



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JULY 15, 2013**

Enclosure 2a
September 9, 2013

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The fifth meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Education was held on Monday, July 15th at Rhode Island College, Student Ballroom, Providence, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

Absent: None

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mancuso turned Item 1, Acceptance of the Agenda, over to Vice Chair Patrick Guida and recused herself from the item. Vice Chair Guida asked for a motion that Items 9b and 10a, both of which concern the appointment of an interim commissioner, be continued until the Board's next meeting. Chair Mancuso is in the process of obtaining an opinion from the Ethics Commission, which is not expected to be ready before the Board's next meeting.

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

VOTED: That Agenda Items 9b and 10a be continued until the Board's next meeting.

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

Vice Chair Guida then asked for a motion to remove Item 6k, Appointment of Vice President for Research and Economic Development at URI, from tonight's agenda.

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

VOTED: That Item 6k be removed from the July 15, 2013 meeting agenda.

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan,

Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Colleen , it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of July 15, 2013 as revised.

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

2. APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2013 WORK SESSION

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 work session of June 3, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2013 MEETING

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Mancuso explained that the Board of Education's bylaws allow for 20 minutes of public comment, limited to two minutes per person and beginning with comments pertaining to approval items on tonight's meeting agenda before hearing comments on other topics. Speakers wishing to speak on the same topic as others were invited to appear on record stating that they agree with what others may have said on the same topic to avoid redundancy.

Members of the Board of Education were asked to give their full attention to speakers but were reminded that they could not engage speakers in conversation or answer questions. If concerns or questions were raised from Open Forum topics, the Board could direct staff to follow up.

1. Lori Barden, a Pawtucket parent, asked the Board to please renew the charter for Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy..
2. Jeremy Chiapetta, executive director of Blackstone Valley Prep, said he has been thankful for the four years he has seen community improvement at the school and feels the academy has helped set the bar in education for all Rhode Islanders.
3. Matt Plain, an attorney for Segue Institute for Learning, disagreed with the proposed 3-year (rather than 5-year) charter renewal on tonight's agenda, noting that the school has been faithful to the terms of its charter and stating that the standards the school is being held up to differ from the Rhode Island Public Charter Schools Act and regulations.
4. Angelo Garcia, the founder and head of Segue, also disagreed with the three-year recommendation, noting that Segue is a unique school that inherits sixth graders halfway through their academic journey and has to get them on track in a short time. He said Segue outperforms its sending district, and he asked the board to consider a five-year renewal.
5. Melissa Lourenco stated that 96% of Segue graduates are accepted into institutions to further their education, and the school outperforms others in reading, writing, and math.. A five-year renewal would recognize Segue's work and dedication.
6. Marc Saldarriago, high school salutatorian, said his three years at Segue kept him in staff care and safe from bullying, and he considered the school a second home. He asked the Board to please make Segue an option to more students by extending Segue's charter to five years.
7. Rosa Morel, family engagement coordinator and parent, said Segue helped her children embrace leadership abilities and now both students have gone on to graduate from Blackstone Valley Prep. She asked the Board to consider a five-year renewal to help more families.
8. Parent Nelly Hoffens said that thanks to Segue, her son was accepted to the Green School in West Greenwich. She asked the Board to consider a five-year renewal for Segue, stating that three years was not enough.
9. Vanessa Rodriguez, parent of a Saint Mary's Bayview Academy student, said Segue teachers had been very welcoming to her children, creating a second home for students and helping students with problems. She asked the Board to consider a five-year

renewal.

