



Enclosure 2a
August 4, 2014

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education work session was held on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at the Rhode Island Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI. Chair Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

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

Absent: Dennis Duffy, William Maaia

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the work session of June 12, 2014.

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

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

NAYS: 0

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

2a. Interview and discuss the Commissioner of Higher Education Search Finalists pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1)

Chair Mancuso noted for the record that both finalists had been notified of their right to have the interviews and discussion held in open session, and that they have indicated no objection to proceeding in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education convenes in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) for the reasons set forth above.

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

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

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 3:12 p.m.

[*Member Antonio Barajas joined the meeting at 3:32 p.m.]

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Clark Greene, Authorized Officer, RI Office of Higher Education.

The Board reconvened in open session at 4:33 p.m.

Chair Mancuso noted that no votes were taken during executive session.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on June 12, 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

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3a. URI/RIC Nursing Education Center Lease Agreement at South Street Landing in Providence

President Dooley of URI spoke about the lease agreement, indicating that the final document will be presented for action at the following Board of Education meeting. He noted that the elements of the lease were summarized in the memo to the Board included in Enclosure 3a.

Member Karin Forbes asked if state historic credits would be available for this project.

Sean Coffey of Burn & Levinson, LLP stated that the state historic tax credits, which amount to about \$27 million, were an integral part of the project. He noted that the pre-existing tax credit program was frozen a few years ago – the tax credits that had been authorized are still in full force of effect, and are eligible for use in this project.

Member Colleen Callahan asked if the Board would be informed of changes resulting from lease-related negotiations.

Mr. Coffey highlighted a few areas of interest: Insurance requirements as elaborated on in article 7 of the lease, and tenant improvement rent and expenditures as elaborated in article 4.4 of the lease.

3b. Resolution of the R.I. Board of Education associated with the R.I. Health and Education Building Corporation (RIHEBC) Bond Funded URI Substation Project

President Dooley noted that the House Finance Committee, after reviewing this project, determined that it was better for the state and for higher education to shift funding from a RIHEBC bond to RICAP funding. President Dooley asked for the Board's consideration and approval of this resolution in the event that the proposed RICAP funding does not remain in the state budget.

Vern Wyman, Assistant Vice President of Business Services at URI, confirmed President Dooley's statements and noted that the funding change would save approximately \$7 million over 20 years in bond interest.

3c. Utility Easement for Electrical Connection to the Construction Site for the new Sigma Chi Fraternity House

Mr. Wyman noted that in September of 2013, the Board approved a real estate license agreement with Sigma Chi Fraternity. At this point, they need to be tied into National Grid for the electrical fee which will serve the building. This request will allow an easement in installing said electrical connections to put the building into service.

3d. Tenure Request – University of Rhode Island

President Dooley presented the names and backgrounds of faculty members for tenure at URI, as described in Enclosure 3d.

Member Karin Forbes stated she was impressed with the diversity of the candidates – they were from a vast array of locations and backgrounds.

President Dooley thanked Member Forbes and explained that faculty diversity reflects URI's view of being in an international market.

3e. Recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee (PRC) on behalf of the University of Rhode Island

President Dooley described the three items of the PRC: to reclassify the Executive Director of Communications & Community Relations; to create the new classification of Director of Recruitment & Retention of Diverse Faculty and Staff; and to upgrade the classification of University Police Major. President Dooley clarified that the Board would be asked to vote on these items at the next Board of Education meeting. He further explained that the decision to put forth the above items is a result of the PRC's work, in collaboration with President Dooley and his leadership team. He stated that Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources Administration, reviews personnel matters and determines if Board approval is necessary. The position Director of Recruitment & Retention of Diverse Faculty and Staff would report to the Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity.

Member Michael Bernstein asked how the PRC arrived at the conclusion to create the position Director of Recruitment & Retention of Diverse Faculty and Staff.

President Dooley explained that URI looks to other institutions to determine what the precedents and best practices are (i.e. how other successful institutions address the same need). He made a decision that diversity and retention would be core initiatives when URI implemented the Office of Community, Equity, and Diversity. He stated that in order for URI's students to have a thorough 21st-century education, the faculty, staff, and students at URI needed to be reflective of the nation and world – at least to a degree.

Chair Mancuso asked President Dooley to clarify how the position relates to the position of Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity.

President Dooley outlined the Associate Vice President's duties and explained that the proposed position would focus exclusively on recruiting and retaining diverse faculty and staff. He explained that there were consolidations within URI to help fund the position. In the past, there had been a part time recruiter, the money for which was reallocated. URI had been strategically building the funding for the newly proposed position.

Chair Mancuso requested that the PRC recommendation be presented as three separate motions for the upcoming Board of Education meeting.

Member Mathies Santos commended URI for its efforts in diversity.

Chair Mancuso asked if the new position meant that URI would no longer utilize search firms geared toward diversity.

President Dooley stated that URI typically does not use search firms for faculty and staff positions; firms are only utilized for higher-level administrator searches. He stated that having a senior-level administrator for diverse faculty and staff recruitment will meet URI's desired outcomes more effectively than would the hiring of multiple search firms. It would also be more cost effective.

Member Michael Bernstein asked what the anticipated compensation for the new position would be.

