



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
May 30, 2018**

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

---

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting of the R.I. Board of Education, noted for the record that Members Gaines, Crosby, and Field would not be joining the meeting, and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Present:** Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, \*Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, \*Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, \*\*Mariela Lucaj, Daniel McConaghy, \*Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

\*Arrived at 5:45 p.m.

\*\* Ex-officio, non-voting member

**Absent:**

Heather Crosby  
Karen Davis  
Gara Field  
Jo Eva Gaines  
Thalia Philippe  
Stephan Pryor  
Jeffery Williams

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Cottam held the vote on the agenda until a quorum was present; after the Reports of the Chairs, the vote took place at 5:51 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Daniel McConaghy and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of February 15, 2018

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan,  
Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy,  
William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo,  
Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### 2a. Minutes of the February 15, 2018, Meeting

Chair Cottam held the vote on the minutes until a quorum was present; after the Reports of the Chairs, the vote took place at 5:52 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 15, 2018, meeting

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan,  
Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes,  
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, and  
Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**[Member McConaghy had to recuse himself from the vote as he did not attend the February 15, 2018, meeting of the Board of Education]**

## 3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam reported that no one had signed-up to speak at Open Forum.

## 4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS

### Chair of the Board of Education

Chair Cottam led her remarks with congratulations to two Rhode Island schools on recognition by the U.S. Department of Education: Potter-Burns Elementary School in

Pawtucket as a 2018 Green Ribbon School and the University of Rhode Island (URI) as a Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee. Chair Cottam then congratulated each of the colleges and universities for the graduation ceremonies they held, and noted the success of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) holding its graduation ceremony at the Dunkin Donuts Center. Lastly, Chair Cottam noted that this would be the last Board of Education meeting for William Foulkes, and she recognized his service on the Board for the past three years and as Chair of the Postsecondary Council.

### **Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education**

Chair McConaghy reported on two items. First, at the May 15 meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, the Council endorsed the Rhode Island K-12 Computer Science Education Standards. The standards, which will actively engage students in computer science, were developed over the course of a year through a collaborative efforts of a broad range of expertise from K-12 educators and administrators, postsecondary faculty, and industry partners.

Secondly, RIDE recently announced that more than 63 credit-bearing and work experience college courses are available to Rhode Island middle and high school students through the Advanced Course Network for the summer and fall. Chair McConaghy noted that thanks to the continued partnership with high schools, colleges and universities, and community partners across the state, we are offering more work-based learning, career preparation, dual enrollment, and Advanced Placement courses than ever before.

### **Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education**

Chair Foulkes began his remarks with congratulations to the 8,289 graduates of URI, CCRI, and Rhode Island College (RIC); 7,281 undergraduates and approximately 1,200 graduate level students across the schools. Chair Foulkes thanked all of the Board and Council members who attended the graduations. Chair Foulkes remarked that not only are the commencement activities celebrations of the graduates, but also of the institutions, and noted the impressive cultures that have been created over the years at those institutions. Chair Foulkes noted that CCRI's graduation rate this year was the highest it has been in many years and that the RI Promise program and RIC Two plus Two were off to a successful start.

Chair Foulkes noted that for the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC), the first full year of the Westerly Education Center has ended as a continuous financially self-sustaining enterprise, including being awarded for their work with Electric Boat from the Rhode Island Board of Higher Education.

Chair Foulkes reported that URI graduated the largest class ever, and noted their enrollment increased nearly 20% over the past ten years. He highlighted a sentence from URI's recent accreditation report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) that congratulated the university on becoming a globally recognized research institution.

Chair Foulkes then turned it over to President David Dooley of URI to provide some highlights from the accreditation report. President Dooley quoted a list of specific accomplishments mentioned in the official NEASC letter, as well as NEASC's recommendations for institutional attention over the next decade. President Dooley thanked the Board and Postsecondary Council for their support throughout this process before ending his remarks. Chair Cottam expressed her congratulations on behalf of the Board on the outstanding report.

Chair Cottam then noted that several more members joined and therefore it was possible to return to the prior items and address the agenda and minutes.

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

### **Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Commissioner Wagner highlighted three items for the Board. First, in order to ensure there is alignment across the K-12 education system, postsecondary education, and the workforce, RIDE, OPC, and the Governor's Workforce Board have continued to partner on joint efforts. One effort is the Governor's Workforce Board endorsing work-based learning standards to structure and guide those experiences and opportunities for students, schools, and the employers.

