



MINUTES OF THE MEETING MAY 23, 2013

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The third meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 23rd, 2013, at the University of Rhode Island Ryan Center Alumni Room, Kingston, RI 02881. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

Absent: Antonio Barajas and Michael A. Grande

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mancuso asked for a motion to strike Item 6d, Motion to Grant Charter – The Village Green Virtual Charter School, from the agenda.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That Item 6d be removed from the agenda of the May 23 meeting.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

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 May 23, 2013 as revised.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

2. APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2013 WORK SESSION

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of April 4, 2013.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2013 MEETING

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2013.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

3. OPEN FORUM

Before beginning Open Forum, Chair Mancuso thanked everyone who sent in letters regarding Commissioner Gist's contract renewal. 600 letters have already been received, and if there is not time to hear all speakers tonight on that subject, she welcomed written comments no later than June 1st (asking people to "keep it green" by sending emails rather than letters if possible).

Chair Mancuso then explained to the audience that the Board of Education would allow 30 minutes for public comment (extended from the 20-minute limit Open Forum limit in the Board's bylaws), 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 to avoid redundancy.

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.

- Carolyn Betensky, an associate professor of English at URI, spoke in opposition to

arming URI campus police, citing concerns about allowing that decision to remain only with the institution's president and urging the Board not to adopt the arming policy.

2. Frank R. Annunziato, Executive Director of the AAUP at URI, also spoke in opposition to arming campus police, requesting a consensus from constituents.
3. Martha Rojas, a professor of English at URI, also spoke in opposition to arming campus police, stating that it was an institutional versus a presidential decision.
4. Barbara Costello, associate professor of Criminology at URI, also spoke in opposition to arming campus police, stating that the URI police are doing an excellent job already without needing weapons.
5. Sandra Jean Hicks of URI requested that the decision to arm campus police reflect a consensus on campus. She preferred non-weapons solutions such as plans, training, crowd controls, locks, and alarms.
6. Peter Nightingale, a physicist at URI and member of the Raging Grannies, also expressed concern about arming campus police at URI and suggested nonviolent conflict resolution instead.
7. Mark Clearino, a 15-year member of the URI Police Department, spoke in support of arming campus police, stating that URI cannot control who drives through the campus and that unarmed police who pull over potentially-armed perpetrators are a liability.
8. Mario Trubiano, professor of Languages at URI, opposed arming at URI, stating that URI campus police are doing a terrific job already and stating that any policy to arm the campus should reflect the campus', not the president's, decision.
9. James McMahon, a former Marine officer now at URI, supports arming because URI is an open campus with RIPTA bus service. He cited an armed robbery on campus just two weeks ago and said it would be a disservice not to arm officers to protect themselves and students.
10. Charles Wilson, chairman of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, spoke in support of arming campus police, citing statistics disproving concerns that armed police would racially profile students.
11. Major Stephen Baker of URI said the Police Chiefs Association discussed arming at their meeting in May 22 and support efforts to arm campus police in Rhode Island. He also cited statistics that URI campus police officers do not racially profile students or visitors.
12. Howard Dooley, program manager of the Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Science (RITES) project, urged the Board to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards, stating that the new standards will help all students learn 21st century science.
13. Judith Lundsten, superintendent of Cranston Public Schools, asked the Board to approve the transfer agreement for Cranston Career and Tech.
14. Attorney Gregory Mancini addressed an appeal issue, asking board members to please read briefs and help keep districts from discriminating against students.

At this point, Chair Mancuso noted that the time allowed for Open Forum had concluded, and the Board discussed whether to extend the public speaking portion of the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education extends Open Forum for the May 23, 2013 meeting by another 30 minutes for a total of 60 minutes.

