



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2013**

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Enclosure 2c
September 9, 2013

A special meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 14th. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Karin Forbes and Mathies Santos

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of June 6, 2013 as presented.

Vote: 9 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, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone and thanked them for accommodating this addition to the Board's meeting schedule.

3. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. Board of Education Retreat August 25-26

Chair Mancuso announced that the Board's retreat will be an open meeting. To accommodate an open meeting audience, the meeting has been moved to Rhode Island College, and staying overnight will no longer be necessary. She thanked President Nancy Carriuolo for hosting the retreat at RIC.

There will be 90 minutes for each topic, which does not leave time for debate. Board members will hear from various experts on issues the Board will be tackling. All should expect listening to presentations from approximately 1-6 p.m. on Sunday and approximately 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday. Aims McGuinness will facilitate the retreat, and the list of presenters is being finalized.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. Grant of authorization for Clark Greene to have signatory authority, along with all other authority necessary to discharge the duties of the Office of Higher Education and relieve President Ray Di Pasquale of his duties related to the Office of Higher Education, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)
- b. Update on Pending Litigation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)
 1. Prov. Student Union et al. v. Board of Ed. et al.
 2. C. Egan et al. v. Board of Ed. et al.
 3. ULP Complaint (and accompanying litigation) - AAUP

She stated that Clark Greene has been notified of his right to have the discussion on Item 4a held in Open Session and he has not objected to the discussion being held in Executive Session. She also stated that any action related to items discussed in Executive Session will be taken when the Board reconvenes in Open Session.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Antonio Barajas, 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, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

The Board concluded Open Session at 4:16 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Education; David Abbott, Deputy Commissioner of Education/General Counsel; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board of Education/Office of Higher Education; Don DeHayes, Provost at URI; Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College; Attorney Michael Chittick; and Attorney Joseph Rodio.

The Board reconvened in open session at 4:40 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by William Maaia, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seals the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of July 15, 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 Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Appointment of Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Rhode Island

On behalf of President Dooley, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost Don DeHayes reported that a national search had resulted in three very strong candidates for this position. Greg Sonnenfeld is currently the vice president for research at Clemson University in South Carolina, and his area, health, has been a major strategy for URI. When he had been at SUNY, Dr. Sonnenfeld had played a critical economic development role.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Gerald Sonnenfeld as the Vice President of Research and Economic Development at the University of Rhode Island.

Vote: 9 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, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

b. Grant of authorization for Clark Greene to have signatory authority, along with all other authority necessary to discharge the duties of the Office of Higher Education and relieve President Ray Di Pasquale of his duties related to the Office of Higher Education

Board members were invited to hold a discussion on this item. Michael Bernstein stated that he had worked with Mr. Greene before at DHS and found Mr. Greene to be a quick learner. He felt this was an outstanding appointment.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Education authorizes Clark Greene to have signatory authority, along with all other authority necessary to discharge the duties of the Office of Higher Education and relieve President Ray Di Pasquale of his duties related to the Office of Higher Education.

Vote: 9 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, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande,
Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

It was noted for the record that the vote had been unanimous.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Colleen Callahan, 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, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein,
Colleen A. Callahan, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande,
Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.