



Enclosure 2a
May 12, 2014

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education work session was held on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at the RI Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI. Chair Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

Absent: Patrick Guida and William Maaia

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the agenda for the work session of April 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, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

2a. Update on potential lease for the proposed Nursing Education Center pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5)

2b. Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §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)(5) and R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reason set forth above.

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

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

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 4:11 p.m.

[*Member Lawrence Purtill joined the meeting at 4:12]

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Clark Greene, Authorized Officer, RI Office of Higher Education; Deborah Gist, Commissioner, RI Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education; David M. Dooley, President, University of Rhode Island; Ray M. Di Pasquale, President, Community College of Rhode Island; Nancy Carriuolo, President, Rhode Island College; Ronald A. Cavallaro, General Counsel; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations, RI Office of Higher Education; Richard Licht, Director, RI Department of Administration; J. Vernon Wyman, Vice President, Administration & Finance, University of Rhode Island; William Gearhart, Vice President, Administration & Finance, University of Rhode Island; Atty. Sean Coffey, Burns & Levinson; Dean Jane Williams, School of Nursing, Rhode Island College; and Patricia Burbank, College of Nursing, University of Rhode Island.

Board Members Callahan and Purtill recused themselves from the Update on Collective Bargaining (Item 2b of the Executive Session).

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:20 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Michael Bernstein, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seal the minutes of the executive session held on April 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, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3a. RI Student Veterans' Orientation Video

Rebecca O'Connors gave a presentation involving Veterans' affairs and college accessibility in Rhode Island. She presented a video that discussed veteran educational benefits.

3b. Educator Certification Test Updates – Feedback from Public Review and Comments

Commissioner Gist noted that the Board approved six educator certification test updates and passing scores required for initial licensure at its February 2014 meeting. RI educators were involved in the process and a 30-day public comment period was held. The revised tests and cut scores will be required beginning this August.

3c. Educator Certification Test Updates – Request for Public Review and Comment

Commissioner Gist stated that at the upcoming April 14th meeting, she will ask the Board to approve, for the purpose of public comment, two additional tests (Middle School Science and Speech-Language Pathology).

3d. Diploma System - Update

Commissioner Gist and Andrea Castaneda, Chief of Accelerating School Performance for the RI Department of Education noted that about 10,500 students in the Class of 2014 took the NECAP assessments in their junior year (October 2012), and about 60% met the graduation requirements at that time. In October 2013, about 3,200 high school seniors retook the NECAP. Of these, approximately 1,400 met the graduation requirement. As of January, 73% of students who took the high school assessment in 2012 met the graduation requirement. In February, an additional 227 met the cut scores on any other assessments provided by RIDE, bringing graduation eligibility up to 76%. In March, an additional 200 students met the requirement by either alternative test or admission into a competitive, non-open enrollment postsecondary school.

Member Colleen Callahan inquired as to the status of the ad hoc committee's outreach to student groups in regard to facilitated student discussion.

Ms. Castaneda indicated that they had reached out to several student groups, but there was not enough response to a meaningful discussion.

3e. Update on Recruitment of Higher Education Commissioner

Clark Greene presented an update on the commissioner search process. He indicated that the Search Committee consisted of Chair Mancuso, Members Bernstein and Santos, Ron Pitt, Ron Schertz, Naomi Thompson, and staff from the Office of Higher Education. Approximately 30 applications were received. The Search Committee will meet on April 17th to do initial vetting.

Member Colleen Callahan asked if the Personnel Committee was involved in this process.

Chair Mancuso responded that it was not. However, the full Board would do interviews with position finalists. Additionally, the Governor will have a role in appointing the finalist to the position.

3f. Proposed Replacement/Bonding Plan for URI Utility Substation

President Dooley and J. Vernon Wyman, Vice President of Administration and Finance at

URI addressed the necessity of repairs of the substation. The request was not reflected in the 2015 budget request – it was in the capital budget. The project is currently before the Building Commissioner for review. It involves the replacement of the oldest equipment in URI's electrical system. It was estimated at \$7 million. The annual cost during fiscal year 2015 would be approximately \$287,000.00.

Chair Mancuso asked if it was correct that the Board approve the proposal in draft form.

Mr. Wyman responded that his draft is attached to this submission, but the State Budget Office has in fact provided a document that meets their standard form.

Member Jo Eva Gaines inquired as to the term of debt as a result of the project and the life of the equipment.

Mr. Wyman responded that a 30-year life can be expected of the equipment without major overhaul.

3g. Amended Tuition Policy for Employer-Sponsored Learning Programs

President Dooley noted that the Board currently has a policy – F-15-0, which was passed circa 1992. It authorized a flexible tuition-setting process for employer-sponsored programs. The amendment seeks to empower all three public RI institutions to extend the scope of these programs and to develop new programs with more flexibility than currently allowed. This would allow the institutions to compete more effectively in the marketplace for web-based learning, to provide programs to companies in New England that may want to draw on the institutions' expertise, and to allow them to negotiate the prices for such programs. A red-lined copy was provided as an example of old and new policy.

Presidents Di Pasquale and Carriuolo noted that they were in support of the proposed amendments.

3h. Henry Barnard School Tuition Rates for 2014-2015 Academic Year

Dr. Carriuolo explained that the Board approves changes in college tuition and fees. Henry Barnard School fees are not linked to college fees in any way. She asked for a 9% increase, since the Henry Barnard School had been operating in the deficit.

Chair Mancuso mentioned that this discussion began because Henry Barnard is a private school. However, RIC students began to experience an increase in cost of attendance in order to subsidize Henry Barnard students.

Member Karin Forbes asked who owned the building, and if education students have experiences in teaching at Henry Barnard.

President Carriuolo responded that RIC owned the building, and that students may have teaching experiences at Henry Barnard or at a multitude of schools throughout RI.

Member Mathies Santos asked if the Henry Barnard faculty were affiliated with RIC.

President Carriuolo responded that they do have RIC faculty status.

4. NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 14, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. – meeting
Narragansett Town Hall, Narragansett

5. ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

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, Dennis Duffy, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.