everyone wishing to address the Board to keep their remarks to two minutes or less. The following individuals spoke:

- Erin Papa, President of the R.I. Foreign Language Association (RIFLA) and Director of the R.I. Roadmap to Language Excellence, and Margarita Dempsey, Member of the RIFLA, spoke on the need for RIDE to create a State Supervisor for Language Education position, that URI, RIC, and CCRI collaborate with K-12 to prepare World Language, Dual Language, and ESL certified teachers, and that the State adopt World Language Standards aligned to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines to assure for consistency across programs from PK-16.

[Documents provided to the Board of Education by Open Forum speakers are on file at the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education].

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS

Chair of the Board of Education

Chair Cottam reported that the previous day, she, along with Commissioners Purcell and Wagner, joined many educators, community members, business leaders, and legislators, to talk about closing the opportunity gaps between white and students of color, low income and middle class students, native English language speakers and English Language Learners. She thanked Senators Metts and Pichardo for focusing on this important issue, which generated great presentations and rich dialogue.

Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

Chair McConaghy began his report by announcing that earlier this month, Alan Tenreiro, principal of Cumberland High School, was named the National High-School Principal of the Year. Under Alan's leadership, Cumberland High School has seen increases in academic achievement, graduation rates, and the number of students gaining admission to some of the best colleges and universities in the country.

Next, he reported that earlier in the month, Kendra Borden, an English teacher at Samuel Slater Junior High School in Pawtucket, was named the R.I. winner of a 2015 Milken Educator Award for her commitment to great teaching and learning. The Milken Educator Awards program provides recognition and unrestricted financial awards of \$25,000 to exceptional elementary-and-secondary-school teachers, principals, and specialists who are furthering excellence in American schools.

He also reported that recently three of our schools (Archie R. Cole Middle School, East Greenwich, Francis J. Varieur Elementary School, Pawtucket, and Nayatt School, Barrington) were named as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015, based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps.

Chair McConaghy ended by reporting that earlier this afternoon U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the 2015 recipients of the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership. Edna Coia, former principal of the Francis J. Varieur School in Pawtucket and currently Principal of the Elizabeth Baldwin Elementary School, is one of seven principals from the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools who will be honored with the Terrel H. Bell Award, which honors schools

leaders who are committed to education as a powerful and liberating force in people's lives and who do "whatever it takes" to foster successful teaching and learning and help their students meet high standards.

Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Chair Foulkes began his report by praising Commissioner Purcell for his effort in consolidating the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner with the R.I. Higher Education Assistance Authority, and for collaborating and coordinating with RIDE and the PK-12 education system in many PK-20 initiatives.

He also reported that he recently attended a dedication ceremony for the Langevin Center for Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing at R.I. College, and that it was great to witness two of the speakers, both alumni of RIC, one of whom is the head of the R.I. Manufacturers Association and the other a teacher at Ponagansett High School, coordinating efforts between state manufacturers and the work being done at the high school. On behalf of the Council on Postsecondary Education, Chair Foulkes gave kudos to CCRI, RIC and URI for their continued ability to collaborate and coordinate efforts between their schools, industry, and among the different school districts in Rhode Island.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Wagner began by reporting that last Saturday President Obama issued a statement about his views on testing and the need for having assessments of student progress to tell us of our progress in preparing our students for their future. He cautioned against excessive test prep and that we should focus on teaching and learning as the best test prep is great teaching.

He also reported that earlier in the week, the U.S. Department of Education released the results of the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and that the results were mixed for R.I.. The decline this year in mathematics scores is of concern and it is not clear at this time why scores in mathematics scores declined, both locally and nationally. He stated that we have much work to do to improve our outcomes, but cautioned against drawing any hard and fast conclusions or get sidetracked based on the results of this single year of assessments.

RIDE will be releasing the first round of the 2015 PARCC Assessment results measuring student progress on our new learning standards. Much like all of the other states that use assessments which measure higher learning standards,

RI's results are very consistent with others across the country in that a much smaller percentage than we would hope for of our students are truly demonstrating readiness. RIDE has been working very closely with the school districts in getting them prepared on how to communicate the results to families and communities.

