



Enclosure 2a
February 5, 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 13, 2019

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 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 and called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. She thanked President Hughes and her staff for hosting the meeting, noted for the record that Members Beretta, Field, *Griffiths, Martinez, Purtill, and Williams, would not be joining the meeting, and that Stephen Nedder, RI College's Vice-President of Administration and Finance, would be representing President Sanchez.

Present: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Mike Grey, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen, and *Jay Rumas

* Ex-officio, non-voting member

Absent:

Amy Beretta
Gara Field
Lauren Griffiths
Marta Martinez
Stephan Pryor
Lawrence Purtill
Jeffery Williams

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of November 13, 2019

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,
Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines,
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Mike Mello,
Marianne Monte, and Barbara Mullen

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Meeting

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of
the August 7, 2019, meeting

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Rachelle Green,
Thomas Izzo, and Mullen

NAYS: 0

[Board Members Callahan, Karen Davis, Duffy, Gaines, McConaghy, Mello, and Monte, had to abstain from the vote as they did not attend the August 7, 2019, 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 stated that she would defer to the Chairs and Commissioners to report on what is happening in their respective Departments, but would take a moment to highlight some of the collective work happening between the PK-12 and the Postsecondary Education Systems, since the Board last met.

She applauded the ongoing collaboration between CCRI, RIC, URI and RIDE through the PrepareRI College Readiness project. The team has worked together, with the assistance of DataSpark, to prepare a data dashboard that shows high school mathematics teachers the top three to five math skills that their students are struggling with when they get to college. This high-level

data allows teachers to see trends and develop plans to address areas of student weakness with input from higher education. Connecting the two systems, and more specifically, having data from higher education partners go back to the PK-12 teaching force, is an exciting example of both the power of data and the power of collaboration.

The team is meeting on November 15th to outline the Readiness pilot, which is designed to catch students up to college ready bar, so they are able to matriculate into credit-bearing math courses as Freshmen in college. CCRI, RIC, and URI are all involved in Readiness pilots at the high schools, and the PK-12 teachers are enthusiastically preparing to launch this initiative this coming January.

Chair Cottam also stated that later this evening the Board will hear a presentation by Onna Holland, a Middle School Guidance Counselor, who is a Fellow at RIDE this year, on the collaborative work of the School Counseling Ambassadors, a group of education leaders, including college professors, who help guide PrepareRI's implementation. Last week, Board members of the RI School Counselors Association (RISCA) met with Commissioner Infante-Green for the first time to discuss areas that RIDE and RISCA can work together to support students and school counseling programs in Rhode Island.

Chair Cottam ended her report by recognizing Jay Rumas, the Postsecondary Student Representative and a student at the University of Rhode Island, who will be studying a semester abroad in the Czech Republic.

Mr. Rumas thanked the Board for their support and dedication to Rhode Island's education system.

Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education:

Chair McConaghy reported that last month, RIDE awarded more than \$331,000 to eight districts across the State (Central Falls, Middletown, Newport, North Kingstown, Providence, Warwick, West Warwick, and Woonsocket) to support homeless students. These federally funded, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for Homeless Children and Youth sub-grants, are administered by the State and renewable for up to three years.

Chair McConaghy ended his report by announcing that last month, RIDE received word that it was the winner of a couple of grants: A Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant for \$20M, over five years, where 95% of the money will be awarded through sub-grants, and some of the requirements for selected grantees/districts will be to create literacy plans and to use funds for high-quality curriculum. The other is a \$2.5M Education Innovation and Research grant to expand work-based learning opportunities in computer science, which will expand services for more than 1,000 students, and includes a research partnership that will help guide future improvements to Computer Science in Rhode Island.

Chair of Postsecondary Education:

Chair DelGiudice expressed his gratitude to the College Presidents and their staff, the staff at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and the Council on Postsecondary Education, for their hard work and thoughtfulness during this year's budget cycle.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS**Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Commissioner Infante-Green began by reporting that it has been nearly two weeks since the state intervention of Providence Public Schools, and that work is already underway. She shared that the main focus is on getting the right talent into Providence's central office and a financial analysis of the district, to guide further decisions. She made it a priority to meet with students, teachers and principals on the first day of the state intervention, and each week she meets with the teachers and students of a Providence school. She noted that the community has voiced that it wants a meaningful seat at the table, so she has been very clear that the turnaround plan will be developed with direct input from Providence parents, students, educators, and community leaders.

Commissioner Infante-Green concluded her report by sharing that last week RIDE announced that all of the projects on DonorsChoose.org from RI teachers will be funded, thanks to the generosity of the Partnership for Rhode Island and Thereisa Gouw, a board member of the Corporation of Brown University and of DonorsChoose. The joint donation, totaling \$131,648, will fully fund every project in the State, which will impact over 24,000 students statewide.

Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro provided Board Members with a brief overview of the operation and administration functions of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC). He shared that there are currently eight full-time employees and three part-time employees, who make up the central office of the Postsecondary System - Offices of Research and Data; Proprietary Schools; Grants; VA Programs; Finance and Management; Communications; IT; Chief of Staff; Labor Relations; and General Counsel for the Council, Board of Education, and CCRI.

