



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 14, 2018

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting of the R.I. Board of Education, noted for the record that Members Beretta, Grey, MarcAurele, Martinez, Pryor, and Williams, would not be joining the meeting, and called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Barbara Cottam, *Christopher Bove, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, **Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

* Ex-officio, non-voting member

**Arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Absent:

Amy Beretta
Mike Grey
Joseph MarcAurele
Marta Martinez
Stephan Pryor
Jeffery Williams

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of November 14, 2018

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby,
Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy,
Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo,
Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Board Member Field arrived after the acceptance of the agenda]

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the September 5, 2018, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the September 5, 2018, meeting

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice,
Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo,
Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Board Members Crosby and Davis had to recuse themselves from the vote as they did not attend the September 5, 2018, meeting of the Board of Education]

[Board Member Field arrived after the approval of the minutes]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam reported that no one had signed-up to speak at Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS AND COMMISSIONERS

Chair Cottam stated that in the interest of time, Chairs of the Councils would waive making their reports since both Councils had met prior to this meeting, and that she would be making a couple of brief announcements.

Chair Cottam announced that the Community Schools Summit sponsored by the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance, the Pawtucket School Department, and the RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, would be held on Thursday, November 29th. She encouraged everyone to come see the Community Schools in action and learn about Pawtucket's initiative.

Chair Cottam also encouraged everyone to attend the Health Summit sponsored by the National Education Association of Rhode Island, to be held on Saturday, November 17th, at the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School.

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Wagner began by giving an update on two milestones that will be forthcoming over the coming weeks. He shared that RIDE previously released a cluster of performance metrics around high school assessments (PSAT/SATs, dual/concurrent enrollment and AP courses and tests), and will soon be releasing the RICAS test scores for grades 3-8. He reminded folks that this is the first year that the participation of these tests is anchored in a new partnership with the State of Massachusetts, a state that is viewed as a leader in education both nationally and across the world. He emphasized that this partnership will bring a whole host of supports and benefits and in order for Rhode Island to see the same results as Massachusetts, it needs to stay the course, invest in high- quality instruction, teacher preparation, ongoing professional learning, and leadership and school facilities.

Next, Commissioner Wagner shared that the School Accountability results will be released in mid-December. This year's accountability will be a bit different than in prior years due to changes in federal law. Traditionally, accountability is based on test scores and graduation rates, but changes in federal law gave states the opportunity not to abandon test scores and graduation rates, but to supplement them with things such as climate and culture (student and teacher chronic absenteeism - 10% or more of the school year). There will also be credit to schools that graduate students not just with a diploma, but with AP scores at level-three and above, students who earned college credit while in high school, students who achieve college-ready cut-scores on a menu of standardized assessments, students who pursue advanced courses of study in career education or the STEM field, humanities, world-languages, and students who earn industry credentials while in high school. Also for the first time, the construct of growth will be introduced to the accountability system. Schools will be classified not by just their performing results as a school community at a high or lower level, but also on showing high-growth from year-to-year from where it started.

Board Members asked when the 9-12 grade test scores would be released.

Commissioner Wagner responded, that unlike Massachusetts, which administers the MCAS in the 10th grade and uses it as a graduation requirement, Rhode Island opted to pay for 10th graders to take the PSAT and 11th graders the SAT, and uses the results to meet federal requirements and graduation requirements.

Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Commissioner Dann-Messier began her report by highlighting bodies of work that impact students across K-12 and postsecondary systems. She shared that in September, colleagues from the University of Southern California Center for Urban Education, spent a day in Rhode Island to provide an introduction to equity and equity mindedness, tools to examine policy documents through an equity lens, and help us to think about using our data differently about closing equity gaps that also exist in higher education.

Next, Commissioner Dann-Messier reported that at the end of October, President Sanchez, Council Chair Tim DelGiudice, she, and representatives from the Governor's Office and the Governor's Workforce Board, were part of a Rhode Island delegation that was invited to Alumina Foundation State Policy Retreat on equity. As a next step, there will be a convening of the Equity Taskforce, President Sanchez, and Board Member Williams, along with the other college presidents, to discuss how they can put together a State Equity Action Plan.

Commissioner Dann-Messier concluded her report by stressing the importance of Rhode Islanders completing the FAFSA form, as \$2.7M of free federal aid were left on the table during the last cycle.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings – 2019-2020 Academic Year

Paula Szulc, Postsecondary Education Associate Commissioner of Student Success, provided some background on the Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act. She shared that back in April of 2015, the Board of Education approved the Dual Enrollment Regulations, which establish that dual credit programs for secondary school students be offered in conjunction with the Rhode Island postsecondary institutions. She explained that Governor Raimondo created the Dual Enrollment Fund to cover the cost of tuition and fees for public high school students who participate in dual and concurrent coursework on a college campus alongside undergraduate students or online in a course taught by college faculty at the three Rhode Island public institutions of postsecondary education. She emphasized that Concurrent Enrollment courses are taught by high school teachers who are approved by the public institutions of postsecondary education to teach a college-level course for credit at a high school location. She noted that section 1.3.6 of the revised regulations call upon the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to obtain information from URI, RIC, and CCRI, about possible courses to be made available the next academic year and provide to RIDE a list of available concurrent enrollment courses. This information, which includes the removal (due to lack of student participation) and addition of courses and changes to course numbering, allows both the institutions and the high schools to plan for academic offerings for the 2019-20 academic year.