The Board took a roll call vote:
Karin Forbes: no
Mathies Santos: yes
Patrick Guida: no
Colleen Callahan: yes
William Maaia: yes
Michael Bernstein: no
Jo Eva Gaines: yes
Lawrence Purtill: yes
Eva-Marie Mancuso: no

With 5 positive and 4 negative votes, the motion carried, and Chair Mancuso invited up the next speaker.

15. Malcolm Baxter, owner at Baxter Intuitive Solutions, spoke in support of extending Commissioner Gist's contract.
16. Kristin Johnson, an associate professor of Political Science at URI, noted that Rhode Island is in the top 20% of states that support K-12 education but are 47th in supporting higher education. She asked the board to help extend that funding to higher education.
17. Frank Flynn, president of RI AFT, referenced a poll conducted by the National Education Association RI and the RI Federation of Teachers in which most teachers professed poor morale and felt that Commissioner Gist did not understand the issues faced by RI teachers.
18. Amy Mullen, treasurer of NEARI, brought more letters to the Board regarding Commissioner Gist's contract and said that teachers do not oppose change or testing but are feeling ignored along with students and parents.
19. Brian Chidester of the Coalition to Defend Public Education delivered a petition and read a sample of comments. He asked the Board not to renew the commissioner's contract.
20. Renae Chaves, a parent and member of the same coalition, spoke of how her third-grade son cries under the threats and pressure of in-school NECAP testing. Ms. Chaves wants students to love learning, not fear tests.
21. Ed Benson of the Coalition to Defend Public Education read from a graph comparing SAT scores to household income and expressed concern about social mobility. He urged the Board not to renew the commissioner's contract.
22. Wendy Holmes from the same coalition also opposed renewing Commissioner Gist's contract and compared RI's current school reform to a corporate mindset.

23. Sheila Resseger, a teacher and member of the Coalition to Defend Public Education, spoke up on behalf of the School for the Deaf, whose students are labeled "low-achieving" because of test scores.
24. Eric Caswell, a 2012 graduate from Westerly High School, spoke out against the current graduation requirement policy and said he did not learn to love learning until he had entered college.
25. Diane Russell of the Coalition to Defend Public Education spoke out against Commissioner Gist's policies, saying they hurt students in poor communities.
26. Ralph Fortune of the same coalition, a retired Providence special education teacher, also opposed the renewal of Commissioner Gist's contract, citing examples in which the commissioner's goals for closing gaps have instead increased them.
27. Ellie Wyatt of the Coalition to Defend Public Education, also a retired teacher from Providence, was concerned about vulnerable student populations under the current policies and stated that instead of part of the \$75 million Race to the Top grant going to special education students, those programs' budgets were cut.

Documents provided to the Board of Education by Open Forum speakers, including a petition regarding Commissioner Gist's contract presented by the Coalition to Defend Public Education, are on file at the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mancuso thanked President Dooley for hosting tonight's meeting and then presented the following certificates:

Recognition of the State Finalists of the 2012 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching:

Mathematics: Nicolle Greene – E.G. Robertson Elementary School, Warwick; Joy Souza – Blackstone Valley Prep Elementary School, Cumberland; and Regina Kilday – Metcalf Elementary School, Exeter

Science: Clare Ornburn – Ashaway Elementary School, Ashaway; and Susan Moore – Wm. J. Underwood Elementary School, Newport

Green Ribbon Schools: RIDE selected the Compass Charter School and the Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA) as the 2013 Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools award winners. Both schools were nominated to the US Department of Education for consideration of a national award.

Chair Mancuso presented awards to director Allen Zipke and teacher Hilary Downes-Fortunes on behalf of the Compass Charter School and to Assistant Principal Ramon Torres and Rupert Burtan, Facilities, on behalf of the Providence Career and Technical Academy. Mayor Angel Taveras wished to be present as well but was unable to attend the meeting.

