



**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at the Community College of Rhode Island, 400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cottam welcomed everyone, noted for the record that Board Members Crosby, Gaines and Martinez would not be attending the meeting and that Provost DeHayes was representing President Dooley. She declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Present:** Barbara Cottam, William Foulkes, Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, \*Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Rachelle Green, \*\*Mike Grey, Thomas Izzo, \*\*\*Mariela Lucaj, \*\*\*Thalia Philippe, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**Absent:** Heather Crosby  
Jo Eva Gaines  
Marta Martinez  
Stefan Pryor - ex-officio, non-voting member

[\*Arrived at 5:45 p.m.]

\*\*Arrived at 6:15 p.m. - ex-officio, non-voting member]

\*\*\*ex-officio, non-voting members]

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by William Foulkes, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of November 15, 2017.

**Vote:** 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

[Member Callahan arrived at 5:45 p.m.]

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**2a. Minutes of the August 2, 2017, Meeting**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 2, 2017, meeting

**Vote:** 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Barbara Cottam, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

[Member Callahan arrived at 5:45 p.m.]

[Members Beretta and Field had to recuse themselves from the vote as they did not attend the August 2, 2017, quarterly meeting of the Board of Education]

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Three parents spoke in opposition to the Draft Regulations Relating to Rights and Protections of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students.

**4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS**

**Chair of the Board of Education**

Chair Cottam began by highlighting some events that took place in the PK-20 system since the last time the Board met. She shared that earlier in the fall, along with other Board Members, she attended the Water Fire Salute to PK-12 educators as well as the URI 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, where 125 torchbearers joined her for a lighting ceremony.

Next, Chair Cottam reported that the PrepareRI program, one of the most ambitious plans in the nation to improve youth career readiness, is well underway and last month over 250 people attended a PrepareRI Summit.

Chair Cottam also thanked Board Members who last week attended the Senate Education Committee, RI Education Summit, where she, along with Commissioners Dann-Messier and Wagner, presented on the priorities, challenges, and opportunities, within the aligned PK-20 education system.

Chair Cottam ended her report by encouraging Board members to attend the Annual Computer Science for RI Summit, which will take place on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at the University of Rhode Island. The goal of the Summit is to expose and excite students from across Rhode Island with the varied educational and career opportunities that result from studying computer science.

### **Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education**

Daniel McConaghy, Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, began his report by sharing that RIDE recently released the 2017 State of RI Schoolhouses report. This yearlong assessment commissioned by the School Building Authority and completed by Jacobs Engineering, forecasts \$627.6 million in high-priority construction and repairs needed to keep students and teachers warm, safe and dry in their classrooms. The statewide cost to bring all school buildings into ideal condition is estimated at \$2.2 billion. To tackle the issue, Governor Raimondo signed an executive order creating the RI School Building Taskforce, whose main goal is to consider district feedback and public input to develop an action plan that includes potential funding streams and recommendations. The Taskforce will report its recommendations to the Governor by December 2017.

Chair McConaghy ended by reporting that the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education recently endorsed the RI Social and Emotional Learning Standards, which were developed in partnership with the National Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning. The standards are in response to school leaders, teachers and clinicians seeking RIDE's leadership in framing standards that schools can use to building strong strategies in supporting the social and emotional learning of children.

### **Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education**

William Foulkes, Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, began his report by commending the Community College of Rhode Island's leadership for the devise and successful launch of the RI Promise Scholarship initiative. Since the launch, the school has seen a 43% enrollment increase and the goal is to ensure that all students graduate in two years.

Chair Foulkes also praised the University of Rhode Island for their record-level student enrollment and for their very successful visit from NEASC on their accreditation.

He also reported that Rhode Island College was recently awarded a \$1.2M federal grant and opened the new Gaige Hall, which is the physical manifestation of many different transformative programs that the college is currently developing to reinvent education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Chair Foulkes ended by praising the postsecondary institutions on the hiring of very impressive individuals in their senior management teams. He also commended the institutions and their staff, and the staff of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, for all of their hard work on the budget over the last several months.

