



**Enclosure 3b**  
**June 19, 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**May 15, 2018**

**COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, noted for the record that Members Beretta, Field and Martinez would not be joining the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Daniel McConaghy, \*Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

**Absent:** Amy Beretta, Gara Field and Marta Martinez

\* Arrived at 5:33 p.m.

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the May 15, 2018, Meeting

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Member Callahan arrived after the acceptance of the agenda.]

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES**

**a. Minutes of the April 24, 2018, Meeting**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the April 24, 2018, Meeting

Vote: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, and  
Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Chair Cottam and Member Gaines had to recuse themselves from the vote as they did not attend the April 24 Meeting of the Council]

## **OPEN FORUM**

Andrew Bramson, Members of the Central Falls Board of Trustees, spoke in support of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District.

Frank Flynn, President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island.

## **1. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Wagner expressed that RIDE anticipates that the Board of Education will be approving the proposed changes to the Board's Dual Enrollment Regulations at its May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. As a second item, the Commissioner noted that RIDE is anticipating that the School Construction project will move ahead in some way if and when the General Assembly authorizes the project, and it goes before the voting public in the fall. To that end, RIDE plans to issue a Request for Information (RFI), a proactive way to gather feedback from anyone about the best way to structure a subsequent Request for Proposals. In this RFI, RIDE will be asking questions about capacity support, should the School Construction project move forward.

## **2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District**

Commissioner Wagner introduced the item and thanked those who were part of the process to producing this agreement. He noted that this agreement is a great opportunity to get an extended period of time to focus on the work and with consensus from all the parties involved. This agreement encompassed a modest pay increase, coupled with some fiscal efficiencies, coupled with some programmatic advancements that are specifically designed for collaborative and school-based decision-making. Commissioner Wagner endorsed and strongly advocated that the Council approve this agreement.

Council Members commented about the professional learning calling for additional flexibility as the school year progresses, and what RIDE meant by “nimble.” RIDE and Central Falls Superintendent Capellan expressed that the point was to give flexibility both to the administration and the teachers to schedule professional learning as they can by each school.

Council Members also requested more information about how the process for filling vacancies had been streamlined to a single day and when during the year that took place. Superintendent Capellan expressed how in the past it was a process with multiple rounds that took approximately three weeks, but now with technology they can post all positions in a single day and all interested teachers who are qualified can bid for the positions. Then the Superintendent and Teachers Union can be present and make decisions on the spot. This single-day process is for internal candidates, and if none qualified can be found, then the position can be posted quickly for external candidates. The goal is to have the complete internal process completed by the first week in June for this year. The external process, if needed, would then take about two weeks to form and interview candidates.

Council Members asked how many professional development days or hours had been built into the contract. Superintendent Capellan noted that the contract contains two full professional development days as well as a number of hours beyond that; a total of 40 hours at the elementary level and 46 hours at the secondary level.

**b. Proposed Revisions to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island – Second Read by the Council**

Chair McConaghy introduced the item and reminded the Council that this was the third read of the proposed revisions before turning the introduction over to Commissioner Wagner. Commissioner Wagner gave a brief summary of the timeline for the development and discussion of the revisions and the topics of the past few meetings. He proposed the discussion focus at this current meeting be on shortage areas because it involves some flexibilities that would be important to talk through, as well as potentially go into some more detail about career education proposals. Then on June 19, the focus will be on some feedback for the School Nurse Teacher revisions, some other career education pathways, and the idea of endorsements. The next meeting we would come back and feel that we would have talked through each of the portions and so would bring a summary of the discussions to date and finalize suggested revisions, and then August 17 would send a revised redlined agreement highlighting what has changed between the current regulations as well as changes between revision versions. At the August 21 meeting, the Council will vote to advance the regulations to a formal public comment period in September, likely for longer than normal (six weeks instead of four weeks). During that time, RIDE would have public comment sessions throughout the state, as well as possibly

bringing districts to the table to discuss the professional learning aspect. In October, RIDE will present to the Council a summary of the public comment period and from there decide how to proceed.

Commissioner Wagner expressed that he feels that though the elements of these revisions have been percolating in the field for some time and all are important and fit together, these revisions include elements that together may not result in universal agreement. He expressed that perhaps this process could instead be held to a standard of what advances the work moving forward rather than what can garner universal agreement, therefore making changes along the way as needed. This could include the Council directing RIDE to put some things in regulations or in guidance or in appendices, where what is in regulation is broad and points to guidance that is developed and continuously improved through an ongoing dialogue and feedback.

