



Enclosure 2b  
April 14, 2014

## RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

---

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Monday, March 3, 2014 at the International Charter School, 334 Pleasant Street, Pawtucket, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Before the start of the meeting, Chair Mancuso asked for a moment of silence in memory of two long-time educators who has passed recently, George Nasuti, the Woonsocket High School Athletic Director, and Leo DiMaio, the Director Emeritus of the Talent Development Providence at URI.

Chair Mancuso thanked Julie Nora, the Director of the International Charter School and her staff for hosting this evening's meeting.

Attendance was as follows:

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

### 1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Michael Bernstein and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the agenda for the meeting of March 3, 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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**2a. Minutes of the January 31, 2014 Work Session on the NECAP results**

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of January 31, 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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**2b. Minutes of the February 6, 2014 Work Session**

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of February 6, 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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**2c. Minutes of the February 10, 2014 Meeting**

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of February 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, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**2d. Minutes of the February 10, 2014 Executive Session**

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the executive session of February 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, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Chair Mancuso reminded everyone wishing to address the Board that they would be limited to two minutes per person. The following individuals spoke:

**Julie Nora**, Director, International Charter School

Ms. Nora welcomed the Board to the International Charter School and gave a brief presentation on the school's history and the benefits of learning at the Charter School, whose enrollment is mostly Spanish and Portuguese.

**Barbara Walton-Faria**, Chairperson, RI Teachers Advisory Counsel ("RITAC")

Ms. Walton-Faria spoke about the new law established in July 2013 that required a Teacher Advisory Counsel be assembled with teachers from every district. The purpose of RITAC is to provide a direct line between teachers and the State Board of Education.

**David Lussier**, Parent, Classical High School

Mr. Lussier shared a story of success with the Board concerning his son and his experience with NECAP while attending Classical High School. The School worked with students over the summer, teachers did a wonderful job and his son, with their support, did very well.

**Tim Ryan**, Executive Director, RI School Superintendents Association

Mr. Ryan stated that RISSA has been on record for supporting the graduation standards. He feels that it is important to have an open dialogue, and sees that different communities face different challenges, Providence being one of the districts who needs different support. He indicated his support for Sup. Susan Lusi with regard to the comments made days earlier, adding that her motivation is not political but solely in the best interest of the students.

**Alex Lucini**, Treasurer, Providence Teachers Union

Mr. Lucini stated that he and the 2000 plus members he represents support Dr. Lusi's opinion and they do not feel that NECAP is the right direction. He expressed his frustration with the war of words between the Board and the Superintendent and feels that the Board should issue an apology and begin a real conversation on improving policy for the students.

**Carolyn Sheehan**, Executive Director, Blackstone Academy Charter School

Ms. Sheehan explained that Blackstone Academy is located in the same building as the International Charter School where the meeting is being held this evening. The Academy is a twelve-year-old high school that serves only students from Pawtucket and Central Falls. This school is the first of its kind in the state to share space with an elementary school which has been working out very well. Ms. Sheehan invited the Board to tour the school at the conclusion of their meeting.

**Ann Manocchio**, Director of Finance and Operations, Segue Institute for Learning

Ms. Manocchio shared an update on the Segue Institute. She stated that Segue is working very closely with RIDE on curriculum and school improvements. They are working on a plan to purchase their main academic building from the City of Central Falls. Ms. Manocchio extended an invitation to the Board to attend the School's 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and to visit the school at their convenience.

**4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Mancuso has been busy testifying on behalf of the Board during this legislative season while also spending a lot of time with partners on the higher education side. Last Tuesday, Chair Mancuso and Commissioner Gist spoke at Fidelity Investments at an event held to honor their volunteer work and community service. Work continues with the Senate on the *Rhode to Work* project which was discussed at the last work session. We continue to work on the Board's legislation and are hoping to begin work on the final phases with the comments that come from the Board.

At the conclusion of the Chair's report, Member Purtill asked that he be on record as not supporting the comments attributed to Chair Mancuso last week regarding Superintendent Lusi in Providence. He believes those types of comments have consequences, such as teachers and administrators' beliefs that this Board is irrelevant to them, that they are not listened to, and also contributes to either the perceived or actual fear that many of them have about speaking up. He feels the Board is sending the wrong message and suggests the Board within 45 days hold an open forum to discuss NECAP, Common Core and PARCC. He added the perception, whether real or not, is that this Board does not allow dialogue and it is impacting educators across the state.

Chair Mancuso responded that no one should have to fear her. Her job as a trial lawyer for the last 30 years, each and every day is to protect people's rights. She certainly does not feel that anyone is irrelevant. She has offered to sit down with every individual running for Governor, and has personally offered Mayor Taveras an opportunity to sit down and talk about the diploma system and the issues that are faced there. She stands by her comments that she believes the conversation should be before the Board of Education. She explained that this dialogue was started in 2003, well before her tenure on this Board. Chair Mancuso stated that she is not against debate or discussion, but is against going back against everything we have been trying to set up for the last 15 years.