## **5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

### **Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Commissioner Wagner began by providing the members of the Council on Postsecondary Education with some context on the comments voiced during the public forum part of the agenda. He explained that the comments are the result of several discussions that the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has been having on a potential statewide regulation that would require all school districts to adopt a policy to ensure that transgender and gender non-conforming students are free from discrimination.

Next, Commissioner Wagner reported that in partnership with the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, RIDE recently hosted a Summit around the PrepareRI initiative. He explained that this is the first statewide convening that he was a part of where business and industry, postsecondary education, the PK-12 sector, and interested non-profits came together. Real in-depth conversations took place on how to align all those sectors in a way that produces not only better outcomes for our students and our state, but also at a core level, how that can be used as an opportunity to enhance and advance Rhode Island's equity agenda.

Commissioner Wagner ended by giving a progress report on the Governor's third-grade reading challenge, which is being managed by members of the Governor's Cabinet. He expressed that this is a very smart and impactful challenge for the Governor to issue, because if students can read fluently and joyfully by the time they enter the third-grade, the trajectory of their lives going forward is different. He also talked about the role of curriculum and the importance of having a coherent approach to reading instruction in the PK and K-3 grade levels, providing learning opportunities for teachers, and teachers having access to high-quality, vetted curriculum resources.

### **Commissioner of Postsecondary Education**

Commissioner Dann-Messier provided an update on the ongoing work of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and highlighted some of the collaborative partnerships underway with RIDE.

Commissioner Dann-Messier shared that last month the office brought together national and local experts to provide guidance to the state as her office finalized their plan to reach the very ambitious attainment goal of 70% of all Rhode Islanders having postsecondary certifications and degrees by 2015. The discussions centered on closing equity gaps in postsecondary education, tackling affordability, and designing innovating workforce development programs. She thanked Commissioner Wagner for sharing the PK-12 perspective at the recent PrepreRI Summit and looks forward to the continued partnership with RIDE and other state agencies. She also thanked Chair Foulkes and other Board members for adding their voices to the discussion.

Next, Commissioner Dann-Messier shared that she was pleased to join Commissioner Wagner at the recent PrepareRI Summit. The focus was on statewide efforts to increase work-based learning opportunities for secondary and postsecondary youth, with a commitment to creating seamless career pathways for all students.

She also shared her excitement when learning that the State was successful in its grant application to the National Governors Association to add capacity to expand work-based learning opportunities for students at the postsecondary level. She thanked Commissioner Wagner for RIDE's support in that effort and continued partnership in this and other important PK-20 work.

Commissioner Dann-Messier ended her report by highlighting a couple of important efforts in postsecondary education:

- The RI Nursing Education Center, a state-of-the-art facility housing both Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island nursing programs, will have its grand-opening celebration on November 29.
  
- The Westerly Education Center opened its doors earlier in the year and has already served over 600 students who have taken courses offered by the three state institutions of public education and other partners. The growth and success of the Center has been so well received that they are exploring options to expand the model to other areas in the state.

## **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. PK-12 Capital Budget Proposal for FY 2018-2023**

Before turning the presentation over to Mark Dunham, Director of RIDE's Office of Finance, Commissioner Wagner noted that all of the capital projects, with the exception of one additional asset protection project at the RI School for the Deaf, were previously approved and are nearing completion.

Director Dunham explained that RIDE's 2018-2023 Capital Budget request is for nearly \$47M to fund eight projects, with \$32M already spent through June 30, 2017. The remaining \$15M will be earmarked for Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2023.

**b. PK-12 FY 2018 Revised, FY 2019 Current Service Level, and FY 2019 Constrained Budgets**

Commissioner Wagner gave some context on the three budgets and highlighted that this year every state agency was tasked, by the State Office of Budget and Management, to propose a FY 2019 Constrained Budget representing a 10% reduction of state funds, which for RIDE is around \$1.9M. He explained that, as was the case last year, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education only voted on the Revised and Current Service Level Budgets and not the Constrained Budget, as they did not want to endorse a 10% reduction. The Council asks that the full Board do the same.

