



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
October 2, 2018

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the October 2, 2018, Meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Next, Chair McConaghy recognized that members of the School for the Deaf Board of Trustees who are deaf and/or hard of hearing were attending the meeting for the budget presentation. He shared that CART Captioning (Communication Access Realtime Translation), a speech-to-text interpreting service was being used, streamed via the Internet and displayed on a computer screen. He noted that the meeting would be run a bit different this evening. The budget would be discussed, followed by action items, and ending with the remainder of the discussion items.

Present: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and *Christopher Bove

Absent: None

[*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

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 Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the Meeting of September 18, 2018

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the September 18, 2018 Work Session

On a motion duly made by Karen Davis and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the September 18, 2018, Work Session

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Marta Martinez, and Daniel McConaghy

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

[Members Field, Gaines and Purtill had recuse themselves from the vote, as they did not attend the September 18, 2018, Work Session of the Council]

3. OPEN Forum

Chair McConaghy noted that no one signed up to speak.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Wagner began by expressing RIDE’s frustration with the process for securing American Sign Language Interpreters through the State’s Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Next, Commissioner Wagner shared that the United States Department of Education recently recognized three Rhode Island Schools (Colt Andrews Elementary School in the Bristol Warren Regional School District; East Greenwich High School; and the Jamestown School-Melrose) as National Blue Ribbon School for 2018, based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps.

Commissioner Wagner also gave an update on the upcoming release of the state assessment scores. He shared that RIDE is moving toward releasing the entire high school related achievement test scores (PSAT/SATs, participation in Dual and Concurrent Enrollment, and Advanced Placement) in one release over the next couple of weeks. He stressed that this year’s release is an important one as it is the first time that the SAT and PSAT was fully available to all students across the state, and that the results will be part of the state’s accountability system.

Commissioner Wagner also reported that the public hearings on the regulations that the Council authorized to go out for public review and comment are currently underway with the last 2 of the 4 hearings on the Educator Regulations being held on October 4 and 11.

Commissioner Wagner ended by reporting that the First Student Providence Depot bus company strike is on day four. The strike affects mainly 9,000 Providence students and around 600 students in the RIDE's Statewide Transportation Services. RIDE is in close contact with Providence to brainstorm about potential options and solutions.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets

Considering that the budget was discussed in detail at the September 18 Council meeting, Commissioner Wagner suggested having Mark Dunham, RIDE's Director of Finance, answer any targeted or clarifying questions.

Director Dunham highlighted two minor changes (slide 13 - the addition of an FTE - currently a fellow supported with New Skills for Youth Funds, and slide 15 - the hiring of 1, not 2, critical Speech Pathologist at RISD - dollar amount stays the same) to the PowerPoint deck that was discussed at the last meeting. He clarified that the \$.5M request is to hire the speech pathologist at \$.1M and reduce the school's turnover target to \$.4M.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves and transmits the Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets to the RI State Budget Office, and further approves their transmission to the R.I. Board of Education for final approval.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

b. Endorsement of the R.I. Professional Learning Standards

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorses the R.I. Professional Learning Standards, to replace any previously endorsed versions of professional learning standards.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

c. Approval of the Appeals Committee Recommendation on the matter of Kingston Hill Academy v. North Kingstown School Department

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That in the matter of Kingston Hill Academy v. North Kingstown School Department, the Commissioner's decision is affirmed, as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

7. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Central Falls School District - Turnaround Leadership

Before turning the conversation over to Victor Capellan, Superintendent of the Central Falls School District, Commissioner Wagner stated that this evening's conversation is an extension of the recent conversations with the Providence School Department around the good work happening in our schools. He stressed that one of the accomplishments this year in preparation for the accountability results of the ESSA Plan and a different approach to school improvement in the Plan, is to have sustained conversations between Council members and school district leaders on the hard work happening to continue to move schools forward, despite historic struggles in advancing student achievement.

Superintendent Capellan began his presentation by introducing his senior leadership team and thanking his entire staff and Commissioner Wagner and the RIDE staff for their continued support.

He shared that over the last three years the district has been investing in the team and looking for ways in which to change the narrative and the approach, in order to change the outcomes. Indicators show that the district is on the right path to achieving student success as graduation rates, the culture and climate, and attendance rates, have all improved.

Next, Superintendent Capellan went over the district's Blueprint for Success, a document that was created with input from parents, students, teachers and other school personnel, community leaders, and other partners. He shared that rather than having a strategic plan, the district decided on developing a blueprint focused on equity, empowerment and excellence.

Superintendent Capellan ended by going over the district's Systemic Turnaround and Improvement Framework and the four domains for rapid school improvement:

- Talent Development - recruit, develop, retain, and sustain talent
- Instructional Transformation - meet student needs and provide opportunities
- Culture Shift - engage students and families in pursuing learning goals
- Turnaround Leadership - prioritize improvement and communicate its urgency

Chair McConaghy thanked Superintendent Capellan for sharing the district's vision for the implementation of the Blue Print for Success and expressed that he looks forward to continued discussions on how the district defines and measures success once the plan is fully implemented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Marta Martinez and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtil

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.