Green School Status: Lastly, Chair Mancuso commended the East Greenwich School District for being verified by RIDE as a 'green' school built in accordance with Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NECHPS) protocol. Green schools are energy efficient,

environmentally friendly, healthy, and more productive learning environments. Superintendent Victor Mercurio accepted the award on behalf of the East Greenwich School District.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

a. Report of the Commissioner of Education

After thanking President Dooley for hosting tonight's meeting, Commissioner Gist stated that major changes are needed to maintain a quality evaluation system and make the system more manageable. The Executive Board of the Rhode Island Superintendents Association voted to accept those adjustments, and there has been excellent collaboration.

Dr. Gist also informed the Board that about 2,700 students have signed on to the virtual learning math modules, which are being used by three high schools along with online tutor support. More schools and students are expected to use the modules.

Regarding the Early Learning and Development Standards, Dr. Gist stated that \$400,000 from Race to the Top grant money is being released for preschool improvement. The ultimate award will be around \$4 million for early learning improvement, which will include materials, curricula, and more.

Finally, Commissioner Gist informed the Board of this year's summer reading challenge. The theme is "Dive into a Book," and if a school meets its summer reading goals, its principal, librarian, or other willing staff member is invited to go skydiving with the commissioner. The program was inspired by a principal eating a worm in response to students' meeting goals and is receiving great responses.

b. Report of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Commissioner Ray Di Pasquale thanked members of the Board of Education who had attended commencement exercises at our public higher education institutions. The Board will hear a report tonight on the bond savings achieved by the system as Item 7a.

Around mid-June, legislators will vote on the 2014 operating budget, and board members' support will be needed. Around July, the higher education system's 2015 capital improvement plan will go to OHE and then to the Board of Education for approval before going to the State Budget Office.

O'Connor and Drew will begin their external audit around June and the results will be reported to the Board around September.

Chair Mancuso and OHE will sponsor a luncheon, hosted by Gateway Healthcare, on May 30th to bring together individuals from RI institutions responsible for the delivery of education to veterans and for the coordination of veterans' educational and healthcare benefits. (Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber was asked to be sure the board members were invited.)

The public higher education system and RIDE are working together on a math summer initiative to help better prepare students for college.

At the conclusion of the commissioners' reports, Lawrence Purtill added his thanks to the three college presidents and their faculty and staff for the enjoyable commencement exercises.

6. APPROVAL ITEMS

Item 6a – Adoption of the Early Learning and Development Standards

Commissioner Gist stressed the importance of early childhood education and stated that the Early Learning Challenge Grant allowed RIDE to work with many partners to produce standards that meet or exceed national criteria for students from birth to age 5. The standards have been reviewed by national experts. There were no questions from the board.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adopts the Early Learning and Development Standards as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6b – Adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards

Commissioner Gist explained that these standards were developed through a multi-state effort. The National Academy of Sciences and many other organizations were involved. The standards integrate science in an engaging way for students. They have undergone multiple revisions, and two opportunities were provided for public feedback. The commissioner credited Peter McLaren for being a national leader on these standards.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adopts the Next Generation Science Standards as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

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

As the board members learned at their last meeting, Commissioner Gist stated, 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 Board tabled this agreement at its April meeting until a language request by the Department of Administration had been addressed. In turn, the State Properties Committee tabled its approval of this transfer agreement, pending Board of Education approval.

The language change was explained in the memo to board members and Commissioner Gist asked the Board to allow Cranston Career and Tech to move forward with its renovations so they can be completed before students return in the fall.

There were no questions or concerns from board members.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Education approves the Property Transfer Agreement for the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center, as finalized by the State Properties Commission, provided the allocation of the funds are available in the approved Capital Budget, as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6d – struck by the Board during acceptance of the agenda

Item 6e - Motion to Renew Charter – Highlander Charter School..

