

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 28, 2007

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 pm.

In Attendance

R. Flanders, A. Beretta, B. Camara, A. Davis, K. Forbes and C. Callahan

Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Flanders introduced himself and welcomed all.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting Minutes

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2007.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Reauthorization of Charter Schools

Regent A. Beretta introduced the agenda item. RIDE staff member, Keith Oliveira reviewed each of the proposed reauthorizations and provided an overview of the process and the key findings of each.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Reauthorization of the Blackstone Academy Charter with amendments, as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Reauthorization of the Compass School Charter with amendments, as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Reauthorization of the New England Laborers'/Cranston Construction Careers Academy Charter School, as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) and Grade Span Expectations (GSEs)

Commissioner McWalters explained that the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) and Grade Span Expectations (GSE's) for mathematics, reading, and written and oral communication have been in "draft" form for the last two years. The original version was developed in collaboration with other northeast states and reviewed "in the field" over a four-year period. The "draft" version was presented to the Board of Regents last year and received a favorable review; have since been widely distributed and reviewed by local school districts as well as various education constituency groups; edited; and are now ready to be adopted by the Board. The changes made to the documents have only been minor changes with exception to the oral communication, which were incomplete at the time. Additionally all Rhode Island's NECAP Assessments were developed based on the GLE/GSEs and have been reviewed favorably by the feds, ACHIEVE, and West Education. For the purpose of approval, Commissioner McWalters then listed them as follows: K-8 Mathematics; Reading Kindergarten –Grade 5; Reading Grades 5-12; Written and Oral Communication Kindergarten-Grade 5; and Written and Oral Communication Grades 5-12.

RIDE Director of the Office of Instruction Dr. Diane Schaefer joined the group. Group discussion concerned how the standards will be reviewed over the next three-five years to determine how they are working.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Grade Level Expectations and Grade Span Expectations, as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Endorsement of Central Falls/URI Agreement

Commissioner McWalters briefly reviewed the proposed agreement between the University of Rhode Island and the Central Falls School district. He told the Board that the University of Rhode Island is willing to lend its expertise and prestige to the Central Falls district and give their students the opportunity to attend URI. He told the members of the Board that the Board of Governors had endorsed the agreement on Monday, June 25.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Endorses the Agreement Between the Central Falls School District and the University of Rhode Island.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of NASBE President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Area Director

The Group briefly talked about the agenda item and proceeded to vote on the approval.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Endorses the Candidates for NASBE President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Area Director.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Review of Rhode Island Diploma System

Commissioner McWalters reported that the final notifications on the review of the district diploma systems have gone out and he will keep the Regents updated on the progress of the approvals.

Budget Report

RIDE director, Carolyn Dias distributed a document explaining the exacted FY 2008 budget of \$3.0 billion as follows: Funding Source summary – Local Contribution (63%) \$1,987,914,688; General State Revenue (30%) \$910,029,659; Federal (6%) \$178,395,910; and Restricted Receipts (1%) \$2,649,893. Ms. Dias then reviewed the general revenue and reviewed, in detail the FY 2008 Governor's recommended budget compared to the enacted budget. She highlighted the changes in the budget to the following programs: Administration of the Comprehensive Education Strategy; Davies Career & Tech; RI School for the Deaf; Central Falls: School Aid; School Housing Aid; Teachers' Retirement and Total FTEs from RIDE, Davies and School for the Deaf.

Legislative Report

This item was postponed until next month.

Regents' Committee Reports

Administrator & Educator Quality – Regent Karin Forbes told the members of the Board that two public hearings had been held on the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards and the final document would come before the Board for approval on July 25th.

Finance & Personnel - Bob Camara told Board members that all school supplies for all districts are now being centrally purchased statewide. He also reported that the department is working with RIPTA on special education transportation issues needing to be addressed; that the group needs to begin considering district consolidation and a statewide teacher contract. A BOR Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 19, at 2:00 p.m.

CASP ~ Regent Colleen Callahan told Board members that the BOR CASP committee is working on a legal review of the proposed secondary regulations and that those regs will be scheduled for public hearings in the fall with final approval scheduled for the end of October 2007. Additionally, there is a dual enrollment meeting scheduled for Friday morning.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner McWalters reported that the Federal Department of Education has requested to speak with us on our performance based system of Career & Technical education.

Executive Agenda

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.