

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**August 10, 2006**

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A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:10 p.m.

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**In Attendance**

J. DiPrete, C. Callahan, B. Camara, P. Guida, K. Forbes, G. Grove and M. Paradise.

**Public Remarks**

Representing the Rhode Island Middle Level Educators, William Fasano spoke to the Board in favor of the proposed changes to the Middle School and High School Regulations. Mr. Fasano thanked the Regents for all their work on behalf of middle schools and urged them to accept the document, as presented, for public hearing.

**Chairman Remarks**

- Chairman DiPrete congratulated Sharon Osborne on the birth of her newest grand son and welcomed Liam John Roach.
- Mr. DiPrete congratulated Regent Callahan for her work on the High School Regulations and thanked everyone who has worked on them.
- As part of the Central Falls update, Chairman DiPrete introduced Ana Morales, the Chairman for the Central Falls' Board of Trustees. Commissioner McWalters explained to the Board that the Superintendent of the Central Falls district had resigned to accept a position in Virginia and because of the timing of her departure (school to open in approximately 4 weeks), William Holland had agreed to step in as Interim Superintendent through January.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2006.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

**Approval of Capital Budget**

The Chairman of the Board of Regents Finance Committee, Bob Camara reported on the "ongoing" process of submitting a series of budget items, of which the Capital Budget is the first. Mr. Camara explained that RIDE is responsible for the repair, renovation, and improvement of fixed assets used by the state's Career and Technical Centers and the state operated schools. This capital budget is a five-year comprehensive plan that totals \$106 million because the budget instructions require that the department include the total cost of all projects until all funds are fully expended. Mr. Camara then briefly reviewed the items, including the Met School project (\$29M); renovations to state-owned career and technical centers (\$15M); RIDE technology upgrades (\$2.55M); and the new facility at RI School for the Deaf (\$31.25M).

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the FY 2008 Capital Budget Totaling \$105,939,844.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

**Approval of Regulations of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education “Regarding Literacy, Proficiency Based Graduation and Restructuring of the Learning Environment at the Middle and High School Level, for Purpose of Public Hearing.**

The Chair of the Board of Regents Committee on Academic and Student Programs (CASP), Colleen Callahan presented the item for consideration for public hearing. Ms. Callahan told board members that the majority of revisions add reference to middle schools, but that the revised regulations also represent a re-visit of the current high school regulations to clarify and update the regulations and to reflect the “lessons” learned over the past couple of years. Ms. Callahan explained that the revised regulations maintained the spirit of providing guidance to the districts in the areas of literacy, graduation by proficiency and restructuring, while leaving some room for districts to make decision regarding such things as prioritization. The revised regulations strengthened graduation by proficiency and specifically included advisories at the middle school level. The group discussed how the districts are actually carrying out the regulations and if any additional funding would be required to implement the revised regulations.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve, for Public Hearing, the Regulations of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Regarding Literacy, Proficiency Based Graduation and Restructuring of the Learning Environment at the Middle and High School Levels.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

**Approval of Revised Regulations for the Certification of Principals, for Purpose of Public Hearing**

The Chair of the Educator Quality Committee, Karin Forbes spoke to the group about the process that has been used to develop the revisions to the current principal certification requirements. The Director of the Office of Educator Quality and Certification, PaulaJo Gaines, explained the proposed changes as follows:

- Access to the principal certification for educators with three-years experience at the appropriate grade level; and
- Requirement for the completion of a Department of Education approved district level field experience program for certification by transcript analysis.

Board members discussed the need for an administrator assessment comparable to those taken by teachers in order to establish a bar for the levels of expertise required in order to lead an educational learning community. Commissioner McWalters told the members of the group that thus far, there was no solid test, however the department would monitor the situation.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves, for the Purpose of a Public Hearing, the Proposed Regulations for the Certification of Elementary and Secondary Principals, as Attached.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

#### Assessment System Approved

The US Department of Education fully approved Rhode Island's amended plan for the State accountability plan under Title I as amended by NCLB. Some of the amendments to the plan include: School Accountability; Method of AYP Determination; Performance Under; Uniform Averaging; and Method of AYP Determination. The announcement will be made around the second week of September.

#### Regents' Committee Reports

- a. **Educator Quality Committee** – The Chairman of the Board of Regents Educator Quality Committee, Karin Forbes announced that the next meeting of that committee will take place on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- b. **Progressive Support & Intervention** – The Chairman of the PS&I Committee, Patrick Guida distributed a report "Progressive Support and Intervention 2005-2006 Highlights" as attached.
- c. **Finance Committee** – Bob Camara, the Chairman of the Board of Regents Finance Committee announced that the next meeting is scheduled for August 17, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss the budget.
- d. **Committee on Academic and Student Programs** – Chair Colleen Callahan announced that the next meeting is scheduled on August 16 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. to discuss Dual Enrollment.
- e. **State and Charter Schools Committee** ~ No Report

#### Commissioner's Report

Commissioner McWalters told the members of the board that he has been invited to participate in the Congressional Education Commission which is a wonderful opportunity to bring forward some of Rhode Island's education issues.

#### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

#### Adjourn

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned immediately at 5:30 p.m.