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education renews the charter of the Highlander Charter School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2013-14 school year to the 2017-18 school year, as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6f – Board of Education Appeals Committee Recommendation

Karin Forbes, chair of the Board's Appeals Committee, reported that the parent of E. Doe appealed the commissioner's decision in favor of the Providence School Board. The

decision was on a request to be awarded reasonable litigation expenses by the Providence School Board under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The commissioner also found the school board's reason to deny the student access after hospitalization to be justified, citing right to a safe school for other students. Litigation expenses from the parent required a protective order which was resolved when the Providence School Board withdrew its objection and the student was allowed back in school and received tutoring. The hearing did not result in a decision, but the school board was found to be justified. Conditions of the award were not met, and the vote was 2-1 not to affirm.

Committee Chair Forbes noted that the committee was concerned with the length of time until E. Doe went back to high school and would urge the school board to avoid such delays in the future. As a caveat, Chair Mancuso asked that the Providence School Board be alerted to the committee's concern.

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

VOTED: That, in the matter of Parent of E. Doe v. Providence School Board, the Decision of the Commissioner is affirmed as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6g – Establish a Policy Enabling URI, RIC and CCRI to Make Individual Institutional Decisions to Arm Campus Police pursuant to RIGL §16-52-2

Commissioner Di Pasquale noted that the former Government Relations Committee voted on 7/31/12, after holding several hearings, that the Board of Governors allow each institution to authorize its campus police to be armed. The proposed policy would hold each institution responsible to outline a plan and fund the arming and to ask for faculty and staff input. Last year, he continued, CCRI held public forums on safety, and the community college will continue to seek input. At this time, however, CCRI does not have plans to arm its campus police. URI does plan to move forward if enabled by the Board of Education, and RIC is considering. Rhode Island laws for arming police officers would be adhered to as well.

If this policy on arming campus police is passed, he continued, the presidents would come back to the Board of Education with a report. No decision by any president would be made independent from campus input.

Chair Mancuso read aloud the motion first, then asked for discussion. The motion read, "THAT each institutional President have the authority to arm their respective police in accordance with all of the laws, regulations and standards set forth in the general laws of Rhode Island for police departments," and Chair Mancuso stated that she had written the motion intending for the institution to have the authority. The motion could easily be amended from "each institutional president" to "each institution." Chair Mancuso invited President Dooley and President Carriuolo to speak on arming if they wished.

President Dooley said that arming campus police at URI is not yet a decided matter and that it is being attended to with diligence. A widely-shared draft report listed 16 improvements for URI during emergencies. Two of those improvements concerned arming – one recommendation to arm and one recommendation to train armed officers appropriately. Strong divided opinions were reflected in the open forums held in early May, and student, staff and faculty input will continue to be taken. Other institutions' experiences with arming campus police are also being studied. This is an extensive process, and President Dooley welcome the Board's invitation to enable URI to arm if it desires. The consequences will be weighed before that step is taken.

President Carriuolo stated that emergency management and safety are priorities at Rhode Island College and that RIC was the first institution to complete a tabletop exercise with FEMA, RIEMA, police departments – some emergency personnel came from as far away as New York to complete this exercise. President Carriuolo noted that there are two levels of emergency management certification and that arming a campus is an important issue. Rhode Island College will hold discussions in the fall when students and faculty are back on campus.

Colleen Callahan stated that she appreciated the discussions at the May 8th work session, which were very informative, particularly regarding campus police officers versus campus security officers. She also appreciated the discussions on the incident at URI. She agreed with Chair Mancuso's suggested to strike "president" from the original motion, changing the language to "institution," and also suggested that the following addition be added to the motion: "THAT, prior to the activation of this policy, the institutions shall submit a report to the Board of Education, inclusive of stakeholders, outlining each institution's deliberations regarding the arming of campus police."