Council Members asked for clarification about the process regarding how the voting would take place - whether in segments or as an entire document. Commissioner Wagner responded that it seemed that at this point it may be too early to determine, but that it could be handled either way. Council Members also expressed concerns about how what is outlined in the proposed revisions would work when held up to an unpacking of the SurveyWorks and other educator feedback. Council Members also asked about the decision to decouple evaluation ratings from certification and where that could be added to the timeline. Commissioner Wagner noted that it would be worked into the sequence.

Commissioner Wagner then turned the discussion over to Lisa Foehr, Director of the Office of Educator Excellence and Certification Services, who walked through the new certificate for shortage areas. This is the certificate currently called the Expert Residency Shortages Preliminary Certificate and it was created to address certification areas that perpetuate year after year, such as Secondary Mathematics, Secondary Physics, Secondary Special Education, World Languages, ESL Certification, Bilingual and Dual Language Certification, and a few others. Cultural Competence will be addressed separately. The certificate would be initially valid for three years; the district would show evidence of conducting a quality recruitment process, hiring process, and induction and other supports for the teacher while they work on the certificate. The certificate is only valid in the district that requests it. The educator's path during that three year period is to then move forward and become fully certified in that area. At the end of the three years, the educator would apply for renewal, with evidence that the criteria were met, and if the district confirms that the educator is on track, the certificate would be renewed for four years during which the educator would work to meet the remaining components for certification for that area by the end of the full seven-year window.

Council members asked various questions about how induction would work and its current status. RIDE would work with the district to ensure the induction coaching was taking place. Implementation of induction coaching across the state is currently varied.

Council Members raised the question about whether a content area major could get a four year degree in that content area and then move into the shortage certificate program and be paid as they work toward a full certificate and how that would work with the timeline, as well as considering the traditional programs. Commissioner Wagner expressed that this program is similar to the student PTECH program where the student, postsecondary partner, and employer all benefit – and in this case the teacher, the district, and the postsecondary partner all also benefit. Ms. Foehr noted that this shortage certificate would work well with those who are looking for a career change.

Council Members questioned the minimum GPA being set at 2.75; that GPA is the minimum for the educator preparation programs so it was set for consistency.

As there were no more questions about shortage areas in general, Ms. Foehr moved the discussion on to cultural competency as a shortage area. This certificate would be open across the content areas. She explained that in a hiring situation, a district would post a position and through the hiring process the district came across someone who was highly culturally competent (definition to be determined) but not certified in that area, they would identify the person as competent same as for any shortage area and that person would receive the same supports and induction and sequence for certification. The two outstanding areas for this certification are to determine a definition and also a measurement for this. At the end of the first three years of implementation, there would be a review of the certificate to see if this was something to continue.

Council Members expressed agreement with the importance of cultural competency, as well as concern about moving forward without having a definition when the regulations are approved and the potential consequences. Council Members inquired about the source of a measurement, as well as what postsecondary institutions and preparation programs are doing and professional learning opportunities available to support this. Commissioner Wagner assured the Council that there was a plan to bring draft language to them for the July meeting and that the language and measurement would be informed by a national partnership working on this topic. He noted that this could also encompass paraprofessionals who met the requirements.

Ms. Foehr noted that if there were no additional questions, the discussion could move on to the CTE certification. The first change is to the preliminary certificate and moving the timing of the subject matter assessment to the renewal point. The other changes (e.g., work experience, credit for degrees) are reflected across all certificate levels. A change to the language notes that the individual would hold the appropriate level of postsecondary education for the CTE area as identified by RIDE, for which RIDE would provide a list of the degree requirements for each area. In creating this list, RIDE would rely on what the field recognizes as the subject matter expertise required for the career. As such, years of experience (or credentialing) would be a proxy for the content only. There would still be requirements for candidates to complete a sequence of educator preparation training for pedagogy.

Council Members requested clarification around the requirements for certification as regarding content and pedagogy, and how CTE interacts with the shortage pathway. Both are separate pathways, though CTE follows the same sequence as the shortage certification.

### **3. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a. Endorsement of the RI Standards for Computer Science**

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

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorses the Rhode Island Computer Science Standards.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

#### **b. Approval of the Necessity of School Construction Projects**

**6b1 - The Compass School**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Barbara Cottam, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$3,850,000 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b2 - East Providence**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$145,722,003 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b3 - Jamestown**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$6,835,711 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b4 - North Kingstown**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$11,829,325 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b5 - North Smithfield**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$8,308,623 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b6 - RISE Prep Mayoral Academy**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$11,406,248 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 5

NAYS: Colleen Callahan

**6b7 - Smithfield**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$47,708,164 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b8 - Warwick**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$45,215,944 pursuant to R.I.G.L. §16-7-41.1, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**6b9 - West Warwick**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$2,704,200.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**c. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the extension of the 2016-2017 collective bargaining Agreement for one (1) year and the September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2021, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

**4. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

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

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

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,  
Jo Eva Gaines, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0