



MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
ON STRATEGIC PLANNING  
Council on Elementary and Secondary Education  
December 11, 2014

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Work Session on Strategic Planning was held on December 11, 2014, at the Rhode Island State House, Providence, RI.

Chair Guida welcomed everyone to the Work Session on Strategic Planning of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and declared a quorum present.

He then called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

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

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

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

**VOTED:** That the Council Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the work session of December 11, 2014.

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

**YEAS:** Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos and Joyce Stevos

**NAYS:** 0

**2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**- Ambassador Design Team**

Board Chair Mancuso began the meeting by providing an overview of the recruitment process and the role of the Ambassador Design Team. She reported that over 300 individuals submitted applications for an unpaid position that will require 60 hours of their

nights and weekends over the next six months to work with the Board in developing Rhode Island's 2015-2020 strategic plan. She indicated that she reviewed the applicant pool and the slate being recommended and praised the incredible outpouring of community interest.

Next, Chair Guida pointed out that the nomination slate has been increased to 26 individuals, 14 more than was originally planned. He reported that he personally spent a fair amount of time reviewing the applicant pool of 156 highly talented applicants, and discussing the objectives that the Council is trying to achieve in putting the recommended team together. He went on to say that the recommended slate represents much of what is great about Rhode Island and that it is a highly racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse group with many different educational and professional experiences, and that more importantly, it also includes students, parents, educators, and others connected to education. He thanked all of the applicants and stated that those who were not selected would be invited to join in the process in another meaningful capacity.

Next, Commissioner Gist walked Council Members through the process. She reported that RIDE opened the recruitment window for about a month and stayed connected to all individuals who applied to ensure that they had all of the needed information. Of the approximately 200 applicants, the applicant pool was narrowed to 156 based upon confirmation of continued interest and schedule availability. RIDE scheduled two informational sessions, facilitated by David Moscarelli, Rhode Island's 2015 Teacher of the Year, and Jeremiah Newell, Harvard Fellow, who provided the applicants with information about the process and modelled a few of the types of processes that the team will be using over the next six months. Of the 120 attendees, over 90% left more enthusiastic than they were before attending. The recommended slate includes veteran teachers, a union leader, a Milken Award winner, a superintendent of the year, an assistant principal of the year, and students who hold office and are incredible leaders.

Member Beretta commended the Commissioner and RIDE's staff for the wonderful work in putting the slate together and indicated that she wholeheartedly supports the recommended list.

**[Member Beretta departs at this time]**

Member Callahan thanked the Commissioner for providing Council members with the list in advance and asked about how the percentages and distribution play out in terms of role and geographic distribution now that the pool has been reduced to 26.

Andrea Castaneda, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, responded that the recommended slate is made up of 35% current and past teachers; 50% parents of current PK-12 R.I. students; 19% current administrators; 19% higher education; 15% current PK-12 R.I. students; 31% people of color; 46% first generation to attend college; 15% not born in the U.S.; 19% non-native English speakers; 69% attend(ed) R.I. schools; 42% men; 58% women; 12% business; and 12% elected officials. She also reported that the Council will be

receiving an update from the team on a monthly basis and that at the next quarterly full Board meeting there will some discussion on the interplay between the work on the PK-12 and the Postsecondary Strategic Plans.

Member Purtill also commended Commissioner Gist and RIDE staff for all of the work in reviewing the applicant pool and recommended nomination slate.

The Council unanimously endorsed the recommended nomination slate.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.