Commissioner Wagner noted that PrepareRI has launched its first cohort placing over 100 students in summer internships after receiving hundreds of applications. The item of note relating to career education is that the next cohort of PrepareRI Ambassadors will be teachers in order to help prepare teachers prepare students, as well as to communicate these opportunities and benefits to families and students in Rhode Island communities.

The second update is on the school facilities work regarding the Governor's budget proposal that is before the General Assembly for consideration as part of a comprehensive strategy including a \$250 million bond, which connects to a \$1 billion investment over the next five years. To prepare to support that work, RIDE has launched the next round cycle for school improvement projects for next summer into fall 2019, and also has put out a call for proposals for the Rhode Island community to provide advice about how best to structure and take advantage of this opportunity should it be passed.

Finally, Commissioner Wagner noted that RIDE had been working for some time with the field on updates to the educator regulations that span educator preparation, certification, and recruitment. The Council has had several public conversations thus far around these revisions, with the hope that there may be a vote of approval for these regulations to then go out for public comment in September. Commissioner Wagner noted that there should be sufficient development on those regulations to be able to provide a full briefing to the Board at the August meeting.

### **Commissioner of Postsecondary Education**

Commissioner Dann-Messier added her thanks to Chair Foulkes for his service to the Council and the time and effort he put in on behalf of all the students. Commissioner Dann-Messier also congratulated Mariela Lucaj, the student representative to the Council of Postsecondary Education, on her graduation from CCRI and further studies at URI.

Commissioner Dann-Messier then thanked the OPC and RIDE teams led by Kim Bright and Steve Osborn for their work on the updated Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Regulations, as well as the members of the working group that supported that project.

Commissioner Dann-Messier then highlighted two items of work. First, on May 1 in partnership with the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs, the RI National Guard, and SENEDIA, OPC hosted a professional development session on military articulation and transfer which included guests from the leading states in this work to support veterans and enlisted service men and women. OPC will incorporate what was learned to enhance Council policies that impact and affect veterans.

On May 11, OPC held their annual articulation and transfer meeting which had approximately 100 faculty and staff working together to help students move efficiently from one public institution to another. Commissioner Dann-Messier expressed her thanks to the three institutions for their work on this initiative. She also offered congratulations to President Dooley and URI on their recent accreditation and report.

Finally, Commissioner Dann-Messier noted that she had been meeting monthly with a team from RIC working to transform their teacher preparation programs. She thanked President Sanchez and noted her pleasure at the progress the team has been making, which will be shared later in this meeting.

## 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Education Preparation Program at Rhode Island College - Update

Commissioner Wagner expressed his gratitude to President Sanchez and his team for their amazing work over the past year on this opportunity, before turning the presentation over to President Sanchez.

President Sanchez introduced the presentation by highlighting the work the team had done and accomplishments that took place since the RIDE review of the program almost two years ago. He noted the three outcomes of this work that RIC desired: 1) to restore RIC's regional dominance and national prominence in teacher preparation in education; 2) to design a modern and innovative curriculum to make all graduates from Rhode Island be competitive for any position in this state and country; 3) to have a curriculum that can inform the re-engineering and re-imagining to modernize and renew the Horace Mann facility. President Sanchez then turned the presentation over to Deans Gerri August, Ph.D., and Julie Horwitz, Ph.D.

Dean August began the presentation noting that the educational landscape in Rhode Island is rapidly changing, as are the needs of the students, requiring change to the way teacher preparation takes place. To that end, RIC developed action steps outlining their vision for change:

- 1) designing each educational preparation program at RIC to meet all the needs of Rhode Island students as a total overhaul;
- 2) particularly committed to preparing teacher candidates to work with students whose home language is not English and with students who have special needs, so to that end are designing two endorsements – one a special education endorsement and one an ESL endorsement – that are distinguished from certification, but that still provide practical experience in both of those areas;
- 3) deepening partnerships with school districts to provide extensive and meaningful field experiences for all students, and finding ways to make that partnership meaningful for all involved;

- 4) if approved by Rhode Island voters, transforming Horace Mann into a state-of-the-art facility. The goal of this work can be summarized in two words: equity and excellence. President Sanchez offered a point of clarification on the second point that the endorsements will not be add-ons requiring additional coursework or semesters, but will be embedded in the degree itself for every graduate.