Next, Commissioner Wagner shared that there has been lots of interest as we move toward 2017 where districts have the potential opportunity to use the PARCC assessment results as a graduation requirement, and unless we do something different, where for the first time the PARCC assessments will be part of the graduation requirements for the class of 2020. Since his arrival, Commissioner Wagner has been very transparent with Rhode Islanders about the need to have a statewide conversation around graduation requirements and believes that there is a way to maintain the original intent of introducing an assessment to the graduation requirements, which is really to offer comparability across communities, so that when students apply for college or a job, they are being judged based on their merits as opposed to the reputations of their communities or high schools.

Commissioner Wagner went on to share that he is excited to have a statewide conversation around the changes needed in our schools and what we hope for them. Society's needs have changed dramatically, and so has for the first time, our hopes for our children, which are really aligned with our needs for our economy. We really need our future citizens to be thoughtful, critical thinkers, creative, passionate, able to synthesize information, and to be excited about learning, and if those are our aspirations, we need to change how our education system operates in order to support our students from the time they enter to when leave our care.

He ended by reporting that this past week Governor Raimondo signed an executive order establishing a diverse and talented working group to take a look at the funding formula and make recommendations, particularly around the ways in which the dollars follow the students, when parents and families exercise different kinds of school choice options.

Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Commissioner Purcell began by reporting on the R.I. Promise, a new state scholarship, which allows the local institutions of higher education to optimize and provide a scholarship that has a meaningful award and allows the institutions to provide additional aid to students to cover tuition, fees, and books. Last year the scholarship helped out about 4,500 students at CCRI and this year that number is anticipated to reach 8,500. URI and RIC have the same grant, which they use to boost retention and accelerate graduation.

He also gave kudos to the public institutions of higher education for partnering with local businesses as part of the Real Jobs R.I. planning grants.

Next he reported on the Westerly Project, which will serve as a satellite campus for CCRI. Its anchor employer will be Electric Boat, which is facing an urgent need for skilled laborers at its Groton and Quonset Point facilities. The Westerly center will offer painting, electronics, carpentry, and electrical and electronics training.

He also invited folks to visit the new offices of the Postsecondary Commissioner in Warwick, which recently merged with RIHEAA.

Commissioner Purcell ended by reporting on the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA), an agreement among member states that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offerings of postsecondary distance learning education courses and programs without having to pay extra state fees.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Enclosure 6a - Rhode Island Strategic Plan for Public Education: 2015-2020

Chair Cottam introduced the topic by expressing that this marks an important moment for the Board of Education as it will set a policy direction for public education in Rhode Island for the next five years. The Board of Education is responsible for developing coherent plans that meet the future needs of public education within the state in the most efficient and economical manner possible. On behalf of the Board, she publicly thanked and acknowledged everyone who contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan, which could not have been possible without their abiding commitment to collaboration. She also acknowledged the partnership between the two Commissioners and the two Chairs of the Councils.

She then turned the conversation over to the Chairs of the Councils for an update on the Councils' work on the R.I. Strategic Plan for Public Education, being presented for adoption this evening.

Dan McConaghy, Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, stated that on August 24th, the Council unanimously approved the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for PK-12 and Adult Education, which lays out six priority areas for public education (teacher and leader support, early childhood education, personalized learning statewide, globally competent graduates, informed instructional decision-making, and student-centered resource investment). As Council Chair, he can reasonably speak for his fellow Council members in saying that this plan has everyone's full backing and confidence.

Bill Foulkes, Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, reported that on October 14th, the Council unanimously approved the Strategic Plan for Postsecondary Education, which lays out four priorities (HOPE - higher attainment, opportunities to access and afford college, prosperous economy, and effective institutions), each with a set of strategies and a set of quantitative targets, which offer a framework for setting goals, initiating policies and programs, and measuring success in public higher education in Rhode Island over the next five years.

Prior to opening it up for discussion, Chair Cottam gave a logistic and general outline of the entire plan stating that the two respective Councils have already carefully reviewed and unanimously approved their plans and that out of respect for their judgement, the most important task this evening is to pay due diligence to two other important sections of the plan (the overarching policy goals of the Board on page 5, which set the standard that will drive and define the collective work of the PK-12 and postsecondary education, and the areas of joint work between PK-12 and postsecondary education on page 43, which identify the particular areas in which the system needs to work together to achieve our collective vision). These two sections, which are critical and together serve as bookends to the plan, are the two areas in which the Board of Education most fully lives up to its responsibilities to ensure coherence and alignment within our system.

