



**Enclosure 2a**  
**June 20, 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**May 9, 2017**

**COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the May 9, 2017, meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, noted for the record that Member Gaines would not be joining the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Present:** Daniel McConaghy, \*Colby Anderson, \*\*Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

**Absent:** Jo Eva Gaines

[\*Ex-officio, non-voting member]  
[\*\*Arrived at 5:35 p.m. and Departed at 6:35 p.m.)

**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 Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of May 9, 2017

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Amy Beretta arrived at 5:35 p.m.]

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**2a. Minutes of the March 28, 2017, Council Meeting**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the March 28, 2017, Council Meeting

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Member Purtill had to recuse himself from the vote as he did not attend the March 28, 2017, Meeting of the Council]

### **2b. Minutes of the April 18, 2017, Council Work Session**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the March 28, 2017, Council Meeting

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Member Purtill and Chair McConaghy had to recuse themselves from the vote, as they did not attend the April 18, 2017, Work Session of the Council]

### **3. OPEN FORUM**

Chair McConaghy reported that no one had signed up to speak at Open Forum.

### **4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Wagner began by recognizing teacher appreciation week.

He then acknowledged the success of the previous night's annual State of Education Address.

Commissioner Wagner also shared that recent media coverage concerning the allocation of the Funding Formula aid. He clarified for the record that the facts in the matter were made clear to both the concerned stakeholder and the reporter before the piece was published, but were not accurately represented. RIDE is implementing the Funding Formula aid as detailed in the legislation and language was changed in order to represent a more generic construct as data sources change. The data has changed from year to year primarily because of variations in enrollment and are reported, collected, and signed off by schools. Commissioner Wagner emphasized that stakeholders are always encouraged and welcome to reach out to RIDE to discuss any concerns or questions they may have.

## 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Lease and Sublease Transaction for the Rhode Island School for the Deaf

Commissioner Wagner explained that this evening the Council is being asked to approve a resolution approving the Lease and Sublease to be executed in connection with a RI School for Project 2017 Refunding Series D. The vote also authorizes Chair McConaghy to execute and deliver for, on behalf of, and in the name of the Council the documents, including the addition of a trustee, which has not yet been included in the documents. In order to execute the lease, a trustee must be named and is typically, whoever is sitting in the directorship of the State Department of Administration. Deputy Abbott clarified that the State is the owner of the property but all of the property rights go to the financial institution as the lean holder.

### b. Council Designations (Commissioner's Seal, Seal of Biliteracy and Pathway Endorsements) - Update

Deputy Commissioner Mary Ann Snider gave an update on where RIDE is in the Council Designations work. She reiterated that the three designations include the Commissioner's Seal, the Seal of Biliteracy and Pathway Endorsements. She explained that groups of educators are currently being convened in order to determine the requirements for the Seals and that protocols and a methodology have been developed and approved for one round of assessments that will qualify for the Commissioner's Seal. The second round of assessments is set to begin soon and a final evaluation will be completed by June 30, 2017.

She went on to describe the three Seals:

- Commissioner's Seal - An outside validation of learning aligned to high school standards in both literacy and mathematics. The assessments are being reviewed according to content alignment, performance standards, development of the instrument, how it is administered, and the technical quality behind the measure.

Round one includes the PARCC assessments, which were finalized before RICAS, the PSAT, and SAT in Rhode Island. Currently, the PARCC assessments will count for 8<sup>th</sup> graders as one-half of the Commissioner's Seal qualification. The PSAT (reading, writing, and mathematics) are all cut-scores offered and designated by the College Board as college-ready. Round two is currently under review and RIDE is looking at the ACT tests and AP exams and cut-scores as recommended by the College Board.

- Seal of Biliteracy - Awarded to students who have attained proficiency in English and in one or more other world languages. The Seal includes silver (foundational/conversational) and gold levels (academically proficient level).
- Pathway Endorsements - Recognize that students have explored an area of interest in preparation for employment or further education in a career path. Endorsement areas include the arts, business and industry, humanities and world languages, public service, STEM, and Teaching. RIDE is working to figure out what advanced courses and standards are necessary for this endorsement.

### **c. ESSA - Update**

Before turning the conversation over to Deputy Commissioner Snider, Commissioner Wagner shared that the public engagement sessions have concluded, the public survey is still open for folks to submit feedback, and that the draft plan will be posted on RIDE's website in June for the public to react to and provide feedback.

Deputy Snider highlighted the efforts being done to build a connection between RI's Strategic Plan, a new Commissioner's voice and vision, and the ESSA expectations. She explained that a lot of outreach has been done to ensure that everyone understands where RIDE is heading and why, and what the theory of action is. The guiding principles are that we are committed to every student and every voice and RIDE has been framing it as a movement from compliant accountability to shared responsibility. Six community forums were held around the State, a draft of the Plan will be posted for public review and comment through the month of June, and RIDE will use the month of July to review the feedback and make additional revisions to the Plan. The Plan will be shared with Council Members and the Governor in August and will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by September 18, 2017.