b. PK-12 Capital Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020 -2024

Sandra Lopes, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Operations, gave an overview of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2020-24 Capital Budget Proposal that was submitted to the Department of Administration. Ms. Lopes highlighted that RIDE's total request over the next five years includes eight projects, which have already been pre-approved, for a total cost of \$334M. The request includes \$22M already spent or encumbered and the remainder is for two new projects - 250M earmarked for the school construction bond for schools statewide and a \$50M project for a new/renovated building for the William M. Davies, Jr. Technical High School. All of the remaining projects have been previously approved by the Board of Education.

c. PK-12 Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets

Mark Dunham, RIDE's Director of Finance, went over the Fiscal Year 2019 Revised Budget and highlighted that this year's Revised Budget submission includes two requests - One FTE position to support adolescent health and academic achievement as part of a five-year \$9M grant recently awarded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and a request from the RI School for the Deaf for \$231,880 to cover various operating expenses.

Next, Mr. Dunham gave an overview of the 2020 Current Service Level Budget and noted that this is the 2019 Enacted General Revenue Budget, plus target adjustments, such as employee wages and benefits, the education aid funding formula, and teachers' retirement, approved by the State Budget Office.

Commissioner Wagner emphasized that state aid funds go out to school districts and are controlled by the Funding Formula statute and driven by the per student allocation based on the count of students, the need of the students, and whether or not the students have additional services. Some of the components of the Funding Formula are driven by the categoricals, which are specific categories that are viewed as either too complex to include in the base funding formula, or are viewed as a transition service and given separate allocations.

Director Dunham ended the presentation by sharing the cost and description of new requests that are \$50,000 or greater - \$.05M to restore funding to the Computer Science for RI; \$.06M to develop and train school leaders and teachers in program models and practices that will strengthen English learner (EL) teaching and learning throughout the state; and \$.2M to establish an EL and world language leadership position to support the growth of world languages and assist with the implementation of EL teaching strategies.

d. Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2020 – Fiscal Year 2021, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2019

Commissioner Dann-Messier gave an overview of the Postsecondary System budget and highlighted that in 2016 Governor Raimondo set a very ambitious attainment goal for the postsecondary education system, ensuring that 70% of Rhode Islanders would have some type of postsecondary credential or degree by 2015. In just two years that the goal has been set, the state's attainment rate has increased from 43% to 47%, thanks to the hard work of the three state public institutions of postsecondary education, which serve 42,000 students, most of which are Rhode Island residents.

She went on to share that with the passing of the 2016 performance funding legislation for the public postsecondary system, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner has finalized performance funding metrics and established guidelines for implementation at each of the institutions, which the Council on Postsecondary Education approved during the Fiscal Year 2018 budget cycle. She commended the institutions for showing strong performance across their metrics (graduation/completion, workforce development, and mission-specific initiatives), and attributed the success to the vision, focus, and energy of the Presidents and their teams.

Commissioner Dann-Messier also noted that building on the tremendous success of the Westerly Education Center, Governor Raimondo proposed, and the General Assembly voted, to fund a new Higher Education Center in Northern Rhode Island in partnership with the three public institutions of postsecondary education and the business community.

She gave kudos to the Community College of Rhode Island for the successful rollout of the RI Promise Program, which she also hopes will expand to the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and to adult students.

Commissioner Dann-Messier also expressed that the system budget that the Board is being asked to approve this evening reflects all of the commitments that she outlined, and the three institutions are each requesting additional investments from the State and from students in the form of increased state appropriations and increased tuition and mandatory fees, for the upcoming school year.

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, took the opportunity to again thank the Presidents and the staff across the three public institutions of Postsecondary Education, the staff in the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and Council Members, for their hard work on this year's new budget process. He expressed that an unprecedented amount of time and energy was spent between the institutions, OPC, the State Budget Office, and other stakeholders, who worked collaboratively for several weeks building the budget and working out the efficiencies.

e. Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2020-2024

Commissioner Dann-Messier went over the Capital Improvement Plan, which was also approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education, earlier in the evening. She shared that the Plan includes 65 new projects, totaling \$545M.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

Enclosure 6a - Approval of the Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings for Academic Year 2019-2020

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings for Academic Year 2019-2020.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 6b - Approval of the PK-12 Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2024

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Timothy DelGiudice, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget Proposal, as presented.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 6c - Approval of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and transmits the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and the Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets to the RI State Budget Office.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 6d - Approval of the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2021, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2019

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council On Postsecondary Education System's recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system's operating budget request for Fiscal Year, 2020, as presented, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system's tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the Fiscal Year 2020 as presented, reserving the right to readjust tuition and fees as needed upon notification of the Governor's recommendation and, later, upon action of the legislature, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system's Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2020, as presented, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system's budget allocation for the Fiscal Year 2019, as presented.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member abstained as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 1 - Heather Crosby

Enclosure 6e - Approval of the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 through 2024

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the recommendation of the Council on Postsecondary Education regarding the public postsecondary system's Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2024

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member abstained as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 1 - Heather Crosby

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.