



Enclosure 2b

December 9, 2013

## RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the New England Laborers Construction and Career Academy, Cranston, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

A roll call was taken for attendance:

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

Chair Mancuso thanked Superintendent of the Cranston Public Schools, Dr. Judith Lundsten, Principal Dennis Curran and Michael Traficante, Chair of the Board of Directors for hosting this evening's meeting.

### 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the agenda for the meeting of November 13, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**2. APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2013 WORK SESSION**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of October 3, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2013 MEETING**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2013 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the executive session of October 7, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2013 WORK SESSION**

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of October 21, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

### **3. OPEN FORUM**

Chair Mancuso reminded everyone wishing to address the Board that they would be limited to two minutes per person. The following individuals spoke:

**Dennis Curran**, Executive Director, New England Laborers Construction and Career Academy

- Welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the School's existence over the last ten years.

**James McLaughlin**, State Representative (Cumberland)

- Expressed his concerns with regard to the sink holes which have occurred at the proposed site for the Blackstone Valley Preparatory School.

**Peter Nightingale**, URI professor

- Stated that minutes of meetings held in Rhode Island in which he has spoken do not always reflect what he has said – referring to the Board's May 23, 2013 open forum and his testimony on January 24, 2012 which was initially omitted, and later corrected. He feels the issues raised during his testimony regarding the unfriendly climate at URI's LGBT Center persists. Professor Nightingale asked that his comments be made part of the public record of this meeting and that his comments made at the May 23, 2013 and January 24, 2012 meetings be included as part of the evidence.

**Nick Katkevish**, URI Alum and member of Fossil Free Rhode Island

- Mr. Katkevish feels that it is wrong and immoral to fund our institutions from the oil companies that are wrecking our climate and destroying our environment. He asks that the Institutions' Foundations, with support from the Board divest from fossil fuel.

**Angus Taylor**, President and CEO, Hexagon Metrology, f/k/a Browne & Sharpe

- Spoke in support of the Dual Language Coordinator position being put into next year's budget, and how it ties into engineering programs and its importance into the future.

**Sigrid Berka**, Executive Director of International Engineering Program at URI

- Spoke in support of Dual Language Coordinator Program

**Erin Papa**, Executive Director, AMOS House

- Spoke in support the Roadmap to Language Excellence/Dual Language Coordinator Program

**Paul DiModica**, Parent

- Spoke in support of the New England Laborers Construction and Career Academy

#### **4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Mancuso reported that she headed up a Rhode Island Team of six individuals who attended this year's Complete College America in Salt Lake City Utah. Complete College America is a robust national, non-profit organization working with 34 states to significantly increase the number of Americans with a college degree or credential of value as well as to close attainment gaps in states for traditionally underserved populations.

This year's program highlighted the success and importance of five systemic postsecondary reforms. These reforms, known in CCA parlance as Game Changers, are structural practices within institutions which can successfully transform student educational experiences, significantly boosting the number of students graduating with a degree. Several of these Game Changes received impressive support from a panel of first-generation, non-traditional students who provided moving testimony at the conference. Such Game Changers could bring benefit to Rhode Island students with such things as balancing jobs, families, and school by using cohort-based block scheduling of classes to add predictability to their busy lives. Software programs which provide "Intrusive Advising" can provide early alerts and efficient interventions to students and advisors when students fall behind schedule in attendance or credits, or when students may enroll in courses which are non-related to their major.

Also as a part of these Game Changers are Guided Pathways to Success which provide very structured roadmaps through post-secondary education helping to keep students on course. Statistics show that underprepared students have significantly better success rates when they are enrolled in co-requisite remediation sections rather than isolated developmental education courses.

Chair Mancuso acknowledged URI, RIC and CCRI's efforts in experimenting with a number of these Game Changers. As Chair, she expressed her whole-hearted support to the institutions for their efforts on behalf of all Rhode Island students.

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

### **5a. Updates and issues affecting local and national education.**

Commissioner Gist was happy to report that the Rhode Island 2013 Milken Educator Award, given to only a handful of individuals through the country, was given to Marielle Emet, a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher at the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy in Lincoln. Governor Chafee, Chair Mancuso and Board Member Forbes were in attendance to show their support for Ms. Emet as she received the Award.

