

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
255 WESTMINSTER STREET
5TH FLOOR - PETER MCWALTERS CONFERENCE ROOM
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903



Enclosure 2b

June 2, 2011

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2011
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

Regents Present: George Caruolo, Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Robert Carothers, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

Chairman Caruolo asked the Board to entertain a motion to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss the litigation on the Providence lawsuit.

On a motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Guida and seconded by Regent Callahan it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education add an executive session to the meeting agenda.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Next, Chairman Caruolo asked the Board for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss litigation on the Providence lawsuit pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(2)

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Forbes it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education enter into executive session.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

The Board reconvened in open session at 12:40 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Bernal it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education seal the minutes of the executive session.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted and in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Next Chairman Caruolo asked the Board to entertain a motion to have the regularly scheduled BOR work session be a BOR meeting due to the fact that there are a few voting items that are time sensitive.

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Shimberg it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education turn the June 16th BOR Work Session to a BOR Meeting

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted and in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

1. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

School for the Deaf:

- Commissioner Gist reported that the School for the Deaf has chosen transformation as its model and that the RIDE Office of Transformation is providing technical support as the School for the Deaf community goes through the process of writing the school-reform plan.

Dissertation:

- Commissioner Gist next gave an update on her dissertation, which is a leadership case study of the work that is happening on leading the development of RI's educator-evaluation system.

Commissioner Gist also shared with the Board that her State of Education Address to the General Assembly has been scheduled for June 1st.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Career and Technical Education -

Andrea Castañeda continued with her presentation from the May 5th BOR meeting at which she laid out the environment of Career and Technical Education as it currently exists. She walked the Regents through the documents that were shared with them in advance of the meeting:

- Regulatory Framework
- Timeline

She walked the Regents through the 3 major design principles, which are attached to 10 regulatory issues that will be the topic of discussion over the next several months:

- Principle one - CTE will prepare learners for success in postsecondary education, training, and rewarding careers.
- Principle two - CTE will support student postsecondary success through planning, credentialing, industry partnerships, and articulation with higher education and training programs.
- Principle three - RI's state-managed CTE system will adequately invest in high-quality, highly effective programs offered through a diverse delivery system.

Regent Callahan asked if RIDE was planning on putting together a design team to engage input from all stakeholders across the state.

Next Commissioner Gist and Ms. Castañeda gave an overview on the North Kingstown variance request seeking the ability to enroll students in career and technical education programs at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. This action requires a variance from the 1990 Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing the Management and Operation of Area Vocational-Technical Centers in RI, which establishes North Kingstown as a participating district affiliated only with the Coventry Career and Technical Center. This variance would allow students and families to choose which Career and Technical Center to attend. The Board will be asked to approve this variance at its June 2, 2011, meeting.

School Construction Projects -

Chairman Caruolo shared a letter from the General Assembly requesting the Board of Regents to hold off on approving any new construction projects.

There are currently three projects waiting for BOR approval:

Little Compton Schools Construction Project

- The Little Compton project being considered for housing-aid reimbursement includes major renovations at the Wilbur & McMahon School, totaling \$14,932,680.
- These improvements are primarily high-priority health, life safety, and code improvements, which includes lighting and heating-plant retrofits, fire-protection improvements, envelope repairs, and science-laboratory upgrades.

Paul Cuffee Charter School Construction Project

- The Paul Cuffee project being considered for housing-aid reimbursement includes parking and play-area expansion, asset protection, and emergency repairs at the Paul Cuffee Lower School building, at 459 Promenade Street, totaling \$1,403,991.

Bristol Warren Districtwide Improvements Project

- The Bristol Warren project being considered for housing-aid reimbursement includes districtwide renovations and high-priority repairs and improvements at Mt. Hope High School, totaling \$10,597,060.
- The districtwide renovations will address code compliance, accessibility, and health and life-safety issues at five schools in the district.

- The improvements at the high school will address indoor air-quality concerns and heating-plant upgrades. This project will also address code compliance and life- safety issues at the high school.

Regent Adrain suggested making health and safety projects a priority if the Board is asked to prioritize .

Certification Redesign

Commissioner Gist and Mary Ann Snider gave an update on what has been happening with the certification-redesign work currently going on:

- Working draft was shared with the Board on the proposed tier system for teacher certification.
- The Certification Redesign group has developed a working draft for certification redesign.
- The working draft includes a tiered certification system that includes an Initial Certificate, Professional Certificate, and Advanced Certificate.
- The working draft includes recommendations for revisions to certification areas, testing requirements, routes to certification, and how an individual who does not meet full certification requirements can earn a preliminary certificate.

The Certification Redesign group has conducted extensive outreach efforts including:

- o 3 surveys of educators, which received approximately 2,000 responses to inform the working draft; and
- o approximately 35 outreach sessions with RIDE internal and field-based external stakeholders to inform the working draft.

Regent Callahan voiced that:

- o Although she appreciates RIDE's bringing the issue of certification redesign to the table, she is concerned that there isn't enough time being dedicated to the discussion.
- o Would like to have the opportunity to look at the research and what other states are doing.
- o Concerned about linking teacher evaluation to certification.

- The Board's making a policy decision that would prevent an educator from being able to teach in another setting where he/she may be successful.
- Applauded RIDE for putting together the survey, but there is a feeling in the field that the survey looks too professional - like a done deal and not a work in progress.

Adjournment: With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.