Next, Acting Commissioner Cavallaro reported that in partnership with RIDE and the Governor's Workforce Board, OPC has awarded two sub-grants to fund partnerships to upskill workers in Cumberland and Pawtucket with grant money from the Walmart Foundation, with a third sub-grant proposal currently under consideration for funding. The second grant is from the Lumina Foundation, which OPC has identified a communications and marketing vendor to develop for launching in January 2020, a statewide communications campaign, including an online portal, to encourage adults to consider reenrolling in education and training.

He also reported on the work currently underway at the Westerly Education Center, in partnership with Electric Boat, the RI Marine Trades Association, and URI. He also reported on the Nursing Education Center in Providence, where this semester, the Center is hosting over 40 graduate and undergraduate nursing courses from URI, RIC, and CCRI.

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro concluded his report by welcoming Susan Macinello, who previously served as the CFO of the Girl Scouts of Southern New England, as OPC's new Chief Financial Officer. He also welcomed back Dr. Phyllis Harnick, who has returned to the office on a part-time basis, after retiring last year as the Interim Assistant Commissioner.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Supporting Student Transitions Through School Counseling

Onna Holland, School Counseling Fellow at RIDE and Middle School Counselor in the North Providence School System, began the presentation by explaining that school counselors work to create a comprehensive school counseling program that thinks about how all students can be reached, what their needs are, and develop programs to meet those needs. She expressed that research has shown that lowering the school counselor-to-student ratio of 250 student to 1 counselor, results in higher attendance and SAT scores. In addition, following the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) national model, which encompasses comprehensive school counseling, raises students' average SAT scores and increases college enrollment.

Ms. Holland went on to present on Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), which are student-directed planning and monitoring tools that customize learning opportunities throughout a student's 6-12 grade school experience. It encompasses the three domains: academic, career and social emotional, so that students are connecting their school life with their after school life, and think about their pathways and what they want to do, what their interests are, and set goals on how to get there.

Next, Spencer Sherman, Director of RIDE's Office of College and Career Readiness, presented on how RIDE addressed the issues identified in the baseline analysis that RIDE performed in 2006 to assess how well the ILP program was doing, statewide - RIDE created a working committee to support a more robust ILP Program within schools, and selected a PrepareRI Ambassadors, a select a statewide group of education leaders (district leaders, principals, school administrators, teachers, college professors, community leaders, and parents), to support school counseling and help guide PrepareRI's Implementation.

b. Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings – 2020-2021 School Year

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro reminded Board Members that in 2013, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed the Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act, and two years later, the Board of Education promulgated its Dual Enrollment Regulations. These regulations establish that dual credit programs for secondary school students be offered in conjunction with the RI Postsecondary Public Institutions. Governor Raimondo also created the Dual Enrollment Fund, which covers the cost of tuition and fees for public high school students who participate in dual and concurrent coursework at URI, RIC, and CCRI. He stated that this evening the Board is being asked to approve the 2020-2021 academic year revised list of approved concurrent enrollment offerings, which the three institutions were asked to submit and that OPC reviewed in consultation with RIDE. He noted that this year's changes include:

- **RI College** – Removal of Electronic Music; Advanced Digital Audio Production; and Introduction to Political Science.
- **URI** – Added – Business Computing and Quantitative Analysis; Beginning German 1; and Pre-Calculus
Removed – Business Computing Applications; Introduction to Physics; and Introduction to Physics Lab

c. PK-12 Capital Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2021 -2025

Member Mullen noted for the record that she was recusing herself from discussions and votes on the PK-12 Capital Budget Proposal as well as the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2019 Revised and Fiscal Year 2020 Current Service Level Budgets.

Member McConaghy also noted for the record that he was recusing himself from discussions and votes on the PK-12 Capital Budget as well as the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan, as his employer may be pursuing work within those two plans.

Brian Darrow, RIDE's Chief of Staff, gave an overview of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2021-25 Capital Budget Proposal that was submitted to the Department of Administration. He highlighted that RIDE's total request for \$544M over the next five years includes capital projects for Davies, The MET, the RI for the Deaf and the statewide facility bonds. The request includes \$29M that was spent through June 30, 2019; leaving \$315M in spending from FY2020 – FY2025, and another \$200M in later years.

d. PK-12 Fiscal Year 2020 Revised and Fiscal Year 2021 Current Service Level Budgets

Mr. Darrow framed the discussion by sharing that RIDE's \$3.8M budget request was built to align with the four key statewide priorities: Implementing high-quality curriculum; creating a strong instructional school culture; expanding pathways and opportunities; and supporting school systems in closing statewide equity gaps, which also align to legislation recently passed.

Achieving the above requires shifting RIDE as an agency by focusing more on support instead of compliance; streamlining operations to better serve school systems and other stakeholders; and changing how the agency operates.

Next, Mr. Darrow went over RIDE's FY2021 Operating Budget, which includes a request for additional funding - \$400K to support curriculum implementation; \$125K to support dyslexia professional learning; \$490K to sustain and grow the Advanced Course Network (CAN), and \$115K for WIDA Access Assessment costs.