Last week, the U. S. Department of Education released the results of the 2013 National Assessment Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card. For the first time, the results show that Rhode Island students scored above the national average on all four components. The Commissioner acknowledged that there is still a lot of work to do, particularly when it comes to closing achievement gaps.

The Commissioner announced that the Educator Autonomy Work Group's first meeting is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This group, comprised of a variety of stakeholders, will spend roughly six months examining issues relating to classroom, school and school district autonomy.

Lastly, the Commissioner noted that next week the National Education Association will be celebrating American Education Week. During this week the Association will focus on people in education, not only classroom teachers, but also parents, education support professionals, substitute teachers and others who help our children in many different ways. This celebration will kick off on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **5b. Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.**

As part of Clark Greene's report, he announced that there were many changes that took place within the Office of Higher Education (OHE), such as the transfer of General Counsel Ron Cavallaro to the Community College of Rhode Island and the resignation of Michael Trainor. With these changes there will be some reassignments and assignment of new priorities to the remaining staff members for the remainder of the year. Mr. Greene thanked the institutions for their support in cost-sharing to help make all these changes happen. The Office of Higher Education will continue with its policy that has been set forth. As an example, Mr. Greene asked Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber to talk about the policy issues currently in effect through the end of the year.

Association Commissioner Grossman-Garber highlighted the work being conducted at the Office of Higher Education during the last five months. The first involves an effort at workforce readiness in the State of Rhode Island. OHE is leading a multi-agency effort to secure a state designated Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant of about \$2.5M. The effort as it presently stands will result in two major initiatives coming out of OHE and the institutions that will benefit the state by benefiting our employers and our displaced low-wage workers.

The second item concerns the quality of student learning and achievement in higher education. Within the next few weeks Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber is hopeful that there will be a national announcement about significant funding to allow the participating nine states, of which Rhode Island is one, to develop and pilot tests and an assessment model that are rooted in campus and system collaboration in authentic student work and in faculty curriculum development.

Lastly, in the No Child Left Behind legislation the federal government prescribes a role for Higher Education in the delivery of in-service professional development towards our state's teachers. OHE is responsible for dissemination of the funding that comes from the federal government. This year's target focus for this funding is on delivering professional learning that targets the common core mathematics standards and elementary educators that are serving our English language learners.

## **6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**

### **6a. University of Rhode Island**

President Dooley stated that in recognition of International Education Week, the University hung three new flags in addition to the 99 that existed previously that represent members of our community from countries other than the United States. There are a variety of events going on to celebrate international education, both locally and internationally, as well as events encouraging our students to study abroad. The University is looking at ways to expand the International Engineering Program into additional languages

President Dooley invited everyone to join them tomorrow morning at 10:30 in the Ryan Auditorium at the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences Building for the University's announcement of their next steps in the development of neuroscience.

### **6b. Rhode Island College**

President Carriuolo reported that after a campus survey and discussion with the RIC Council and the President's Cabinet, RIC has decided not to arm campus police. The College is instead using additional preventative measures related to lighting and parking lot patrols as well as increased participation in text alerts.

In keeping with Board policy, President Carriuolo gave notice to the Board of a New Track in Food Safety in the Health Sciences Program. The College is announcing 25 credits of new specialized courses in Food Safety track in the B.S. in Health Science program. The new track emphasizes science and technology courses and will be available in the fall of 2014.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the College in partnership with the Providence Journal and Leadership Rhode Island presented a forum called "Young Men and Violence." The forum featured a panel of experts who offered their solutions to the state's gun violence problem.

### **6c. Community College of Rhode Island**

President Di Pasquale highlighted a few items on his written report that he provided to the Board:

- CCRI hosted Rhode Island's premier Cyber Security Awareness Day. More than 300 people from around New England registered for CCRI's Building a Culture of Security Awareness," which was a free one-day program in recognition of October being national Cyber Security Awareness month.