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

VOTED:	That	the Rhode Island Board of Education amends the motion for Item 6g to read, "THAT each institution have the authority to arm their respective police in accordance with all of the laws, regulations and standards set forth in the general laws of Rhode Island for police departments; and further,
	That,	prior to the activation of this policy, the institutions shall submit a report to the Board of Education, inclusive of stakeholders, outlining each institution's deliberations regarding the arming of campus police."
	Vote:	9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Eva-Marie Mancuso, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
	NAYS:	0

Before the Board voted on the final motion, William Maaia requested a roll call vote. He also stated that he planned to vote against the motion, not because he lacked confidence in the institutions or their presidents and staff, but because of a philosophical opposition to arming campus police. He also suggested that the Board consider continuity across the system with a universal policy on arming.

Jo Eva Gaines noted that the State House discussed arming of URI campus officers and wondered if tonight's motion before the Board of Education would conflict with the General Assembly's decision on the topic. Chair Mancuso assured her that a specific statute (16-52-2) grants the Board of Education sole authority to decide whether to arm police at its public higher education institutions.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education amends the motion for Item 6g to read, "THAT each institution have the authority to arm their respective police in accordance with all of the laws, regulations and standards set forth in the general laws of Rhode Island for police departments; and further,
That, prior to the activation of this policy, the institutions shall submit a report to the Board of Education, inclusive of stakeholders, outlining each institution's deliberations regarding the arming of campus police."

The Board took a roll call vote:

Patrick Guida: yes
Colleen Callahan: yes
Michael Bernstein: yes
Karin Forbes: yes
Jo Eva Gaines: yes
William Maaia: no
Lawrence Purtill: yes
Mathies Santos: yes
Eva-Marie Mancuso: yes

With 8 positive and 1 negative vote, the motion carried.

Item 6h – Approval of Henry Barnard School Tuition Rates for 2013-2014 Academic Year

President Carriuolo referred to the cover page in board members' packets for the proposed tuition rates at Henry Barnard. The rate requested is a 5% increase over the current academic year and has the support of parents.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the tuition rates for the Henry Barnard School for the 2013-2014 fiscal year as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6i – Approval of the Demolition of a Structure at Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo requested permission for Rhode Island College to remove a structure in poor condition that would need significant renovations and repairs at great expense. She discussed the removal of the residential structure with the Fruit Hill Neighborhood Association and reported that the association would be delighted with the structure's removal, as it is considered a fire hazard.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the demolition of a three-story wood-framed structure located on campus at Rhode Island College.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6j – Authorization of Updated Corporate Resolution between the Washington Trust Company and the Community College of Rhode Island.

President Di Pasquale stated that the updated corporate resolution before the Board tonight is one of many forms that need to be updated for the language change from "Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education" to "Rhode Island Board of Education." The changes are expected to be in name only unless otherwise indicated.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Education approves the agent authorization for the Corporate Authorization Resolution between the Washington Trust Company and the Community College of Rhode Island.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

Item 6k – Appointment of Vice President for Academic Affairs at CCRI

President Di Pasquale informed the Board that they are responsible for approving the appointments of presidents and vice presidents at the public higher education institutions. He

was pleased to announced that Greg Lamontagne, currently the vice president for academic affairs at Niagara County Community College, was selected for the position after a national search. Dr. Lamontagne received outstanding recommendations, and the decision by the search committee was unanimous. CCRI is excited for Vice President Lamontagne to begin his work. As the Board knows, he will be replacing Lela Morgan, who recently retired after serving 47 years at CCRI.

Mathies Santos asked about the pool of demographics and President Di Pasquale responded that candidates from all over the country applied and were interviewed, although the diversity pool was smaller than CCRI would have liked. He would like to bring the board some diversity methods in the future. He added in response to another question that Dr. Lamontagne was unable to be at tonight's meeting, as he was back home in New York.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Dr. Greg Lamontagne as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chair Mancuso offered her thanks and congratulations to Lela Morgan for her service to the state and for all she has done for CCRI.

Item 6I – Approval to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the RI Board of Education, Acting on Behalf of CCRI, and the RI Emergency Management Agency for the Placement of a Telecommunications Antenna.

