



MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
Council on Elementary and Secondary Education  
October 30, 2014

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education work session was held on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at the Rhode Island Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI.

Chair Guida welcomed everyone to the work session of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, declared a quorum present, noted for the record that Council Members Jo Eva Gaines would not be joining the meeting, and called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**Present:** Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

Mathies Santos arrived at 5:29

**Absent:** Jo Eva Gaines

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the work session of October 30, 2014.

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

**YEAS:** Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

**NAYS:** 0

## 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### **Encl2a – National Standards for Personal Finance – Request for Endorsement**

Commissioner Gist introduced the topic by sharing how excited she is by this body of work that started many months ago when she was approached by an incredible group of students from East Greenwich High School who were very interested in the issue of financial literacy or personal finance for students. The group met with the Commissioner several times and that resulted in the plan to research various national standards and determine which would be the best for Rhode Island students. After much research, it was ultimately decided to ask the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education for an endorsement of the Council for Economic Education National Standards for Financial Literacy so that school districts in the state that are teaching financial literacy could use as a guide.

Next, Commissioner Gist introduced Charlotte Palmer, a senior at East Greenwich High School, who along with her fellow students, did an amazing job researching, analyzing and advocating for personal finance standards for Rhode Island schools. The group was mentored by Dr. Margaret Brooks, Economics Professor at Bridgewater State University and President of the Rhode Island Jumpstart Coalition and the R.I. Chapter of the Council for Economic Education, and also by Pat Page, the 2014 R.I. Teacher of the Year and Business and Computer and Technology Educator at East Greenwich High School.

Charlotte introduced herself as a student at East Greenwich High School and a member of the “Real Ed RI” team founded at her school, as part of a broader national campaign to empower students to make change in their communities. The group participated in a two-day “Choose to Matter” event, in which they compared the connection between unemployment and education. Recognizing that one of the biggest gaps in the standard American education is in personal finance, the group took immediate action by starting a social media campaign, which included distributing surveys through Twitter and the R.I. Interscholastic League to reach students statewide.

She then walked the Council members through a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the results of the group’s survey administered to businesses and finance teachers across the state. Although R.I. is one of only a few states that does not have personal finance standards, 84% of the 20 R.I. districts surveyed responded that they do offer one or more finance literacy classes and three of those districts have personal finance as a graduation requirement.

The group’s next step in the process was to look at current, nationally recognized standards, and do a very close, side-by-side comparison against a rubric, in order to be able to decide which would best serve the needs of R.I. students. After gathering and analyzing much data, the group is recommending that R.I. endorse the Council for Economic Education National Standards for Financial Literacy, which are recent and relevant, easy to

test and implement, focused on decision-making, and relevant to R.I. students and to high-need student populations.

The Council members applauded Charlotte for her flawless presentation and persuasive job in presenting the recommendation.

Council members raised concerns with the additional financial issues that the standards might pose on districts; Commissioner Gist reminded them that many districts are already offering it and that they are optional.

**[Members Santos arrives at this time]**

### **Encl2b - Strategic Planning**

Chair Mancuso picked up where she left off at the last meeting when the Council discussed the proposed strategic planning process. She reported that RIDE began the high-level outreach across the state by doing a soft launch of the large-scale electronic survey, which received almost 1000 responses in only five days. The survey will be open until December and RIDE has set the goal of collecting 10,000 responses before the end of the calendar year. Chair Mancuso encouraged Board members to help get the survey out within their own networks and turned the discussion over to Andrea Castaneda.

Ms. Castaneda shared some initial survey data from the soft launch that RIDE did at the Technology Conference held the previous weekend. She cautioned that since the survey was administered to a self-selected, very discreet audience, the priorities may seem unbalanced, but that will change as RIDE begins to reach-out to broader audiences and different stakeholders.

Council Chair Guida reported that the next day RIDE would officially launch the strategic planning website as well as the Ambassador Design Team recruitment window. The Ambassador Design Team will be a group of between 15-20 community members who will partner with RIDE and the Council to develop the content of the new K-12 strategic plan.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**3a. Update on collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)**

**3b. Commissioner Gist's performance review, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1)**

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

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education convenes in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) and R.I. G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reasons set forth above.

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 5:45 p.m.

All non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, David Abbott, RIDE's Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Andrea Castaneda, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, and Margaret Santiago, RIDE's Manager, Human Resources.

The Council reconvened in open session at 6:20 p.m.

Chair Guida reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on October 30, 2014

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**Council Members Callahan and Purtill had departed as they recused themselves from discussion of agenda item 3a - Update on collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)**

**Chair Mancuso had departed.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

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

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.