President Dooley said that he expected the salary to be between \$80-110,000, plus benefits.

3f. Tenure Request – Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo of Rhode Island College presented the names and backgrounds of faculty members for tenure at RIC, as described in Enclosure 3f. President Carriuolo echoed President Dooley's concept of importance in faculty diversity.

3g. Purchase of Lot – Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo stated that the request is linked to RIC being able to put a small addition to the nursing facility on campus. She sought to update the Board on the status of the lot negotiations and to seek approval of purchase at the upcoming Board meeting.

3h. Board of Education Bylaws

In accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws of the RI Board of Education, where it states that *these Bylaws may be amended, suspended or altered by vote of a majority of the members taken at any regular or special meeting, provided that written notice of the substance of the proposed change has been mailed to the members of the Board at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting*, Mr. Purtill emailed all Board members his request to have the RI Board of Education consider the following change to the Bylaws at its June 16th meeting:

Page 3, Section 7 (Article II). Preparation of the Agenda. Remove "any four (4) members" in line 5 and replace with, "any member." This would allow any member of the Board to request and include an agenda item for a meeting.

Chair Mancuso introduced Member Purtill's request as stated above, and invited him to speak on it.

Member Purtill noted that the reduction in number of necessary members was a common sense change in that many members are busy and it is difficult to coordinate the efforts of four. He noted that the agenda of Board meetings is set by the Chair and the Executive Committee and that about 80% of the people setting the agenda "work for the Board." Mr. Purtill felt that his proposed change helps address these concerns.

The Board discussed and noted concerns relevant to this request. These included a concern for the resulting volume of agenda items versus the ability of support staff, seeking to make the process of adding agenda items more efficient, the impact of the changing size and model of the Board, and a concern for the relevance and substance of agenda items put before the Board. There was a consensus that a fair and equitable process should be in place which considers all of these factors.

3i. Superior Court's decision on the matter of Finstein v. East Greenwich School Committee

Paul Sullivan of Sullivan, Whitehead, and DeLuca LLP addressed the Board. He stated that the case at hand was remanded to the Board of Education by the Kent County Superior Court, with specific instructions that the Board remand the matter to the East Greenwich School Committee.

3j. FY 2016 Capital Budget – PK-12

Commissioner Gist stated that the Board is required to annually approve the Capital Budget request, which is a five-year plan that covers repairs, renovations, and improvements in State-owned properties. This year's request included projects for: Davies Career and Technical Center; The Metropolitan Career and Technical Center; The RI School for the Deaf; two remaining State-

owned, locally-operated career and technical centers (Warwick and Woonsocket); selected statewide information technology initiatives; and the Department's motor vehicle replacement plan. The Capital Budget is the first step in the FY 2016 budget process.

3k. Dual Language Program Standards

Commissioner Gist stated that she visited International Charter School, one of three dual language programs in the state. This school uses "two-way immersion." Half of the time in the classroom is spent learning in English and half in Portuguese. She affirmed the value of high quality dual language programs in early schooling. She noted that the standards presented in Enclosure 3k provide a framework for what quality dual language programs might look like.

Member Colleen Callahan asked if the standards were intended to guide program development, evaluation, and refinement. She further inquired as to the resources for the program.

Bob Measel, RIDE office of student, community, and academic supports, stated that the standards were intended for those purposes. He referred Member Callahan to "support and resources" under strand 7 and "staffing and professional development."

Member Jo Eva Gaines asked if the standards suggested one bilingual teacher or two non-bilingual teachers for instruction.

Mr. Measel stated that the standards of Enclosure 3k do not prescribe one format over another. However, it assists districts in determining how they would implement a dual language model of their choice.

3l. Educator Certification Test Updates – Feedback from Public Review and Comment

Commissioner Gist reminded the Board that at the April 14th meeting, it approved for public review and comment two tests (Middle School Science and Speech-Language Pathology) that the Educational Testing Service had revised. One public comment was received. Commissioner Gist felt there was a sentiment of overall comfort with the tests. RI educators had been involved in the standard-setting process.

Member Karin Forbes asked Lisa Foehrer (RIDE, Office of Educator Quality), to address the public comment.

Ms. Foehrer stated that the comment would be a Rhode Island-specific issue in terms of professional development, and not necessarily a certification issue.

3m. Chariho Regional School District's request for an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement approved by the Board of Regents on June 7, 2012

Commissioner Gist stated that in 2012, the Board of Regents approved district-wide immediate health and safety projects totaling \$2,441,500 at the Chariho Regional School District. At the time, Chariho Career and Technical Center was owned by the State. Ownership of the facility had since been transferred to Chariho and an emergency situation has come up involving roof repair. At the next Board meeting, the Commissioner stated she would ask the Board to now include the Career and Technical Center on the list of schools scheduled for health and safety repairs and to reallocate pre-approved funds as appropriate. There are no cost increases in this

amendment.

Deputy Commissioner Abbot clarified that the repair projects approved in 2012 are still moving forward. Since the transfer of the facility from the State to Chariho, a need for emergency repairs to the roof arose.

4. NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 16, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. –
Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center
325 Public Street, Providence

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karin Forbes, 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, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos
	NAYS:	0

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.