10. Georgia Fortunato, superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools, thanked the Board for considering approval of the capital projects on tonight's agenda. She thanked Joe da Silva as well as Commissioner Gist and her staff for their efforts.
11. Lucy Rios, chair of the Segue school board, asked the Board of Education to renew the charter for five years, as three would not be enough time to make changes and reach or exceed targets.
12. Carolyn Sheehan, president of the RI League of Charter Schools, thanked RIDE staff on developing and improving an evaluation system for charter schools. She stated that Segue is unique in only serving Central Falls students and testing only two days per week, and she asked the Board to please take that into consideration.
13. Rene Fontaine, Cumberland parent, addressed the Board on testing requirements, stating that 26 states require exit exams, with 22 (including Rhode Island) currently or soon implementing PARCC. However, only Rhode Island uses NECAP as a graduation requirement, and he appealed to the Board to change the testing debate to focus on relevant issues and help students improve.
14. Anne Mulready, an attorney for the Rhode Island Disability Law Center, had joined with 16 other organizations to ask the Board of Education to rescind its current regulations and the reliance on a high-stakes test. She said reform efforts in Rhode Island are hurting the populations they are intended to benefit and the gaps between those with disabilities and those without are widening.
15. Sol Comanzo, a junior at Daniel College studying to be a pediatrician, said he graduated high school before the implementation of NECAP and still got accepted into college. He is doing well academically now but worries that NECAP does not accurately evaluate readiness of current high school students..
16. Jenny Sanchez from the Providence Student Union turned her spot over to John Terrell, who stated that he was glad the Board will discuss NECAP at its August retreat but was not confident that the Board will come to the best solution. He requested on behalf of the Providence Student Union that student members participate in the NECAP discussion at the Board's retreat.

The Open Forum portion of the meeting concluded at 6:05 p.m.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mancuso thanked President Carriuolo for hosting tonight's meeting and gave a quick update on a communication received by the ACLU, which sent a letter to the Board requesting the discussion of graduate requirements. The Board plans to discuss the issue at its August retreat.

Chair Mancuso then invited Vice Chair Guida to introduce Kristen Amundson, the new executive director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Mr. Guida said NASBE is working to strengthen state boards and state leadership for students and citizens. He welcomed Ms. Amundson, who has only been on the job for a week

but has 25 years of experience in political marketing, having served as the senior vice president for Education Sector, for ten years on the Virginia General Assembly in educational policy-making, and for nine years on the Fairfax County School Board, which oversaw an enrollment of 170,000 students. Ms. Amundson also taught in Minnesota and Maryland.

Ms. Amundson thanked the Board for their warm welcome and said Rhode Island has made a big impact on national education policy, as its Next Generation Science Standards and common cores are the buzz of national presidents. NASBE encourages and supports states, and the magic created by all the speakers during Open Forum shows a passion for education in Rhode Island. Over the next few years, ESEA may be reauthorized, and states will be where the action is. NASBE will support the boards and state policy work, and assessment will be key.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

a. Report of the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Gist spoke on the revision of educator prep programs, which coincides with national work by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) on structure and framework. RIDE has partnered with higher education and others on teacher prep. The deans and directors met in May, and then RIDE facilitated a retreat on June 26th to examine current practices and look at CAEP standards. A panel of coaches and new educators provided input to K-12, and meetings will continue in July and August. Commissioner Gist expects to bring the Board draft standards in September for public comment and will seek approval in the fall after receiving and incorporating feedback.

RIDE is working with CCRI to create summer programs for math achievement in several locations, including Cranston and Providence. Commissioner Gist is confident that these programs will provide students with support on math skills and that several factors, including graduation requirements, are rallying to increase students' skills.

The annual U.S. report on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been analyzed and all targets have been met. Rhode Island earned 21 out of 22 points and is in compliance to continue serving all student populations in Rhode Island.

U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture Kevin Concannon visited Rhode Island to promote the summer food service program (Michael Bernstein had been present at the event). The program achieved 21 sponsors and surpassed its goal of sites to feed students. Commissioner Gist thanked the program's many partners.

Dr. Gist also congratulated Samantha Mastrati of Cranston, who won the Epicurious contest by submitting an original healthy recipe and as a result traveled to the White House to meet First Lady Obama.

b. Report of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Commissioner Ray Di Pasquale reported that freezing tuition at all three public higher education institutions kept the budget mainly steady, with two exceptions: the Governor budgeted \$121,000 in STEM funds, and OHE's budget was slashed by \$1 million, which is half of its budget (the Office is currently working with the Governor on that situation and will report back to the Board).

The deadline for Affordable Care Act recently discussed before the Board has now been postponed from 7/1/13 to 1/1/14. We have only received one consultant bid, which is discouraging, but will continue to apprise the Board of our progress on this issue.

The Office of Higher Education's external audit report is due on September 30th and will be shared with the Board.

The CIP is moving forward, and the Board should be able to receive the five-year plan at its September meeting.