Dean August then pointed to a slide noting the ways that RIC has been vital to the economy and culture to Rhode Island education since its founding in 1854. She highlighted that almost 40% of RIC graduates are first-generation (postsecondary) students. On the next slide, Dean August provided examples and stories of several Rhode Island students and their experiences in the education program.

Board Members asked for clarification about the Praxis exam, as well as an explanation of the undergraduate and graduate student distribution within the initial certification and the graduate programs. Also requested was information about the RIC faculty's average time teaching.

Dean August continued the presentation highlighting that the teacher preparation program is not as diverse as the entire student body of RIC and that beginning in fall 2018, RIC plans to recruit a cohort of bilingual students to begin in fall 2019 through the Holmes model from ACCTE for this cohort.

Dean Horowitz framed the next portion of the presentation around the thoughtful process that RIC used to consider the decisions that needed to be made as a result of a thoughtful study of Rhode Island. She noted that there are nearly 11,000 students in Rhode Island who have English as a second language, concentrated in five districts, which is a need to be addressed as RIC's student body mirrors this population. She then noted that half of the emergency certifications issued in Rhode Island are in ELL and special education, which calls for proactive thinking to meet these needs while teachers are in the preparation program.

Dean Horowitz explained how the work she and Dean August began by relying upon stakeholder input – both internally at the school of education at RIC and with other departments, as well as with external institutions and research – to help determine next steps. One of these next steps is the creation of a library of videos of teachers in the classrooms for review and analysis by teacher candidates to help them be thoughtful about their practice and also be able to effectively evaluate their own practice when reviewing video of themselves teaching.

Dean August highlighted another teacher preparation program student and noted how understanding who the students were and where they came from is integral to understanding how to redesign each of the seventeen educator preparation programs. She and Dean Horowitz noted on the slide the components that they were working to ensure were present in every program through this redesign. Dean Horowitz explained the timeline and process for the redesign decisions, as well as that 100% of the faculty are working on the redesign throughout this summer, with a pilot next spring of the endorsements, and full implementation in fall 2019. This development work includes creating structures for continuous improvement.

Board Members then expressed appreciation and commendation for RIC and RIDE on the approach to the redesign and also the choice to move forward the redesign, as well as asking several questions:

- This summer, with the curriculum redesign taking place, how did the work engage the field;
- What does the field experience mean for RIC and also partner districts;
- How to help students align their desires with the priority areas and jobs available;
- Will the same type of professional development (for the priority areas) be available to current teachers;
- Whether the entrance criteria for the education college is different from the other colleges;
- Clarification on the Holmes group role and customization;
- Clarification on funding the cohorts through the Holmes group; and
- How would you measure the success of these students

Dean Horowitz and Dean August offered clarification that the redesign work includes advisory boards internally and departmentally at RIC and also external thought partners across the state and country, including other schools of education, and focus groups of cooperating teachers and districts. The field experience will have an increase in hours, but also look at the quality of what's taking place, similar to the medical model, in depth of practice. RIC is looking to specifically recruit students who want to be teachers in the priority areas, and using data about current enrollment, recruitment, and hiring. The entrance criteria for the education college does differ from general admission criteria, and each program also has slightly different criteria as well. The Holmes program is a national structure that can be individualized for our state. Funding and logistics are still being worked out. As a result of this work, RIC is changing the current program, syllabi, etc., for the current program participants in small but pertinent ways, as well as redesigning it from the ground up to launch in 2019. Regarding measuring student success, there would be six outcomes that would distinguish Feinstein School students – not just teacher candidates, but school psychologists and other professions – and rubrics are being created now.

After questions clarifying the prospect of certain jobs forecasted for the future and the data available for analysis and whether that analysis is taking place, Commissioner Wagner noted that the forecasting data is important for higher education institutions, districts, and teacher candidates to understand the patterns for positions coming available, and at this point there are discussions about how that kind of analysis could be handled in a way that benefits all stakeholders.

**b. Board Resolution Delegating Authority over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island**

Commissioner Dann-Messier outlined the resolution that was recommended by the Council on Postsecondary Education for full Board approval. The resolution would delegate authority over user agency contracts and the resolution for temporary exclusion for access to classified information for Peter Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

The Board had no further discussion on this topic.

