



**Enclosure 2a
January 14, 2019**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
December 18, 2018**

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Present: Amy Beretta, *Christopher Bove, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

Absent: None

[*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMENDED AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the December 18, 2018, Meeting

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the December 4, 2018, Meeting

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the December 4, 2018, Meeting

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Marta Martinez,
Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Chair Cottam had to recuse herself from the vote as she did not attend the December 4, 2018, Meeting]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair McConaghy reported that no one signed up to speak.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Wagner began by sharing that RIDE and the Board of Education recently received a letter from Senate President Ruggiero requesting that RIDE prepare and submit a report in response to the specific demands of a Resolution that the Senate passed requesting that the Board of Education conduct a comprehensive review of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993. Commissioner Wagner explained that RIDE did respond to the Resolution and provided the Senate with a copy of a report that it had put together a year ago in response to a similar request from the House. RIDE felt that the report sufficiently answered the Senate's questions, however, the Senate feels that the report is completely non-responsive to the Resolution. RIDE is preparing a response explaining in detail the significant steps that RIDE has taken since the report was released to more closely align the RI education system with that of Massachusetts.

Next, Commissioner Wagner shared there is another group led by Neil Steinberg, that is going to weigh-in on the same set of questions that the Senate is asking. This advisory group, similar to the one Massachusetts had in place when the state went through its reform, is comprised of various community stakeholders who will help generate coherence and tackle the same set of issues that the House and the Senate asked RIDE to respond to. The advisory group will issue a report, which will most likely be considered by the Board, the Council and the Legislature.

Council members discussed how the Council can support RIDE and the Commissioner, how to move the system forward, how to find ways in which to deal with the real challenge of closing the achievement gap, and the need to stay focused and stay the course.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ESSA Accountability Release

Commissioner Wagner went over a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the components of the Rhode Island Accountability System (performance measures, star ratings, and school improvement); the measures that will be used to evaluate school performance (academic performance, student success, and college and career readiness); how the school star rating (1-5) with six sets of variables was determined (score each individual measure, present measures on rules chart, and determine school Star Rating - statewide, 21 schools are designated at 5 stars, 40 at 4 stars, 132 at 3 stars, 68 at 2 stars, and 36 at 1 star); and what the ratings mean. Science proficiency, graduate proficiency, and diploma plus will be added in future years.

Commissioner Wagner explained that unlike past accountability systems, which used an aggregated score, the Star Rating is determined using a broader range of performance measures. Schools must perform well across all measures to earn a high Star Rating. The primary drivers of the accountability system, and of Star Ratings, are student achievement and student growth, measured through performance on state assessments. These measures are rounded out by a more expansive view of school climate, culture, and achievement, including such measures as student and teacher chronic absence, suspension rates, and student pathways.

Student sub-group performance is also a central component of the system. In order to earn 5 stars, a school must have no low-performing sub-groups in achievement, growth, or graduation rate. If a school has two or more sub-groups classified as low performing, even if they perform very well in other measures, they cannot earn more than 3 stars.

Next, Commissioner Wagner introduced Mike Ferry, RIDE's Director of Data, Analysis and Research, who did a walkthrough of the new School Report Card system (state, district and school). He explained that the clean and user-friendly system was built in house, which is hugely important as it gives RIDE the ability to continue to improve it over time without having to go through an external vendor. Each school's landing page includes a narrative and pictures submitted by the district, which can be updated on a regular basis.

The Report Card platform includes accountability data and other important sources of information, as well as data on school-level spending and SurveyWorks, the state's school culture and climate survey.

Council members commended Commissioner Wagner and RIDE staff for their hard work in building the system.

b. Reformatted Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities

Commissioner Wagner explained that as part of public comment on the reformatted Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities, RIDE received feedback from the advocacy community that they would benefit from a single document where the state’s regulatory language and federal regulations could be more easily navigated and understood. In response to the public feedback, RIDE added hyperlinks to the federal laws referenced in the regulations, and developed a companion document with all of the federal laws.

c. Regulations Governing Nutritional Requirements for Reimbursable Meals and Competitive Foods and Beverages; Limitations on Competitive Foods and Beverages at Meal Time – Feedback from Public Review and Comment

Commissioner Wagner explained that when the Nutrition Regulations were last updated in 2009, it turned into a forced standard over the last few years. When the new regulation was promulgated, RIDE got challenged on whether or not there was a cost impact associated with the new regulation. Upon further study, RIDE determined that the new proposed regulation does not require any new expenditure of money or increased expenditure of money, as the same standard has been enforced over the past few years.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Regulations

a1. Approval of the Reformatted Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Reformatted Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 0

a2. Approval of the Regulations Governing Nutritional Requirements for Reimbursable Meals and Competitive Foods and Beverages; Limitations on Competitive Foods and Beverages at Meal Time

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Regulations Governing Nutritional Requirements for Reimbursable Meals and Competitive Foods and Beverages; Limitations on Competitive Foods and Beverages at Meal Time

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

b. Approval to Repeal Regulations

b1. Repeal of 2013 Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Repeal of the 2013 Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

b2. Repeal of RI Nutrition Requirements 2009 – Nutrition Criteria for RI School Food Service Programs

On a motion duly made by Karen Davis and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Repeal of the RI Nutrition Requirements 2009 – Nutrition Criteria for RI School Food Service Programs

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

7. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Gara Field and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns.

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0