The Joint Admissions Agreement program now has 1,151 students who are all working hard. The success of this program is due in part to the 30% discount students receive when transferring from CCRI to RIC or URI if they have achieved the obligatory GPA.

Finally, Commissioner Di Pasquale noted his pleasure that the Board has chosen a new logo that was designed by a team from CCRI. The logo is now being used in correspondence.

6. APPROVAL ITEMS

Items 6a-6a3 – Charter School Renewals

Commissioner Gist explained that the Board of Education authorizes charter schools to operate for another term. The four schools on tonight's agenda represent Rhode Island's diversity, being a mixture of elementary, middle, and high schools. She has visited all four schools and seen great work going on at them all. Segue, an independent charter middle school, is being recommended for a three-year renewal. The Learning Institute, serving K-8 students in Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence, is up for a five-year renewal. Times², a K-12 in-district school in Providence, is before the Board for five years, and Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, which serves K-8 students from Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln, and Pawtucket, is also before the Board for a five-year renewal.

Lawrence Purtill referred to the materials regarding these renewals, particularly where proficiency levels compared actual to estimated numbers, and asked where RIDE attained those numbers. Andrea Castaneda explained that the comparisons are designed to compare identical demographics. Two views are used to find those numbers: the sending community and a different but equally relevant view. Central Falls, she explained, typically shows lower achievement, so a broader view was used to create estimates related to Central Falls-serving schools.

William Maaia asked Ms. Castaneda to explain the terms of the renewals for the four charter schools, and she stated that the term is connected to academic outcome. Segue had mixed performance, so RIDE is recommending that the Board approve a three-year term (which is actually four years of operation for the school). Functionally, a three-year recommendation means a school has both strengths and areas to grow. The regulation language for renewal terms, RIDE Deputy Commissioner David Abbott added, refers to "up to five years" inclusively.

Mr. Maaia asked if other charter schools had been renewed for less than five years, and Deputy Commission Abbott could recall three: the NE Laborers' Career Academy in Cranston, the Highlander Charter School in Providence, and "ACE" (the Academy for Career Exploration Charter School) in Providence, which had formerly been known as the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy.

Colleen Callahan asked if there was a set of predictable criteria to help the charter schools understand the terms, and Ms. Castaneda said that all had academic performance targets and public standards. All received site visits from RIDE and received details as well. Their trajectories were held in comparison with other units.

Dr. Callahan also asked whether demographics for students with special needs are comparable between Segue and Central Falls. Ms. Castaneda responded that Segue has been found to educate substantially fewer English Language Learner and special education students than its sending institution.

Item 6a – Segue Institute for Learning

Patrick Guida moved, and Karin Forbes seconded, a motion that the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to renew the charter of the Segue Institute for Learning for a three-year term to operate in accordance with and comply with the conditions set forth in this recommendation, from July 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2017. The Board discussed the motion before voting.

Antonio Barajas stated that he has known Segue since its founding in 2009 and feels they do amazing work in a poor community, highly engaging students and their families. He attended their graduation in May, where Dr. Barajas learned that 80% of Segue's graduates were moving on to elite schools like LaSalle Academy and Moses Brown.

Vice President Guida responded that a three-year charter renewal is not a negative reflection on the school's work. The Board would be recognizing the good work of the school but also reflecting the message that Segue needs to improve in certain areas. Mr. Guida felt that a three-year renewal was fair.

Jo Eva Gaines asked if a three-year renewal would jeopardize funding for Segue, and Andrea Castaneda said there are two categories, the school board's funding plus other bonding. The school would be available for the same amount of funding under the funding formula, but it is possible that Segue's lending profile may become diminished in terms of other bonds. She reminded board members that the Board of Education is not responsible for funding schools but for authorizing their operation and providing support, particularly when there is weakness.

Mathies Santos asked if there would be annual reviews of the school whether its charter was renewed for three or five years. Ms. Castaneda said that all charter schools are monitored both rigorously and annually.

Chair Mancuso asked whether the charter might be brought before the Board again during its three or five-year operation, and Ms. Castaneda said no, once authorized, the school will continue to operate. If the school fails to perform, it would be brought before the Board of Education under a different procedure: a charter revocation.

