

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 26, 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, B. Camara, A. Davis, K. Forbes and C. Callahan, P. Guida

Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Flanders suggested a retreat for the Board on August 23 at 12:00 noon. Sharon Osborne will contact all members for availability.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2007.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of School Construction Projects

Regent Bob Camara explained to the Board that these projects are being brought before the Regents under the new school construction regulations that were passed by the Board on May 24, 2007. Mr. Camara then briefly reviewed the two projects under consideration as follows:

- Coventry – District wide renovations to address new fire code regulations, serious roof leaks, failing boilers, infrastructure upgrades, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) issues.
- Scituate – Construction of one sport field, one running track, and two practice fields to be used for physical education and school athletics. The resurfacing of four existing tennis courts.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction for Coventry totaling \$11,200,000 as Recommended by the Rhode Island Board of Regents' Finance Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction for Scituate totaling \$3,500,000 as Recommended by the Rhode Island Board of Regents' Finance Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of FY 2009 Capital Budget Request

BOR Finance and Personnel Chair, Bob Camara introduced the agenda item. He gave a short description and told the Board 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 \$87.3M because the budget instructions require that we include the total cost of all projects until all funds are fully expended. The FY 2008

expenditures are estimated to be approximately \$12.9M, or 14.6% of the total budget; money already spent totals \$40.1M; and the rest of the \$87.3M (\$34.3M) will be spent over the years 2009 to 2013. The Commissioner reminded Board members that this request is part of the agreement between the state and districts that if the state fixed the career and technical schools (brought them back into code), they would take over ownership.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the FY 2009 capital budget totaling \$87,300,440 as Recommended by the Rhode Island Board of Regents' Finance Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of 07-08 Executive Pay Plan

RIDE Director of Human Resource Development, Paula Rossi introduced the agenda item. She distributed a "Revised" Attachment IV. Ms. Rossi explained that in September 2005, the Board approved the Executive Pay Plan for non-union non-classified employees covered by the Board's Personnel Policies. The pay plan approved at that time covered a four-year period FY 04-05 through FY 07-08. It included changes to the 04-05 & 05-06 salary ranges, established a salary pool in each of the years covered by the plan and authorized the Commissioner to make adjustments to compensation for employees based on performance. The changes to the ranges and salary pool were consistent with the changes to collective bargaining agreements that were put into effect for union employees of the Board and by the Governor for other non-union state employees. A graduated scale of premium co-share based on earnings was put into effect for Regents employees. At that time, the rates for FY 07-08 were not known. Therefore, authorization of the 06-09 salary ranges and the health benefit co-share for 07-08 rates must be acted on by the Board.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the changes in salary ranges and co-share for health benefits, effective July 1, 2007 as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Legislative Report

RIDE staff member Andy Andrade briefly reviewed the legislative report relating to education. He reported that there were 38 bills relating to education. Mr. Andrade's report focused on a few of the more important impacting bills as follow:

- S556, as amended/H6371 sub A/ an act relating to motor and other vehicles – school, pupil transport vehicle which allows for SUVs, vans, cars to transport eight or less students;
- S81 subA/H5050 sub A requires all RI senior high schools to offer only healthy beverages and snacks in their vending machines.
- S1053, which requires 2 evacuation drills and 2 lockdown drills to be included among the 15 mandatory drills, which schools must conduct each year.

The Regents requested that as part of their retreat agenda, they discuss strategically, what legislation might be needed to move their agenda forward.

Budget Report

Commissioner McWalters talked about the Governor's budget retreat and told Board members that the submission of the Budget is due on October 1. He explained that the conversation with the Governor is ongoing, however this year, the Governor wants to sit down personally with every director to talk about the budget, but that at some point, the Regents will have to go on record with their own proposal. He suggested that the retreat will give the Board an opportunity to discuss its own agenda and priorities.

Regents' Committee Reports

Administrator & Educator Quality – Regent Karin Forbes told the members that her committee continues to work on the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS) and a meeting has been scheduled for August 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Finance & Personnel – Regent Bob Camara told Board members that the budget would be discussed in detail at their retreat on August 23.

PS&I – Regent Guida distributed a report “A Look at the 2006-07 PS&I Efforts in Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, South Kingstown, West Warwick and Woonsocket School Districts and Schools”. Deputy Commissioner David Abbott reviewed the levels of intervention status. RIDE Director of the Office of Progressive Support and Intervention, Dr. Mary Canole walked the group through the intervention process.

CASP ~ Regent Colleen Callahan told Board members that the Secondary Regulations will have to be brought out to public hearing, but will come before the Board of Regents in the fall for approval (for public hearing).

State and Charter Schools - No report.

Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner McWalters reported that because of ongoing problems with the proposed building site for the new School for the Deaf (between the Davies Career and Technical Center and CCRD), the plan is to re-look at locating the new school at the original site.
- The Commissioner also reported that Deputy Commissioner Todd Flaherty will be retiring on August 23rd to take a position with the Council Chief State School Officers.
- He also reported that he has had a few regulations waivers requests come in from the district and in light of this year's budgeting constraints, he will be considering them for the first time; and that
- 11 Districts might be filing a Caruolo action.

Executive Agenda

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(2), the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 6:20 p.m.

Chairman Flanders reported that no votes had been taken in Executive Session.

Adjournment

With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.