



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Monday, February 10, 2014 at the Community College of Rhode Island, 400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Chair Mancuso thanked President Di Pasquale and the CCRI for hosting this evening's meeting.

Attendance was as follows:

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

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the agenda for the meeting of February 10, 2014.

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, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the January 9, 2014 Work Session

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of January 9, 2014.

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, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

2b. Minutes of the January 13, 2014 Meeting

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2014.

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, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

2c. Minutes of the January 13, 2014 Executive Session

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the executive session of January 13, 2014.

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, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

[Member William Maaia joins the meeting.]

3. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Chair Mancuso announced the award recipients as:

The 2014 RI Teacher of the Year: **Patricia M. Page**, a business and computer-education teacher, East Greenwich High School.

The 2013 Milken Educator Award Winner: **Marielle Emet**, a mathematics teacher, Blackstone Valley Prep Middle School

The 2012 National Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching:

In mathematics – **Gina Kilday**, Metcalf School, Exeter West Greenwich Regional School District

In science – **Clare Ornburn**, Ashaway Elementary School, Chariho Regional School District

The 2013 RI State Presidential Award State Finalists:

In mathematics – **Christopher Scott**, Cumberland High School
Michelle Way DaSilva, Kickemuit Middle School, Bristol-Warren
Marc Haskell, Portsmouth Abbey

In science – **Carolyn Higgins**, Winman Junior High School, Warwick
Anthony Borgueta, Barrington Middle School
Erin Escher, Portsmouth Middle School

4. 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:

Tim Duffy, RI Association of School Committees, spoke in support of the Diploma System

William McCourt, Executive Director, RI Manufacturers Association, spoke in support of the Diploma System

Joe Goho, Principal, North Providence High School, spoke in support of the Diploma System

Steve Nardelli, Executive Director, League of Charters, spoke in support of the RI Charter Public School Initiative and announced the upcoming conference on March 11th at Rhode Island College

Nina Marold, Teacher, Segue Institute for Learning, introduced Segue's new Grading Steering Committee and the extended learning opportunities being made available to the students this upcoming summer

Ramona Skelly, President, CCRI Faculty Association, shared her concerns with legislation being written to match the governance model for the Council on Post-Secondary Education.

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mancuso introduced the profile for the recruitment of the next Commissioner of Higher Education. The profile will be listed in higher education journals and The Providence Journal through the end of March. Chair Mancuso asked that Board members encourage good applicants to apply. At the next work session, Clark Greene will report on the solicitation process and the Board will begin work on the selection process.

The Chair indicated that the Providence Student Union petition lawsuit matter was heard on a bench conference before Judge Matos on December 18, 2013. Judge Matos continued the matter to February 14, 2014 so that the parties can address the issues that are outstanding in their Memorandum.

There are upcoming legislative meetings on the shared nursing facility. A meeting was held last week to brief the Governor. This week there will be meetings with the Senate and the House leadership on the shared nursing facility as well. There are also meetings scheduled this week with the House and Senate on the proposed new governance structure.

Chair Mancuso announced that the General Assembly will hold a hearing on the proposed new organizational structure for the Board tomorrow in the House and Wednesday in the Senate. She indicated that she plans on making the General Assembly aware that it has been difficult addressing the strategic plan in that the Office of Higher Education does not have adequate administrative support. She added that she believes the Bill was received well and that she is hopeful that the Bill may pass as a stand-alone one, which would allow the Board to begin work with the new additional four Board members and the two councils.

At the conclusion of Chair Mancuso's report, Member Purtill asked for a copy of the proposed Bill, and on a separate note, he asked that the Board revisit the By-Laws established last year at the next work session.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gist thanked President Di Pasquale and the CCRI community for welcoming and hosting this evening's meeting.

6a. Updates and issues affecting local and national education.

Commissioner Gist updated the Board on the model school-safety plan. Last year the General Assembly passed legislation on school safety, requiring RIDE to review school-safety plans in each LEA. Part of the requirement was to develop a model school-safety plan for the Board's use and adaptation. Together with the Emergency Management Agency; the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, the Department of Public Safety, the State Police and the State Fire Marshall, a plan has been developed. The Commissioner invited Board members to review the plan and welcomed any comments or suggestions.

The Commissioner reviewed RIDE's current strategic plan, *Transforming Education in Rhode Island 2010-2015*. She explained that although she was not officially approved until July of 2009, she had begun working with the Board of Regents in April of that year to establish a vision for Rhode Island Schools in the future. In July of 2009 she, along with the Board of Regents, had set the five priorities for the Strategic Plan. Initial drafts of the plan were shared with multiple stakeholder groups through community forums and reviewed with the Board of Regents. After gathering feedback which was used to review the draft plan, the Board of Regents approved the strategic plan in January of 2010.

The Commissioner took a moment to congratulate Western Hills Middle School in Cranston, and the Smithfield High School, as regional winners in the Verizon Innovative App Challenge. The challenge was for teams of students to develop an original concept for a mobile app that incorporates STEM principles and addresses a real need in the school or community. The schools have been selected among six of the best in the Northeast Region. They will now move on to compete against 11 other schools to be among the national winners.

As part of an update on the Race to The Top grant, Commissioner Gist provided the Board with a report for Year Four, Quarter One for the period September 1 through November 30, 2013. She encouraged all Board members to address any additional questions they may have or materials they wish to receive directly to her.

Member Callahan thanked the Commissioner for the Report and asked that in the future a budget report be included.

6b. Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.