Director Dunham went over a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the three budgets.

- **The FY 2018 Revised Budget request will include a request for:**
  - o Reduce salary turnover requirement to realistic natural level from approximately 8% salary (\$1.1M) to 4% of salary (\$.5M): \$6.M;
  - o An additional \$150,000 to pay for SAT fees due to anticipated increase in test takers;
  - o \$115,000 to pay for Advanced Placement (AP) Test Fess for low-income student, which had been paid with federal funds that are no longer available for this purpose;

Commissioner Wagner shared that last year RIDE advanced a comprehensive proposal that would pay for up to three AP tests for all students, not only for low-income students. The proposal did not advance and considering that, this year's structural deficit is larger than last year's, RIDE did not advance that proposal this year.

Board Member Izzo suggested doing a five-year projection on what the numbers might look like and develop a clear and well-defined initiative to address the funding shortfall so that students and families are not left in an unfunded situation.

Commissioner Wagner stated that he and Commissioner Dann-Messier have worked very closely on those policy issues and have convened a very effective workgroup comprised of stakeholders from across the state, which made a series of policy recommendations that both departments are working together to implement.

- **FY 2019 Current Service Level (CSL) Budget**
  - o RIDE's CSL Budget submission request is a total of \$1,440,564, 115, including \$1,188,319,391 in General Revenue expenditures.

- o Includes a \$27.3M increase in General Revenue expenditures from the FY 2018 Enacted Budget, with the largest increase of \$17.2M to fund year 8 of the funding formula and with the second largest increase of \$5.3M in teacher retirement; and

- o Increases the categorical funds, which are outside of the funding formula. As part of the budget reduction strategy, all of RIDE's categorical funds were flat-funded this year, but RIDE had an obligation to request additional funds for early learning (\$1.1M), which has a matching federal fund to expand services, as well as for English Language Learners (\$2.5M), which has a funding level in statute.

- **FY 2019 Constrained Budget**

Commissioner Wagner explained that 89% of RIDE's budget comes from federal funds and last year RIDE experienced approximately a 9% (\$1.9M) reduction in capacity compared to the prior year. With only 11% of its budget coming from state funds, RIDE is finding it challenging to come up with an additional \$1.9M reduction and has had to make some difficult recommendations. Very few programs that are significantly funded by state dollars can be eliminated without risking losing federal dollars associated with those programs. RIDE's recommendation is to reduce state funds for external grants to provide Adult Education Services (\$1.4M), leaving approximately \$3M in federal funds and \$.6M in state funds. In addition, RIDE is proposing reducing its operating budget by \$.5M through a transfer of all current school construction FTE costs to fees supported by construction budgets.

#### **6c. Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2019 – Fiscal Year 2020, and Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2018**

Commissioner Dann-Messier began by thanking the public institutions of postsecondary education for their partnership, and the Postsecondary Council for their leadership and support over the last several months, in developing the Fiscal Year 2019 Postsecondary Budget Request for \$1.4B.

Commissioner Dann-Messier shared the Postsecondary Education comprehensive five-year funding plan, designed to make the budgets more predictable and transparent. She also highlighted important components of the plan that will be developed over the next few months, which include:

- A predictable and coherent tuition policy-based, funding formula recommendations;
- Resource realignment around key priorities;
- Diversification of resources;
- Strategic Capital Plan and Performance funding.

She stated that a comprehensive plan for higher education funding would provide predictability, not only for the institutions, but also for students and families. She stressed her strong belief that a well thought-out and comprehensive plan will also help garner public support for the system's role in preparing youth and adults realize their education and career goals, while ensuring that there is a skilled workforce to continue to grow Rhode Island's economy.

