



Enclosure 2a  
April 14, 2014

## RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

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A Rhode Island Board of Education work session was held on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at the Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the work session to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Present:** Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

**Absent:** Colleen Callahan, Jo-Eva Gaines, Michael Grande, and William C. Maaia

### 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the agenda for the work session of February 27, 2014.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

### 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### 2a. Rhode to Work Report/Board of Education Governance Structure and Goals

Marie Ganim, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy for the Senate presented the report of the Senate Policy Office, *Rhode to Work, A Legislative Action Plan – January 2014*. The report focuses on meeting the training needs of today's unemployment and tomorrow's workforce.

Ms. Ganim explained that the genesis of the report was the urgency that the Senate President and other members felt about Rhode Island's unemployment rate, and the fact that while Rhode Island currently has the highest unemployment in the nation, there are job openings. The report shows a growing gap in the skills of our workforce and the skills that we see currently and in the future.

To address these problems, the Senate Policy Office proposed seven strategies, five of which Ms. Ganim sees as relating directly to education:

- Significantly expand the number of internships and apprenticeships in Rhode Island
- Transform adult education
- Reimagine career and technical education (CTE) in Rhode Island
- Eliminate barriers to attaining high school diploma-equivalency, and
- Bridge statewide educational attainment gaps.

Chair Mancuso along with the Board members expressed their appreciation for the report and the work done.

## **2b. Update on Providence Student Union's Petition Lawsuit**

Paul Sullivan explained that last November the court heard a preliminary injunction in the case that the plaintiffs in the case had set down seeking to have the 9/9 vote declared invalid and an open meetings act violation. The court denied that motion at that time. Since then, the court has set a briefing schedule, the stipulated facts were agreed to by the parties, and on February 14<sup>th</sup> the Court heard the matter on the stipulated facts. At that time the judge took under advisement the pending open meetings act violations and addressed the administrative procedures act allegation. An order was then entered with the court that by March 17<sup>th</sup> the Board needs to issue a letter as to the reasons for the September 9, 2013 denial, that the September 9<sup>th</sup> executive session minutes be produced to the Court. After having an opportunity to review the minutes, the court will meet again on March 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss what will happen next in the case.

## **2c. Review of the Mid-Year Review for Fiscal 2014 Higher Education Budgets and Table of Organization**

Clark Greene presented the recommendation on the mid-year review budgets for fiscal year 2014 for the Office of Higher Education and the three institutions. Board members were given an opportunity to request additional information and Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne was on hand to answer any questions.

## **2d. Approval of Awarding of Tenure**

President Dooley advised that he would be requesting Board approval at the upcoming board meeting for the awarding of tenure to Dr. Jeff Konin in his initial appointment as Chair and Professor in the Physical Therapy Department in the College of Human Sciences and Services at the University. President Dooley provided the Board with additional information including Dr. Konin's curriculum vita.

## **2e. Personnel Review Committee – Recommendation for Reclassification and Establishment of New Classification**

Anne Marie Coleman presented one reclassification request and one new classification request from the University. The reclassification request was for the Assistant Executive Secretary, University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System to Deputy Executive Secretary, and the new classification was for the Executive Director of the RI Small Business Development Center, Research & Economic Development. Ms. Coleman advised that both positions are federally funded and involve no general revenue.

## **2f. Legislative Report Update**

The Board was provided with a Legislative Report prepared by Andy Andrade, the Legislative Liaison which contained a total of 91 bills. David Abbott highlighted a few bills on behalf of the Department of Education, while Clark Greene talked about a few of the bills concerning higher education.

## **2g. Recommendation of new member to the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees**

David Abbott presented Commissioner Gist's recommendation to the Board for the approval of the appointment of Danielle Loughlin to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees. Ms. Loughlin is a lifelong New England resident who specializes in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing services. She has experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings, residential settings, and educational settings for children.

## **2h. Update on Recruitment of Higher Education Commissioner**

Clark Greene advised that the Office of Higher Education has begun the recruitment for the Commissioner of Higher Education. The application period will be open through the end of March; the office has already received a handful of applications. A Search Committee has been compiled and is comprised of Board members, and representatives of the Colleges and the University. The Committee's goal will be to bring to the full board 2-3 finalists by the end of June.

## **2i. Annual NECAP Results**

Mary Ann Snider presented the 2013 NECAP Data for School and Subgroup Performance. The presentation included:

- A breakdown by student group of the gap in Reading and Mathematics from 2009 – 2013
- An examination of school level performance by subgroups broken down into Gaps by schools with at least 25 students in a subgroup and which are within 5% of the statewide average in a grade span and content area
- School with small gaps in performance relating to math

As part of her presentation, Ms. Snider spoke about The Learning Community Middle School and the Davies Career and Technical Center as *schools to learn from*. She explained that both of these schools have shown pattern of performance.

**2j. Race to the Top Grant – District Funding**

Mary-Beth Fafard presented a budget update on the Race to the Top grant. Ms. Fafard's PowerPoint presentation included:

- Background Information
- A review of the Grant Structure
- An overview on the Race to the Top Initiatives
- A review of the Race to the Top Design Approach
- Categories of funding for district, charter and state school awards
- Accomplishments in years 1 through 3
- A breakdown on spending by LEAs and SEAs by system of support in years 1 through 3

Ms. Fafard added that both the districts and the state are on schedule as for the remaining funds which will need to be spent by September 2014.

**2k. Board of Education Bylaws**

A copy of the existing By-Laws were provided to all Board members. Chair Mancuso asked that any member wishing to revisit the By-Laws submit a letter three weeks in advance of an upcoming Board meeting. Due to the large number of items already on the April agenda, Chair Mancuso suggested Member Purtill seek to have the Bylaws reviewed at the Board's May, 2014 meeting. Member Purtill agreed.

**3. NEXT MEETING:**

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

**4. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the work session of the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourn.
	Vote:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos
	NAYS:	0

The work session adjourned at 5:25 p.m.