Commissioner Gist added that the Board of Education plays an important role in reauthorizing high-performing schools. She encouraged board members to compare Segue to all schools in Attachment 1 of their handouts, noting that weaknesses must be addressed. Some of Segue's insufficiencies would place it in the "focus" category for traditional schools. If Segue were a traditional school, it would be working on a plan right now.

As for funding, Dr. Gist added, Joe da Silva is skilled and available to help Segue, and other options could be explored if work is needed on the facilities.

William Maaia said he is conflicted because many people look to the Board of Education for support. He noted that other schools are not perfect and that Segue serves predominantly minority populations, which particularly need Board support. If three years is actually four years of operation, he said, why not add one year and make it a five-year renewal? He did not want to shortchange the school and felt the Board could look beyond the rules in this case and help encourage the school's work.

Chair Mancuso reminded members of the Board that other charter schools also draw populations from Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence and that Segue still has fewer ELL and IEP students than the others.

Vice Chair Guida felt that scoring resulting in the three-year recommendation was not arbitrary. In Attachment 1, each charter reflects time and effort of staff. He stated that Highlander had received less than a five-year renewal but in three years emerged stronger than it had been.

Michael Bernstein agreed with William Maaia in that if the school would already be operating for a year beyond what the Board is being asked to renew, it would not be a problem for him to add a second year to that renewal. He felt confident that RIDE's great staff could help the school succeed and was willing to extend the renewal so the school would be in operation for five more years.

Andrea Castaneda clarified that the packet omits seventh grade performance, in which Segue students lost ground compared to Central Falls seventh graders. Segue's rate growth is lower than most and tied last for all schools. Segue has mixed performances – outstanding in some areas, troubling in others. She was confident that three years would be an appropriate renewal term. Five years might send the wrong message because Segue is not at the right level for academic rigor.

Mr. Maaia asked if the conditions were the same whether a three-year or five-year renewal, which they are, and asked what would happen if they were not met. Ms. Castaneda said that RIDE would bring back a staff recommendation for action via a charter revocation if that happened.

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED:

THAT the Rhode Island Board of Education revises the original motion from "three-year" to "five-year" when discussing the length of the charter renewal for the Segue Institute.

The Board took a roll call vote on this revision to the motion's language:

Patrick Guida:	no	Michael Grande:	yes
Colleen Callahan:	yes	William Maaia:	yes
Antonio Barajas:	yes	Lawrence Purtill:	yes
Michael Bernstein:	yes	Mathies Santos:	yes
Karin Forbes:	no	Eva-Marie Mancuso:	no
Jo Eva Gaines:	yes		

With 8 in favor and 3 opposed, the revision to the original motion passed.

The Board then took action on the revised motion.

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED:

THAT the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to renew the charter of the Segue Institute for Learning for a five-year term to operate in accordance with and comply with the conditions set forth in this recommendation, from July 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2019.

The Board took a roll call vote:

Patrick Guida:	no	Michael Grande:	yes
Colleen Callahan:	yes	William Maaia:	yes
Antonio Barajas:	yes	Lawrence Purtill:	yes
Michael Bernstein:	yes	Mathies Santos:	yes
Karin Forbes:	yes	Eva-Marie Mancuso:	yes
Jo Eva Gaines:	yes		

With 10 in favor and 1 opposed, the motion passed.

Item 6a1 – Times² Academy

Commissioner Gist explained that this in-district charter school has been performing above districts and schools with similar demographics. She is recommending a five-year charter renewal for the academy.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to renew the charter of the Times² Academy for a five-year term, to operate in accordance with and comply with the conditions set forth in this recommendation, from July 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2019.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6a2 – The Learning Community

Commissioner Gist said this school has great engagement with the community, a wonderful reputation, and students with demographics similar to Segue. She recommended a five-year renewal.

On a motion duly made by William Maaia and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to renew the charter of The Learning Community for a five-year term, from July 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2019.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6a3 – Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy

Commissioner Gist reported that Blackstone Valley has earned the recommendation for a five-year renewal because it scored above all categories on academic performance and other analyses. Andrea Castaneda added that per the charter amendment, Blackstone Valley will continue to run under cap, but plans on reconfiguring to run three different schools.

Colleen Callahan asked how the reconfiguration will affect the school's governance and location. The governance will be unchanged, Ms. Castaneda stated, and the campus will expand in order to provide an additional middle school and elementary school.