Next, Commissioner Dann-Messier shared that the first phase of the comprehensive five-year funding plan included in this year's budget is performance funding, which if appropriated, will add \$50M over five-years and will be used to support the institutions' work in the state's priority areas of:

- Increasing completion rates;
- Increasing number of high-demand, high-wage graduates; and
- Advancing institutional-specific missions.

The Fiscal Year 2019 budget includes the first installment and will add \$9M to the institutions' budgets.

Commissioner Dann-Messier ended by sharing the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner's budget includes:

- The first full-year operating budget for the RI Nursing Education Center;
- Funds for the RIPromise Program at CCRI, Dual and Concurrent Enrollment funds; and
- A small pot of funds to support the postsecondary system's key priorities.

Next, Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Management, went over the Postsecondary budget request of \$1.2M, which has two types of funds with a 60/40 split. She stressed that there is not any increase for undergrad tuition and mandatory fees in Fiscal Year 2019.

- Unrestricted funds (60% - \$723M)
  - o All expenditures that relate to the provision of education to students; and
  - o Includes tuition and fees, state appropriations, GO debt, and other minor categories.
- Restricted funds (40% - \$501M)
  - o All expenditures that relate to functions apart from the educational mission; and
  - o Includes research, auxiliary and enterprise revenues such as dining, residence halls, parking, etc.

#### **6d. Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2019-2023**

Commissioner Dann-Messier introduced the Postsecondary \$1.4M Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 - 2023 and stressed that the plan has been reviewed and approved by both the Finance Committee and the Council on Postsecondary Education.



Associate Commissioner LaPanne highlighted that this is a significant budget request as \$49.2% of all state property is in the custodial-ship of the Council on Postsecondary Education, and is divided among the three public institutions of the Postsecondary Education. There are 52 proposed projects in the Capital Improvement Plan. Some projects are in the process of being completed in 2018; others are already approved with funding in place and are in progress; others are looking for continuation funding or seeking approval for fiscal years 2018-2020; and others are scheduled to begin in 2021.

**7. ACTION ITEMS:**

**Enclosure 7a - Approval of the PK-12 Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2023**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Daniel McConaghy, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2012 Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget Proposal, as presented.

**Vote:** 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

**Enclosure 7b - Approval of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2018 Revised and Fiscal Year 2019 Current Service Level Budgets**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and transmits the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2018 Revised and the Fiscal Year 2019 Current Service Level Budgets to the RI State Budget Office.

**Vote:** 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan,

Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice,  
Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green,  
Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and  
Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

**Enclosure 7c - Approval of the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2019 through Fiscal Year 2020, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2018**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

**VOTED:**

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Public Postsecondary Education System's budget request for the Fiscal Year 2019 as presented, sending it to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor's Recommended Budget, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Public Postsecondary Education System's tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the Fiscal Year 2019 as presented, sending them to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor's Recommended Budget, but reserving the right to readjust tuition fees as needed upon the action of the legislature, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Public Postsecondary Education System's Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2019 as presented, sending them to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor's Recommended Budget, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Public Postsecondary Education System's Budget allocation for the Fiscal Year 2018 as presented, sending it to the State Budget Office for inclusion in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

**Enclosure 7d - Approval of the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 through 2013**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Vivian Caruolo, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 through 2023 as presented for the Fiscal Years 2018 through 2023 as presented for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2020. It will then submit the Plan to the State Budget Office for review and inclusion in the Governor's recommended budget.

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

**Enclosure 7b - Approval of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2018 Revised and Fiscal Year 2019 Current Service Level Budgets**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and transmits the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2018 Revised and the Fiscal Year 2019 Current Service Level Budgets to the RI State Budget Office.

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

**Enclosure 7e - Advice and Consent of the Reappointment of Dr. Ken Wagner, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

On a motion duly made by Daniel McConaghy and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education gives its consent to a 3-year reappointment of Dr. Ken Wagner as Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, as recommended by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

Vote: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 1 - Amy Beretta

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion duly made by Daniel McConaghy and seconded by , it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 14 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Vivian Caruolo, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.