**c. Proposed Revisions to the Dual Enrollment Regulations**

Chair Cottam outlined the discussion for this evening as focusing on the public comment and final revisions to the Dual Enrollment Regulations. The legislation passed in 2013, and the Board, OPC, and RIDE created a working group to develop regulations to support the legislation, which were adopted in 2015. In the past year, the General Assembly asked the Board to review the regulations to ensure that the program matched the funding. OPC shared numbers that showed in the past three years, at the end of the third year there is projected to be a 300% increase in the number of credits earned by high school students. Since the last meeting, the regulations have gone out for public comment as well as had two public hearings. These regulations, along with the proposed increases to the program through the Governor's budget, will make the program sustainable for future years. Chair Cottam then turned the discussion over to Kim Bright of OPC and Steve Osborn of RIDE to provide further updates on the changes and the public comment period.

Kim Bright first acknowledged the dedication and efforts of the working group over the past summer and fall, highlighting that one of the results of that work was over \$1 million in budget savings. Steve Osborn noted that based on the recommendations of the working group - including feedback from RIC, URI, and CCRI as well as feedback from schools and districts - there were two key changes to the regulations:

- 1) To limit full-time (on campus) dual enrollment to CCRI only as a fiscally prudent investment.
- 2) For high school students who attend CCRI full-time, that the district in which the student resides would pay for student to take the course (tuition, fees, and textbooks), which provides \$800,000 to \$1 million in savings in the state investment.

Mr. Osborn noted that for the public comment and two hearings, feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of the changes taking place, with no comments that opposed the whole set of revisions. The majority of the questions received had to do with how it was different and how would the funding be impacted for certain families and situations.

Ms. Bright shared that additional comments and clarifying questions focused on the changes to specific language in the revisions, and that those clarifying questions would be addressed through administrative rules as a set in the coming months. The goal is to continue to work collaboratively with K-12 and postsecondary partners over the next few months to make sure that all of those questions and concerns can be addressed and language clarified as needed. Mr. Osborn noted several reasons that this program is important, particularly to help prepare at-risk and at-need students in transitioning to the college environment. Ms. Bright noted that 27% of the 2014 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort (current graduating seniors) have already earned college credit. Since the program began in 2015, there has been an increase of over 158% in college credits earned, and the program has saved Rhode Island students and families over \$16 million in the first two years.

Board members had questions and comments about several topics from the presentation:

- The student eligibility criteria and secondary schools developing local enrollment criteria in relation to postsecondary institutions establishing eligibility criteria.
- The lack of pushback about the cost being born by the districts, and inquired how the change to CCRI-only enrollment would impact students' dual enrollment
- How the comments and clarifying questions would be addressed.
- The contents of the administrative rules and how that would be implemented in the future, perhaps through a formalized administrative body or committee that would manage this going forward

Mr. Osborn noted that the purpose is for schools and students to be confident in their readiness for college courses, and for that to be aligned with postsecondary expectations.

Commissioner Wagner expressed that in practice the goal is for the two to be aligned, and the language may be able to be clarified through administrative rules. Mr. Osborn noted that the number of students this year is 126 students, with the largest impact being at Davies for the change; there have only been one or two students over the past few years who have enrolled at URI. Commissioner Wagner noted that there were districts that had expressed concerns, but on the whole, the state is making an investment, the institutions are making an investment, and the districts also need to make an investment as well. Ms. Bright noted that some of the comments could be clarified through discussion and conversations, while others would be addressed through administrative guidance. Chair Cottam noted the need to create a structure to sustain the program for the future. Commissioners Wagner and Dann-Messier shared possible ideas for how to keep the program representatively engaged with K-20 stakeholders, as well as Board involvement. Ms. Bright noted that the ad hoc committee had also indicated the need and desire to continue the collaborative effort to grow and improve the program.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

### **Enclosure 7a - Approval of the Proposed Revisions to the Board of Education Regulations for Dual Enrollment**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the proposed revisions to the Board of Education Regulations for Dual Enrollment, as presented.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

### **Enclosure 7b - Approval of the Resolution Delegating Authority over User Agency Contracts to the Managerial Group at the University of Rhode Island**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Daniel McConaghy, it was

**VOTED:**

That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the resolution for the delegation of authority over user agency contracts and the resolution for temporary exclusion for access to classified information for Peter Snyder, Vice-President for Research and Economic Development.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion duly made by Daniel McConaghy and seconded by Rachelle Green, 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: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, William Foulkes, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.