- Dr. Robert P. Lanza, a renowned stem cell research and Nobel Prize candidate, presented “Cloning Stem Cells and the Future of Life” at the College on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Over 900 people attended the event.
- The College also hosted an Irish Studies Conference on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Best-selling memoirist Michael Patrick MacDonald, author of the College’s Common Reading Project selection “All Souls,” spoke about his experience growing up in South Boston. His presentation was followed by a book signing attended by students, faculty, staff and others.
- The Third Annual CCRI Armed Forces Recognition Day was held at the State House on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The CCRI Student Veterans Organizations, active-duty military personnel, members of the public, and members of the community gathered to acknowledge Rhode Islanders who have given their lives in the war on terror. Sen. Juan M. Pichardo of the Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs was the keynote speaker.
- The CCRI Admissions Department has received a Rhode Island Partnership for Success mini-grant in support of its North End Opportunities for College and Career Access Awareness Program. The mini-grants aim to support new and existing statewide partnerships that encourage greater collaboration between K-12 and higher education and advance college access and readiness in Rhode Island.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 7a. Higher Education Governance - Update

Clark Greene reported that the Executive Committee continues to meet and work on the proposal with the consultant, Aims McGuinness. The proposal will be brought before the full Board on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the Board will vote on the proposal on December 9<sup>th</sup>. If approved, the proposal will be sent to the governor’s office. As Mr. Greene noted at the Work Session, there will be four public forums scheduled: Newport Public Library – November 26<sup>th</sup>; CCRI – December 2<sup>nd</sup>; RIC – December 3<sup>rd</sup>; and URI – December 4<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a stakeholders meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

Chair Mancuso explained the that Board has had a work session previous to today’s meeting and unless there are any additional questions, Chair Mancuso will move through today’s actions items for acceptance.

### 8a. Approval of the Adult Education Program Standards for Public Review and Comment

Chair Mancuso presented Item 8a for approval.

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves for the purpose of public review and comment, the Adult Education Program Standards, as presented.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8b. Adoption of Rhode island Educator Preparation Program Standards**

Chair Mancuso presented Item 8b for approval.

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Rhode Island Educator Preparation Program Standards, as presented

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8c. Discussion and recommendation for acceptance of the audited financial statements for URI, RIC, and CCRI for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013**

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne reported that the external auditors have given all three institutions a clean audit. Mr. David Dilulis of O'Connor and Drew, who performed the audit, provided the Board with a presentation of his firm's written report. Both Dr. LaPanne and Mr. Dilulis thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

**VOTED:** **Item 8c**  
That the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the Audited Financial Statements for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos



NAYS: 0

**8d. Approval of the TIAA-CREF Revenue Account Balance**

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne recommended that the revenue credit account balance (approximately \$745,000 for calendar year 2012) with TIAA-CREF be spread pro-rata based on account balance among all of the participants of the TIAA-CREF 403(b) and all of the associated plans.

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the allocation of the TIAA-CREF Revenue Credit Account balance based on a pro-rata amount based on individual account balances.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8e. Approval of the RI Board of Education Appeals Committee Recommendations**

Committee Chair Forbes recommended that the Decision of the Commissioner in John of E. Doe v. East Greenwich School Committee, and Student L. Doe v. South Kingstown School Department be affirmed.

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

**VOTED:** That in the matter of Joe E. Doe v. East Greenwich School Committee, the Decision of the Commissioner is affirmed, as presented; and

That in the matter of Student L. Doe v. South Kingstown School Department, the Decision of the Commissioner is affirmed, as presented.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

- 9a. **Update on Litigation – Paulajo Gaines v. State of Rhode Island and RI Board of Education as successor to the RI Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education (C.A. No. 13-4898) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)**
- 9b. **Update on Litigation – Providence Student Union, et al. v. Board of Education, et al. (C.A. No. 13-3649) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2)**
- 9c. **Update on Litigation – Paul Pontarelli v. Rhode Island Department of Education, et al. (C.A. No. 13-4617) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)**
- 9d. **Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) (all bargaining units except Graduate Assistants United)**

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines 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.

A roll call vote on this motion was taken as follows:

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

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

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

NAYS: 0

The Board concluded Open Session at 6:43 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Clark Green, Authorized Officer for the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education; Deborah Gist, Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education; David M. Dooley, University of Rhode Island President; Ray M. Di Pasquale, President of the Community College of Rhode Island; Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College; David V. Abbott, General Counsel; Anne Marie Coleman,

Director of Labor Relations; Susan LaPanne, Associate Commissioner for Finance & Management; and Deborah Grossman-Garber, Associate Commissioner for Academic Planning & Policy.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:00 p.m.

[Member Purtill rejoined the meeting in open session at this time.]

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of November 13, 2013.

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

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

NAYS: 0

Chair Mancuso noted for the record that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

**10. NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. at RIDE – Work Session  
Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at North Providence High School

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

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

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

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

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.