President Di Pasquale presented the final action item, an antenna on the Newport Campus. The antenna is a safety and management issue and presents no conflict; in fact, it will benefit Rhode Island.

Jo Eva Gaines asked where on campus the antenna will be and President Di Pasquale responded on the roof of the campus.

Karin Forbes asked who pays for the antenna and the president quipped, "Not us," which satisfied the Board.

On a motion duly made by William Maaia and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves this Memorandum of Agreement between the Rhode Island Board of Education, acting on behalf of the Community College of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Committee.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne reported on **Item 7a, the results of the sale Of Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation Higher Education Facility Revenue Refunding Bonds, Board of Education Issue, Series 2013 A, B, C, and D.**

Dr. LaPanne was pleased update the board on the series of bonds they approved on April 8th to refund for an approximately 10% net value savings. The bonds were received well by the market and in fact were oversubscribed, which increased demand. They sold at 111.436% index (PAR value), and they netted \$5.5 million over the life of the bond for an overall savings of \$6.8 million over the life of the bond. Dr. LaPanne thanked the Board of Education for their confidence and thanked all the individuals at the public higher education institutions for their hard work on the bond refunds.

8. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley thanked the board members who attended commencement and said URI has completed the first year of its "Finish What You Started" program. The program reaches out to students who earned 90 credits or more but for whatever reason did not complete their college degree. URI helped each student devise individual plans containing academic guidance, course selection, and even financial aid. 24 students graduated from "Finish What You Started" this first year, and the program is growing and filling a need, including web-based learning. It is expected to be very successful. In response to a question President Dooley said the students could have earned their credits at any college in the past, but they are reaching out to former URI students first because they have their information.

President Dooley will be attending the women's rowing team NCAA Championships in Indianapolis next weekend.

Michael Bernstein said the commencements he attended last week were the first he has attended since his own children graduated college. He thanked President Dooley and others for their hospitality.

b. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo also thanked the board members for attending RIC's commencement, at which 1400 undergraduate and 338 advanced degrees were distributed. It has also been an eventful month: RIC's conductor has just retired after 40 years on the job, RIC's the Track and Field team won the Little East, a seminar class is studying waste management, and RIC graduate Viola Davis has been mentioning both Rhode Island College and Central Falls.

President Carriuolo added that RIC has a program similar to URI's "Finish What You

Started" called "Finish Strong" that helps former students finish their bachelor's degrees.

c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale commented on four CCRI students whose stories were highlighted at commencement. It all comes down to what students go through to graduate and where they are going next. He was pleased that graduation rates have increased by 2% and continue to climb, and the goal is to increase rates higher over the next several years.

The Rhode Island Mission of Mercy will be holding a free dental care clinic at CCRI. 800 people lined up in the rain for last year's clinic, and 900-1,000 are expected to attend this year.

On behalf of all institutions, student athletes were honored at the State House, and President Di Pasquale said it is great to hear positive stories about RI's student athletes.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mancuso entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss:

- a. Discussion regarding Property Acquisition at Rhode Island College pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5)
- b. Report from the Personnel Committee and Discussion regarding the Contract Renewal and Evaluation of Commissioner Deborah Gist pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1)
- c. Update on Pending Litigation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan, 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 reasons set forth above.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

After a short break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 7:50 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; Neil Galvin, Attorney for the Department of Elementary and Secondary 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.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:32 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seals the minutes of

the Executive Session discussion of May 23, 2013.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education authorizes Rhode Island College to proceed with its acquisition of real estate as discussed in Executive Session, subject to the approval of the State Properties Committee, and that the Board Chair is authorized to sign any and all documents necessary for this acquisition.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

13. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, June 3rd, 4 p.m. work session at the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Shepard Building, Room 501, Providence, Rhode Island.

Thursday, June 6th (note: original date of June 10th has changed), 5:30 p.m. meeting at the Community College of Rhode Island, Board Room 4090, Warwick.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.