

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING – June 9, 2008**

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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 & convened at 4:05 p.m.

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**In Attendance:**

R. Flanders, C. Callahan, A. Beretta, R. Camara, A. Cano-Morales, F. Caprio, A. Davis, K. Forbes.

**1. Approval of Waiver to Certification Regulations**

Commissioner McWalters told the members of the Board of Regents that this item was being brought back to the Board after being tabled at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Regents meeting. He reminded the Board that the Providence School Committee had requested the Board of Regents to consider a waiver of the certification regulations for superintendents because they were unsure if their selected candidate, Thomas Brady fulfilled all of Rhode Island requirements for certification. Because the department did not receive all of Mr. Brady's' background information and education transcripts until the afternoon of the meeting, the Board voted to table the agenda item until his qualifications could be evaluated. The Commissioner informed the Board that his educational background and experience has now been evaluated and Mr. Brady fulfills (and exceeds) all the requirements for a Rhode Island Administrator certification, so a waiver is not necessary.

**2. Discussion of Proposed Changes to Board of Regents Secondary Regulations**

The Commissioner gave the group an overview of the Regents discussions and work on the secondary regulations over the past few months, as follows:

- The RI Diploma system is a proficiency based system based on student performance. School systems must demonstrate that they are providing fair opportunities to learn and demonstrate proficiency;
- RI is committed to the principle that student proficiency should be evaluated through multiple measures;
- There are multiple pathways to proficiency, to a high school diploma, and to a productive life after high school, therefore an Individual Learning Plan will be developed for each student beginning no later than middle school;
- The New England Common Assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics will be used in conjunction with a student's Proficiency Profile to make proficiency decisions in language arts and mathematics. The NECAP tests will be used as one-third of the evidence in each of these content areas;
- In the arts, social studies, and technology, a student's level of proficiency will be determined by the student's Proficiency Profiles in each of the corresponding areas;
- In science, a student's level of proficiency will be determined by the student's Proficiency Profile in science. The state will determine the role of the NECAP Science test when additional information about the test and the NECAP performance standards can be assessed;
- The minimal acceptance level of proficiency for graduation reflects the competency expected for all students receiving a Regents-approved diploma.

The group then discussed the remaining policy points as follows: To what extent can low performance on the NECAP be compensated by strong performance in the Proficiency Profile and vice versa?; and is there a point at which additional evidence from NECAP cannot compensate for low performance on the Proficiency Profile; and vice versa.? The group confirmed that students must demonstrate a level of proficiency in each of the six core academic areas and applied learning skills through their Area of Specialized Interest. And, some students will not demonstrate the needed level of proficiency in 4 or 5 years. There must be options available to ensure that these students are supported beyond high school in order to meet their post-secondary goals. And, for those students who may never meet the needed level of proficiency to receive a Regents'-approved diploma, provisions will need to be made to address their needs. Additionally, regulation language needs to be drafted to ensure that all students have access and opportunity to meet proficiency.

**Adjourn:** 5:48 p.m.