Board members discussed:

- How data collected from the plan is used, and if successful, can it track personalized student data longitudinally, so that the impact of our learning and training programs can be determined on the ultimate jobs and careers that the students end up in and evaluate the effectiveness of those programs.
- Identification of what are we talking about when we think about college and work-ready and in order for us to really work well together, we cannot have one set of standards for PK-12 and one set of standards for postsecondary education.
- Importance of partnerships, internships and externships with industry and how do we create a seamless system so we don't have disparate, well-meaning efforts K- 12 and higher education, when we could probably put them together.
- Diversity indicators - Limited definition of diversity in the document as it only relates to educators of color and Latinos and the need to broaden that to include LGBTQs, ELLs, and other groups in terms of diversity because we are losing them.
- The importance of the Strategic Plan remaining as a living document that serves as a roadmap for PK-20 education.

- Parallel with this important document on data and strategies, we need to focus on a missing piece that we all share a more comprehensive responsibility for, which is that we need to continue to be certain and play a role in all kids having safe homes and neighborhoods, and good healthcare, so that they come to school healthy and ready to learn.
- Although it is very important to get as many students as we can up to proficiency, it is equally important to maximize the number of students who actually achieve excellence and to be careful not to ignore the students who are at the top of the class while we focus on trying to bring the rest up to proficiency.

Commissioner Wagner publicly acknowledged Andrea Castaneda for her leadership role on the PK-12 strategic plan and Commissioner Purcell acknowledged Robin McGill for her efforts on the postsecondary strategic plan.

Enclosures 6b and 6c – PK-12 Capital Budget and PK12 FY 2016 Revised, FY 2017 Current Service Level and FY 2017 Constrained Budget Requests

Andrea Castaneda offered a brief high-level summary introduction to the PK-12 Capital Budget and the PK-12 FY 2016 Revised, FY 2017 Current Service Level and FY 2017 Constrained Budget Requests.

Enclosures 6d and 6e – Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for FY 2017 and 2018, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY 2016, and Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2017 – FY 2021

Susan LaPanne offered a brief high-level summary introduction to the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests and Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2017 – FY 2021 and the three scenarios requested and examined by the Council:

- No increase in tuition & mandatory fees with balance coming from an increased state appropriation request (recommended by the Council on Postsecondary Education).
- No increase in the state appropriation request with the balance being generated by tuition & mandatory fees.
- A balance of tuition & mandatory fee increases and state appropriation increases.

Enclosure 6f - Board Resolution Delegating Authority over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island

Commissioner Purcell introduced the next topic and shared that this is an effort that occurs every time a new Board Chair is selected in that the federal government has this criteria for oversight for the Institutions of Higher Education to ensure that there is security clearance.

President Dooley explained that this mechanism delegates to the Chair of the Board of Education and the Senior Officers at the University of Rhode Island the responsibility for overseeing the research that occurs at the University, which requires some kind of security or secrecy clearance in order for it to be conducted.

7. ACTION ITEMS

Enclosure 7a - Approval of the Rhode Island Strategic Plan for Public Education: 2015-2020

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

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Rhode Island Strategic Plan for Education: 2015-2020, as presented.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7b - Approval of the PK-12 FY 2016 Revised, FY 2017 Current Service Level and FY 2017 Constrained Budget Proposals

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves and transmits the PK-12 FY 2016 Revised, FY 2017 Current Service Level, and FY 2017 Constrained Budget Proposals, to the R.I. Budget Office, as presented.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7c - Approval of the PK-12 Capital Budget Request

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

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the PK-12 FY 2017 Capital Budget Request, as presented.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, 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 2017 and 2018, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY 2016

On a motion duly made by Michael Bernstein and seconded by John J. Smith, Jr., it was

VOTED:

That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Public Higher Education System’s budget request for the 2017 fiscal year as presented sending it to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor’s Recommended Budget, 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 2017 fiscal year as presented sending it to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor’s Recommended Budget, 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 2017 fiscal year as presented sending it to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor’s Recommended Budget, and further

That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Public Higher Education System’s budget allocation for the 2016 fiscal year as presented sending it to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor’s Recommended Budget.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7e - Approval of the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2017 - FY 2021

On a motion duly made by John Smith, Jr. and seconded by Michael Bernstein, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2017 - FY 2021, as presented.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7f - Approval of the Board Resolution Delegating Authority over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island

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

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Board Resolution Delegating Authority over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

9. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Daniel McConaghy, 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: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, William Foulkes, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, Judy Ouellette, Lawrence Purtill, Kerry Rafanelli, John Smith, Joyce Stevos, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.