He went on to give an overview of the additional funds request on the Categorical Aid for LEAs- Improving School Culture (School Resource Officer); Expanding Pathways and Opportunities (Early Childhood and Career and Technical Education); Supporting School Systems to Close Equity Gaps (Multilingual Learners and High-Cost Differently-abled Education; and Maintaining Current Service Levels (Transportation Non-Public and Transportation Regional).

Next, Mr. Darrow gave an overview of the budget for the State Schools - Central Falls, RI School for the Deaf, Davies and the MET. He noted that the overall funding to Central Falls School District has been either flat or has declined, while the number of students has increased by 27% over the last couple of years, and continues to grow. To address the need, an additional \$500K is being requested to restore some critical services and roles in the district, which are necessary to effectively operate the school system. In addition, \$1M in Stabilization Funds are being requested in Fiscal Year 2021 to help support the equivalent of local fund contributions for increasing enrollment not yet in the funding formula. The RI School for the Deaf needs an additional \$500K this year and \$413K next year, based on the population that the school serves and new enrollment this year. Similar to Central Falls, RIDE is also including stabilization funding for Davies (\$219K) and the MET (\$139K), to address staffing needs and enrollment projections.

e. Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2021 - Fiscal Year 2025, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2021

Chair DelGiudice began by reiterating that the Institutions and the Council on Postsecondary Education spent a lot of time over the past few months going over the budgets, including holding individual hearings for each of the Institutions as well as for the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC). Next, Mr. DelGiudice went over the state general revenue appropriation figures for each of the Institutions - increases of \$5.8M for URI, \$5M for RIC, \$2.4M for CCRI, and \$600K for OPC - and he commended the Institutions for doing everything in their power to drive expense and cost out and efficiency in. He went over the in-state tuition increases - \$332 for URI, \$617 for RIC, and \$130 for CCRI, and out-of-state tuition is \$786 for URI, \$1,627 for RIC, and \$364 for CCRI - the result of a grueling task last year and this year, across the system.

He also went over the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request unrestricted revenue budgets for the three institutions and OPC. He emphasized that there is also a fiscal year 2020 supplemental request for \$516,000 for OPC, to offset pass-through funding; non-state funds - grants; operating; and the imminent move of OPC to the Powers building.

Board Members expressed some concern with the tuition increases, which President Dooley replied that even with the proposed increases, he is confident that it will keep URI as the most affordable research University of any kind, between Virginia and Maine, for a non-resident, and the lowest cost for a resident of the home state in New England, with the exception of Maine. This has been URI's strategy to maintain its competitive edge in the region.

e. Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2021-2025

Member McConaghy noted for the record that he was abstaining from discussion and vote on this matter as his employer may later on pursue work on projects funded by the Plan.

Member Monte also noted for the record that she was abstaining from discussion and vote on this matter as her employer may later on pursue some of the projects funded by the Plan.

Chair DelGiudice noted that much like the PK-12 Capital Budget, the Capital Improvement Plan is a five-year look, where most of the projects have been approved year over year with the on-ramping of new projects at the back-end of that five-year plan. He went over the summary of the proposed plans for each of the three Institutions to be financed by a variety of debt instruments, financing sources, RIHEBC bonds, RI Capital Funds, Federal Funds, Asset Protection Funds, and private donations, as well as their general obligation bond requests. He stressed that although these projects are being approved this evening, it doesn't mean that they are being approved in their entirety, as some projects will go forward, but not all. He ended the presentation by sharing that OPC has two projects in the five-year plan for \$4.1M.

7. ACTION ITEMS:

Enclosure 7a - Approval of the Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings for Academic Year 2020-2021

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

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings for Academic Year 2020-2021.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, and Barbara Mullen

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7b - Approval of the PK-12 Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2025

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Mike Mello, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget Proposal, as presented.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, and 2 members abstained, as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Mike Mello, and Mullen

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 2 - Daniel McConaghy and Barbara Mullen

Enclosure 7c - Approval of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2020 Revised and Fiscal Year 2021 Current Service Level Budgets

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and transmits the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2020 Revised and the Fiscal Year 2021 Current Service Level Budgets to the RI State Budget Office.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, and 1 abstained, as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte,

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: Barbara Mullen

Enclosure 7d – Approval of the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2022, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education System’s recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system’s operating budget request for Fiscal Year, 2021, as presented, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education’s recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system’s tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the Fiscal Year 2021 as presented, reserving the right to readjust tuition and fees as needed upon notification of the Governor’s recommendation and, later, upon action of the legislature, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education’s recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system’s Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2021, as presented, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education’s recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system’s budget allocation for the Fiscal Year 2020, as presented.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member abstained as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,
Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines,
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Mike Mello
Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 0

Enclosure 7e - Approval of the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2021 through 2025

On a motion duly made by Karen Davis and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the recommendation of the Council on Postsecondary Education regarding the public postsecondary system's Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2025

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative. 0 members voted in the negative, and 1 member abstained, as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,
Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines,
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Mike Mello, Barbara Mullen

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 2 - Daniel McConaghy and Marianne Monte

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,
Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines,
Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Mike Mello
Marianne Monte, Barbara Mullen

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.