

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING - SEPTEMBER 27, 2007**

A meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

R. Flanders, P. Guida, C. Callahan, F. Caprio, R. Camara, A. Davis, G. Grove, K. Forbes.

Public Remarks

Henry Shelton requested that the Board authorize the distribution of a flyer to all schools advising parents of their rights under state law and/or by the Rules and Regulations of the Public Utilities Commission to appeal the shut-off of any basic utility. Mr. Shelton was advised that RIDE staff would discuss the distribution.

Marcia Reback - Chair of the Certification Policy Advisory Board (CPAB) spoke to the Board regarding the CPAB's recommendations on changes to the RI Teacher Standards. Recommendations from CPAB are as follows:

Teaching Standards #3 – retain original language from RIBTS and delete the word “developmental”; #6 - retain original language, delete the word “supportive”; #8 - retain language from RIPTS descriptor 6.2/6.3 – delete “and nurturing”; #9 - change language in descriptor 9.1 to read: “Select and/or design individual and group classroom assessment.”

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Flanders acknowledged a letter from Governor Carcieri requesting that he Chair a task force to recommend improvements to the teacher contracting process in Rhode Island. Chairman Flanders told the members of the board that he is looking for input as to appointments to the task force as well as process and substance ideas. The Judge also commented on the results of the recent NAEP test results, saying that, “while we are encouraged with the improvements, Rhode Island’s results, as a whole, are unacceptable and we need to do whatever we can to improve Rhode Island’s achievement.”

Approval of Minutes

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the minutes of the Rhode Island Board of Regents Meeting of August 23, 2007 and Regents’ Retreat of August 23, 2007 be approved, as presented.

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

Approval of Adult Education Content Standards

RIDE Director of Adult Education, Johan Uvin and RIDE staff member, Elizabeth Jardine presented the first adult education content standards.

They gave a short description of the development process and told the Board that the work was guided by the Governor's Adult Literacy Task Force Report which included among its key findings, the establishment of "a common core of content and performance standards and aligned assessments for use in programs across the adult education system in Rhode Island." A team consisting of staff from the Office of Adult Education, local professional development staff, and three national experts in standards based instruction began a process of content standards development. In addition to specifying what adult students should know and be able to do, this standards expert team has closely examined alignment with other standards including the Board of Governors' College Readiness Standards. Dr. Uvin explained the standards for the six levels that an adult learner can achieve.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves, Effective September 27, 2007, the Adult Education Content Standards, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities, for Purpose of Public Hearing

RIDE Director of Office of Special Needs, Dr. Kenneth Swanson presented the agenda item for consideration. Dr. Swanson explained to the members of the Board that the proposed regulations have been developed by the RIDE Office of Special Needs with input from various interested groups and reviewed in two Board of Regents work sessions. He highlighted the areas of most discussion – Definition of Child with a Disability – Developmental Delay; Definitions of Special Education and Related Services; Definition of Teacher of Record; Evaluation Timeline; Specific Learning Disability; Extended School Year Services; IEP Content-Benchmarks or Short Term Objectives; Transition Services; Personnel; Continuum of Alternative Placements; and Parentally Placed Private School Students. He emphasized that these regulations are being approved tonight for public hearing and that two hearings have been scheduled for November 7 and 8.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves, for Purpose of Public Hearings, the Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)

RIDE Director of Office of Educator Quality, Paulajo Gaines briefly reviewed the process for developing the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards. She told the Board that there had been very few comments at the public hearings and that the Certification and Advisory Board and Board of Regents Educator Quality Committee has reviewed the proposed standards. The group reviewed the proposed language of the standards and discussed standard 9 - teachers use appropriate formal and informal assessment strategies – agrees with the CPAB recommendation. Regent Forbes spoke in favor of keeping “supportive” and “nurturing” in the language. Deputy Commissioner David Abbott asked that the group amend the document presented to change “regulations” to “standards”.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS), as amended.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Appeals

Legal Counsel for the Board, Howard Haronian reviewed and read the appeals cases individually.

Ana Farias versus Providence School Board

MOVED AND SECONDED: That in the Matter of Ana Farias v. Providence School Board, the Decision of the Commissioner is Upheld.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Rosemary Davidson versus Middletown School Committee

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, in the Matter of Rosemary Davidson v. Middletown School Committee, the Decision of the Commissioner is Upheld.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Follow-up to Board of Regents Retreat/Discussion of Priorities and Budget Process

Commissioner McWalters opened the discussion reporting on the recently released NAEP results. He told the Board that the rural towns are doing well, but that the urban cities are not raising their scores enough to raise overall state scores.

The Commissioner then distributed a one page overview of the “RIDE Agenda”, as per the Regents discussions at the retreat. He highlighted the following areas:

- Gaps and Proficiency – Urban Districts
- Educator Quality
- Statewide Infrastructure

The group discussed the items under each area and Judge Flanders told the group that over the coming weeks we will work to organize these issues into priorities.

Executive Agenda

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(2), the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 5:55 p.m.

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

Adjournment

With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.