Jo Eva Gaines asked where the locations will be. Ms. Castaneda did not have that information but said they will remain with the area of the communities the school serves (Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln, and Pawtucket).

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education moves to renew the charter of the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy for a five-year term, and to grant an amendment to the charter reconfiguring the program to three elementary schools, three middle schools and a high school, to operate in accordance with and comply with the conditions set forth in this recommendation, from July 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2019

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: Colleen A. Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

[As Chair Mancuso was called away prior to Item 6b, Vice Chair Guida handled Items 6a-6e until Chair Mancuso's return.]

Item 6b – Capital Budget FY 2015

Commissioner Gist explained that the capital budget request is for improvements at Davies Career-Tech High School, the MET, the School for the Deaf, and state-owned institutions. There are 13 projects totaling \$88.1 million, of which \$46.5 million has already been spent and the remaining \$41.6 million will be spent between now and 2019. There are no new projects.

Colleen Callahan referred to the technology bond and asked how the funds are getting to the districts and when the districts can expect to see resources. Commissioner Gist explained that the bond is not for allocating devices but for creating wireless classrooms. The districts' ability to purchase devices is done through the operating, rather than capital, budget, and each district currently has the responsibility to purchase its own devices.

Mathies Santos asked when the Board might receive a follow-up on that budget and Commissioner Gist said the Board will receive a full briefing when the wireless is rolled out and the districts transition to the new technology.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education formally approves the FY 2015 Capital Budget Request as presented.

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6c – State-Owned Property Modification – Grant of Easement: Paul W. Crowley East Bay Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center

This grant of easement, Commissioner Gist explained, would allow National Grid to install an underground electricity distribution system at the MET's Newport Campus.

Mathies Santos asked for clarification, believing that the Narragansett Electric Company (noted in the paperwork) is now National Grid. Patrick Guida explained that National Grid owns the service that Narragansett Electric provides.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes and Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Education approves a Grant of Easement in the final form as authorized by the State Properties Commission, thereby allowing the Narragansett Electric Company to install, construct, and provide utilities to the Paul Crowley East Bay Met Center

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6d – Special Education Regulations – Technical Revisions

Commissioner Gist explained that these revisions to the Special Education Regulations are technical adjustments that will ensure that the regulations are consistent with federal regulations and with recent court decisions. The materials contain strikethroughs so board members can view the proposed changes, and RIDE has invited public comment for 30 days.

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education authorizes, for the purpose of public comment, the posting of the proposed changes to the Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities.

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6e – Necessity of School Construction – Lincoln School Department

There is a moratorium on construction projects unless they are for health and/or safety reasons, Commissioner Gist explained. These projects in Lincoln will cost \$1.5 million and will include security upgrades and a roof replacement.

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 necessity of school construction projects totaling

\$1,542,432 pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as presented. (When the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$539,851.)

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

YEAS: Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill.

NAYS: 0

Item 6f – Approval of Saint Joseph Hospital School of Anesthesia for Nurses as a Rhode Island Post-Secondary Proprietary Program

Commissioner Ray Di Pasquale referred to the presentation the Board received at Thursday's work session. He is recommending that the Board allow the School of Anesthesia to operate as a post-secondary proprietary school.

William Maaia asked if a study on nursing education is currently being done to identify needs in Rhode Island. Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber said the Office of Higher Education looked at this school closely and discovered that this school provided 40% of Rhode Island's anesthesiologists to the working population. This is also the only program in anesthesia being offered at a Rhode Island institution. A different program is being offered in central Connecticut.

Colleen Callahan noted there is strength in locating such a program at a state institution to help fill gaps. She has spoken to people who are looking outside of Rhode Island for such education, and Dr. Callahan was pleased to see a partnership with a state school.

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

VOTED: That Associates in Anesthesia, Inc. be granted initial Board of Education approval to operate the St. Joseph Hospital School of Anesthesia for Nurses as a post-secondary proprietary school in Rhode Island.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6g – Revisions to Board of Education Personnel Policies to Align with Recent Legislative Action regarding Disclosure of Tuition Waivers

General Counsel Ronald Cavallaro reported that Governor Chafee signed the legislation at 5:30 today regarding requiring Board of Education employees and their dependents to consent to disclosing their tuition waivers.