Clark Greene highlighted two items included in his written report to the Board:

The first meeting of the Rhode Island Dual Enrollment Work Group is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th from 3-5 p.m. This event is hosted co-jointly by RIDE and OHE, and will be facilitated by Dr. Joel Vargas, Vice President of Jobs for the Future. Mr. Vargas is a nationally recognized expert in Dual Enrollment implementation across the country. Although not exclusive, dual enrollment options in Rhode Island are largely specific to particular high schools and institutions. A draft written report, policy recommendations, and a presentation on Dual Enrollment Regulations will be provided to the Board in the Fall 2014.

The Office of Higher Education sponsored a College Access and Persistence Workshop on February 7th. This workshop was the first of three statewide workshops devoted to increasing postsecondary student persistence and success. Dr. Larry Abele, former Florida State University Provost led the teams using individual data to identify and address administrative barriers that can impede students' progress toward graduation.

As part of Mr. Greene's written report, included was a breakdown of the Governor's Budget Proposal for the 2015 Operating Budget for the Office of Higher Education.

7. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

7a. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley was pleased to announce the success of the University's newest initiative, the January Term "J Term". Enrollment for the J Term was just over 400 students, twice as much as the University anticipated. This new initiative brings a number of courses to the campus and many study abroad opportunities for the students, allowing students to continue their coursework and keeping them from delaying graduation.

7b. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo was pleased to report that a Rhode Island College student has won the Richard Maltby Award for Excellence in Musical theatre from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 1 for three straight years. This year's winner is Tyler Bradley Indyck.

The President notified the Board that the Department of Physical Sciences at Rhode Island College is changing the current B.A. in Physics to a B.S. in Physics. She explained that the major difference between a B.A. and B.S. program is the number of credits. The College has determined that the B.A. program already consisted of more credits than most B.A. programs and, therefore, the changes made to create the B.S. were minor.

Lastly, President Carriuolo reported that Travis Escobar, a 2013 graduate, has been hired by the Rhode Island Foundation as a Scholarships and Grants Administrator.

7c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale shared enrollment numbers for the Spring semester at the Community College. He explained that 2/3 of the students are registered part-time. At the Lincoln/Flanagan campus there are 5,600 students. The Knight/Warwick campus has 7,600 students enrolled, and at the Liston/Providence campus there are 3,400. The Newport campus has 1,400 students enrolled, and there are 400 students enrolled at the College's satellite campuses.

He was pleased to announce that CCRI is the first community college that has partnered with Alex and Ani on the creation of a bangle featuring the college's seal. This partnership is especially meaningful this year as the College is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The bangles will be available this spring.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8a. Diploma System

Commissioner Gist reminded the Board that at the Work Session on January 31st, the 2013 NECAP results were reviewed. Those results were released almost a month earlier than normal because of the sense of urgency around these results, especially for our 11th and 12th grade students. Commissioner Gist highlighted some very promising developments:

Rhode Island saw a 4% point decrease in the number of 11th grade students at substantially below proficient in math. These 4% points represents approximately 400 additional students in the Class of 2015 that have already met the requirements. This is one of the most significant score increases across the 2013 results and a powerful testament to the work of our students and educators.

Eight-one percent of high school students are proficient in reading. Rhode Island was and remains a leader in reading instruction and achievement. Our 11th grade achievement is improving and it is improving most and fastest for the students that are the farthest behind.

Commissioner Gist also announced that today is the first of what will soon become a monthly data update. Two weeks ago, RIDE provided the Board with the 12th grade results. Since then, the staff has worked closely with every school district to complete the first collection of data about student success using other approved tests. Through the combination of NECAP success and success on other approved tests, over 2000 students, equal to 75% have now met the assessment portion of the graduation requirement.

On Thursday, the full report covering all districts and levels will be released. This report includes detail beyond that which was shared at the January 31st press conference.

Commissioner Gist turned the meeting over to Mary Ann Snider and Andrea Castaneda for a detailed presentation of the 2013 NECAP Results – updates since the January 31st presentation.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9a. Approval of Educator Certification Test Updates for Public Review and Comment

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

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves, for the purpose of public review and comment, the proposed revised Educator certification Tests and passing scores, as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, 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 Guida, William Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

9b. Approval of Lease Agreement at URI's Providence Campus – International Gallery for Heritage & Culture

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

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves the lease between the Board of Education/University of Rhode Island and the International Gallery for Heritage & Culture, for office space located in the Shepard Building. As with other similar matters, this lease will then go to the State Property Committee for review and approval.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, 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 Guida, William Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**9c. Approval of recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee (PRC) –
Reclassification at URI – “Director, Career Services” to “Director, Center for
Career and Experiential Education”**

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Michael Bernstein it was

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves the Personnel Review Committee’s recommendation, as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, 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 Guida, William Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

9d. Approval of alignment of tuition – RI College Master of Social Work (MSW)

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

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves Rhode Island College to reset graduate tuition for full-time study in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at a level equal to all other graduate-level tuition at the college, as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative and 1 member recused as follows

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

NAYS: 0

9e. Approval of the RI Board of Education Appeals Committee Recommendation

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

VOTED: That in the matter of Stephanie Pamula v. Rhode Island

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Decision of the Commissioner is affirmed, as presented.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, 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 Guida, William Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

10a. 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 Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

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

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

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

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 7:12 p.m.

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

Board Members Callahan and Purtill recused themselves from the Update on Collective Bargaining as they are involved with local unions in bargaining throughout the state.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:37 p.m.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of February 10, 2014.

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

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

NAYS: 0

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

11. NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, February 27, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. – work session
RIDE

Monday, March 3, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. – meeting
International Charter School, 334 Pleasant Street, Pawtucket

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Michael Bernstein and seconded by Karin Forbes, 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, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grande, Patrick Guida, William Maaia, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.