**d. Statewide Facilities Assessment - Update**

Commissioner Wagner explained that the purpose of this evening's update is to prepare the Council for the statewide facilities audit that is scheduled to be released in June. RIDE has been working with school districts to ensure that the data is as complete and as accurate as possible. He cautioned that when the report comes out the numbers are going to be big and part of RIDE's work is to prepare not only the Council but also the public on what those numbers mean and how to chip away at the magnitude of the challenges. The State does not have the capacity to immediately address the critical need for facilities changes and improvements, but there is a strategy and a plan being put into place in order to face the challenges in the long-term.

Joe da Silva, RIDE's School Construction Coordinator, shared that a statute established in 2016 created the School Building Authority (SBA). The statute requires that every five years the State must undergo a facilities assessment to help prioritize projects, gain information on maintenance and needs, maximize opportunities relative to utilization, and come up with a long-term action plan to help address the issues. He explained that over the last six-months RIDE has engaged with the firm of Jacobs Engineering, who, with a team of professionals, visited over 300 school buildings in the State to assess the issues, collect data and examine past studies. The report will be in the form of an action plan and will focus on programs, the development of some adequacy standards and various funding opportunities. The findings are scheduled to be released around June 30 and will be posted on RIDE's website as an interactive report.

**Charter 2015-2016 Annual Report and Next Steps/Process for Renewals - Part 2**

Commissioner Wagner stated that this evening's update is a continuation of the discussion at the last meeting on the renewal process for charter schools as well as a preview of what is coming up later in the year.

Brian Darrow, Director of RIDE's Office of College and Career Readiness, went over the 2015-16 annual review ratings, specifically for the eight charter schools that are coming up for renewal later this year, the tiers that they are in, based off their annual ratings, and how that informs their renewal process. He walked Council members through the current tier designations for 2017 charter renewals and explained that the accountability system for

the State matches the accountability system used for charters, meaning that metrics used for summative ratings for all schools are the same metrics used for summative ratings for charters. The level of intensity of review for schools in lower tiers is more intensive than that of higher tiers.

The eight charter schools up for renewal this year have submitted their renewal applications and are being reviewed. When the final report of recommendations is released, all charters schools will have the opportunity to submit a response to that report. All of this information will be submitted to the Council in fall/winter 2017.

Council members expressed concerns about access and review of other factors that are not necessarily accounted for in the investigation, such as specialized resources at different schools that serve specific populations or have unique methods of evaluation.

**Member Beretta departed at this time**

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Necessity of School Construction Projects:**

**6a1. Bristol Warren Regional School District**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$11,774,786** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a2. Central Falls School District**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$5,297,168** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a3. Cumberland School Department**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$5,000,000** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a4. East Greenwich School Department**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Lawrence Purtill it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$4,317,020** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a5. The Greene School**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$3,232,889** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a6. Kingston Hill Academy**

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Joyce Stevos it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$2,794,035** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

**6a7. Lincoln School Department**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$64,346,773** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a8. New Shoreham School District**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$886,871** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6a9. Pawtucket School Department**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$36,000,000** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

### **6a10. Scituate School Department**

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$6,178,083** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

### **6a11. Warwick School Department**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Joyce Stevos it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling **\$1,700,000** pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**b. Approval of Appeals Committee Recommendations:**

**6b1. John Doe v. RIDE**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes it was

VOTED: That in the matter of John Doe v. Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Council on Elementary and Secondary education denies and dismisses Mr. Doe's appeal, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6b2. Student K. Doe v. Chariho Regional School District**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes it was

VOTED: That in the matter of Student K. Doe v. Chariho Regional School District, the Commissioner's decision is affirmed, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**6c. Approval of Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Lease and Sublease Transaction for the Rhode Island School for the Deaf**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes it was

VOTED: That

1. in order to finance the refunding of the lease participation certificates issued to finance the Project, the Lease Agreement by and among the Council and the Sate, as Lessor, and the Trustee, as Lessee, and the Sublease Agreement by and among the Trustee, as Lessor, and the Council and the State, as Lessee, relating to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Lease Participation Certificates (School for the Deaf Project - 2017 Refunding Series D) (the "Certificates"), each in substantially the form presented to this meeting and attached hereto as Exhibits A (Lease) and B (Sublease), respectively, are hereby approved in all respects, and the Chairman of the Council is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver for and on behalf of and in the name of the Council, the foregoing instruments, with such changes, insertions and omissions as may be approved by the officer executing the same; provided, however, that in each and every instance, such instruments shall have been approved as to form by the office of the Attorney General.
2. The Council recognizes that its rules of procedure and regulations are in many respects inapplicable to the transactions such as the State of Rhode Island entering into leases for the purpose of financing or refinancing state projects or facilities. To the extent necessary to effect the financings authorized hereinabove, the Council accepts such variations from its rules of procedure and regulations.
3. This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Lawrence Purtill, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.