Through this revision, the Board of Education's personnel policies have been revised to reflect this new legislation, and the name of the board has also been updated.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the revisions to the Board of Education's Personnel Policies as presented.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6h – Approval of the Proposed Leases with Narragansett Electric to Install and Operate Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Specific Sites at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne reported that URI and RIC require leases for electric vehicle charging stations in public parking lots on their campuses. Narragansett Electric (National Grid) will install and operate the stations with funding through federal ARRA funds. The project must be up and running by August 15th, and the general counsels for both the Board and for Narragansett Electric are still reviewing the draft leases.

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Education approves the lease of space at both the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College to Narragansett Electric for the placement of electric vehicle charging stations on their main campuses and authorizes the Chair to approve and execute the final form of these lease agreements, subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Committee.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6i – Approval of a Lease for Professional Office Space in Providence for the Living Rite Grant Program

Associate Commissioner LaPanne explained that URI is requesting this lease on behalf of its Living Rite program, which would take up office space in approximately 1,600 square feet in the Charles-Orms Building. The relocation of the grant office would be beneficial to both office functions and to participants of the program.

President David Dooley explained that the Living Rite grant program is part of a larger proposal coming out of the federal Department of Health and Human Services to increase healthcare outcomes for sectors of the population. Living Rite provides certain services for people with multiple medical problems – primarily counseling via therapists and psychologists – and this intervention decreases the number of visits to emergency rooms and allows people to better manage chronic illnesses like diabetes, creating an overall savings of funds and providing better outcomes.

Antonio Barajas asked if Living Rite collaborated with other organizations, and Dr. Dooley said they do collaborate with the state, including the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The program is continually seeking funding through other efforts as well.

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 lease of space at the Charles-Orms Professional Building on behalf of the University of Rhode Island for the work related to the Living Rite Grant, and authorizes the Board Chair to approve and execute the final form of this agreement, subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Committee.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6j – Appointment of the Vice President for Business Affairs at CCRI

President Di Pasquale reported that CCRI's search for a new vice president for business affairs resulted in a record 19 qualified semi-finalists, which the community college narrowed down to four finalists. One withdrew, and of the remaining three, David Patten was selected. President Di Pasquale noted Mr. Patten's degrees, qualifications, and accomplishments, and mentioned that Mr. Patten resides in Westerly, where he chairs the local school board. Mr. Patten's work ethic and communication and collaboration skills are exemplary.

On a motion duly made by William Maaia and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was unanimously

- VOTED:** That approves the appointment of David Patten as the Vice President for Business Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island.
- Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
- YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
- NAYS: 0

The board members welcomed Mr. Patten to his new position and recognized members of his family who were present.

Item 6k – removed from agenda

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Gist reported on **Item 7a, a US Department of Education Announcement regarding Flexibility to ESEA Waiver.**

In response to the No Child Left Behind Act, RIDE applied for a waiver that would provide Rhode Island with the opportunity to have a new accountability system and be able to change the ways we do things in order to be more specific and productive. On June 18th, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that states can have flexibility in transitioning to common core standards, and the states are all at different levels of implementation. Only some have won Race to the Top awards, including Rhode Island. The U.S. Department of Education has now put out a nation-wide opportunity to receive flexibility. There is no moratorium in roll-outs because the work is urgent.

This flexibility would be applied to:

1. Educator evaluations: implementation of commitments to educator evaluations by states is *not* a flexible option, but states can ask to postpone that implementation one year beyond the plan, which is currently the 2016-2017 school year. Rhode Island's growth scores are part of the evidence and factor into evaluations based on state assessments. We would want to resume the 2016-2017 school year growth score to have an option for a baseline and to phase in PARCC.
2. Double-testing: this requires accountability classifications that carry over into field tests (a new assessment). We do not want Rhode Island students to have to take both new and current tests. "Smarter balance" is different than PARCC field testing. 1/5 of Rhode Island students will take a portion of PARCC in the field as an opportunity to see what the test looks like. There is no need to require that flexibility.

Mathies Santos asked how students will be selected to take a portion of PARCC and how would that test be distributed. (He also clarified that "SES" stood for "Social Economic

Status” in the documents.) Mary Ann Snider responded that RIDE will ensure that students pulled to take a portion of the PARCC will reflect our state’s demographics.

Colleen Callahan noted that student growth was part of the score in educator evaluations, which would affect teachers’ ratings in the spring of 2014, and asked how will that play out when RIDE switches over to PARCC in 2016-2017? Commissioner Gist said RIDE will have two years of data to use next year in state assessments, plus other measures that will give students an opportunity to experience growth.

Chair Mancuso asked if Rhode Island students will be having two years of NECAP, then two years with no NECAP, then two years of PARCC. Commissioner Gist responded that evaluations will be calculated by first using the 2014 student assessment, then adjusting, then using PARCC.

Dr. Callahan noted that next year will include student growth in teachers’ effectiveness ratings and asked if 2015 include that as well. Dr. Gist responded that neither 2015 nor 2016 will include student growth. Dr. Callahan was concerned about the up-and-down components of educator evaluations and the outlying year between the current system and PARCC.

Lawrence Purtill asked whether NECAP and PARCC will be separate tests and not double tests for students. Commissioner Gist said that only a portion of Rhode Island students will take both as part of the PARCC field testing, but 80% will avoid double-testing.

Item 7 b – Update on the August Board Retreat

Chair Mancuso reminded the Board that members will be hearing presentations on topics including tests and graduation requirements at its August retreat. The retreat will not be a discussion or debate but rather information shared between the facilitator and the Board; if board members wish to debate, that would need to be a separate meeting than the retreat in order to avoid violating Opens Meetings laws. Colleen Callahan stated that not having an opportunity to debate may place limitations on discussions the Board can have and in developing a plan of action. She noted that the Board of Regents retreats had been open meetings. She wishes to make the most of the two-day retreat and wondered if the Board can gather information at a work session prior to the retreat so board members can wrestle with and plan with the information. Otherwise, Dr. Callahan would prefer an open meeting in which the Board would pick a couple of items and deliberate.

Chair Mancuso responded that the retreat will feature guests with varying views who will provide in-depth discussions to inform board members on topics. The agenda has nine items which will equate 10+ hours of work, which is too long to include debates and too long for one meeting. The Board is trying to get a background on issues that it and its K-20 systems are facing.

By July 29th, Chair Mancuso requested that facilitators on each topic provide an idea of potential speakers (in addition to RIDE and higher education staff). She listed the collaborations that she has become aware of at this point.

8. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**a. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Di Pasquale introduced CCRI's new vice president for academic affairs, Greg Lamontagne. The Board of Education had appointed Dr. Lamontagne at their prior meeting, but he had not been able to attend.

Over 5,000 students have enrolled in summer classes this term, President Di Pasquale reported, and the enrollment for fall appears to again be around 18,000 students.

250 young students have completed "kids' college" to get a taste of CCRI's classes and campus environment.

President Di Pasquale was also pleased to report that CCRI faculty were honored at this year's NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) conference.

b. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley stated that summer is not "downtime" at URI but rather "different time." The campus is bustling with: research, including via the *Endeavor*; soccer matches of teams across the Northeast; orientations for thousands of incoming students (URI expects to set an enrollment record in the fall, and the tuition freeze is helping to draw outside students); and a signature writing conference featuring the inaugural poet. Talent Development students are preparing for this year's curriculum, and URI is looking forward to the fall.

c. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo stated that RIC's road construction will end on August 16th, making the campus safer for students.

She was pleased to note that Rhode Island College has been ranked among the best investments in the state and that RIC, URI, and Brown have been recognized for their master's programs. RIC was recognized twice, for both English and Counseling.

RIC student Jaimee Dorsey was honored at Little East for women's track, and men's basketball coach Bob Walsh ran the first-ever Dynamic Leadership Academy in June, building talent and providing professional development for young coaches and leaders.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mancuso entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss:

- a. Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) – Update on negotiations with all higher education collective bargaining units (except graduate assistants)

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education convenes in Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reason set forth above.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

The Board concluded Open Session at 7:49 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Ray Di Pasquale, Commissioner of Higher Education/President of CCRI; Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Education; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Board of Education; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board of Education/Office of Higher Education; David Dooley, President of URI; and Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:25 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Michael Grande, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education reconvenes in Open Session.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seals the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of July 15, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

13. NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, August 22nd, 4 p.m. at RIDE – work session for August Board retreat

14. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein,
Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael
A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence
Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.