Member Callahan indicated that she believes Member Purtill's suggestion is a great one and she would like to see it be considered. In response to an inquiry to Member Callahan, Chair Mancuso stated that the procedure to have something put on the Board's agenda is set forth in the bylaws.

## 5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gist thanked Dr. Julie Nora and the International Charter School staff for welcoming and hosting this evening's meeting.

### 5a. Updates and issues affecting local and national education.

Commissioner Gist stated that last Wednesday, she along with staff from the Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education and Vice Chair Guida testified before the House Health, Education, and Welfare Committee regarding a number of education-related bills that would delay implementation of the Common Core. These bills would disturb the use of standardized assessments as part of the Rhode Island Diploma System, and end annual evaluations for a majority of Rhode Island's teachers.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioner testified in Congress before the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training in a hearing on "Exploring Efforts to Strengthen the Teaching Profession." She spoke about the work being done in conjunction with higher education and the recent initiatives in Rhode Island toward improving the quality of educator-preparation programs, particularly the new Educator Program Approval Standards that the Board approved last November.

The Commissioner informed the Board that over the next few weeks, RIDE will release three reports to the General Assembly:

- Annual report on Virtual Learning;
- Annual report on Career and Technical Education; and
- A report on pre-kindergarten programs: Lessons from the RI Pre-kindergarten Demonstration Project.

The reports will be made public and made available to the Board.

### 5b. Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.

Clark Greene provided the Board with a written report. He highlighted that the Office of Higher Education has been awarded two projects through the federal Title II Part A grant program. The awards which support professional development workshops and mentoring to help in-service elementary school teachers successfully teach the Common Core mathematics standards to English Language Learners at elementary school level were given to:

Rhode Island College partnering with the Central Falls School District for its *Depth over Breadth equals Student Success*; and

Roger Williams University in collaboration with Providence Public School District for *Providence RI Math Excellence – English Language Learners*

The projects will be funded for three years with Roger Williams University receiving \$450,000 per year, and Rhode Island College receiving \$120,000 per year.

## 6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

### 6a. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley informed the Board that during the February 2013 blizzard the University had a substation failure on the electrical grid on the University's campus. At that time it was revealed that the substation had transformers dating back to 1956 and 1972, and was very close to sustained failure. The University was able to repair the substation's failure at that time, but the University will be bringing a request before the Board to replace the equipment, estimated roughly at \$7 million. The University will be seeking RIHEBC funding for the project, and the project should have no impact on tuition for 2015.

Last week the University celebrated its innovation awards. The awards were given to individuals who brought new intellectual property forward. In 2013 the University celebrated 70 inventors, this year there were over 100. The University has issued many patents and licenses over the past few years. There are now 118 licensing agreements, four times the amount since 2011. Licensing revenue in 2013 was over 30 percent. In addition, the University has formed partnerships with a variety of companies that bring in roughly \$500,000, which has been doubling each year.

### 6b. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo announced two new for-credit certificates and one non-credit certificate created at the College:

- A **Certificate of Graduate Study in Advanced Counseling** – allowing master's-prepared students who have degrees in counseling and psychology-related fields to meet the R.I. Department of Health standard for licensed mental health counselors; and
- The College has adopted the curriculum of its former Certificate in Case Management and retitled it **Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Social and Human Service Assistance** to better reflect the most current career opportunities in the field.
- The College has also instituted two non-credit Certificates of Continuing Study in civic journalism and peace journalism. The civil journalism program is for Lusophone radio journalists in Southeastern New England, while the peace journalism program serves in Luso-African countries such as Cape Verde.

President Carriuolo announced that this spring the College will begin the process of developing a new five-year plan, *Vision 2015*.

In closing, President Carriuolo was pleased to announce that both the men's and women's basketball teams are now the league champs, for the first time in the College's history.

### 6c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale's written report highlighted a few of the events happening at the College over the next few months:

- Broadway actress and master vocal teacher Natalie Weiss will visit CCRI for a master class on March 20 and a performance on March 21
- Michael Patrick MacDonald, the authority of the Common Book Project selection, "All Souls,"

- will return to the Flanagan Campus on March 20<sup>th</sup>
- On Friday, April 11, CCRI will host 150 Rhode Island high school students interested in science, technology, engineering and health fields.
  - CCRI student Anthony Pierno has been named a 2014 Coco-Cola new Century Scholar and will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship
  - The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Association Golf Tournament will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., spoke at the Flanagan Campus last week and is scheduled to speak at a seminar in nonviolence training on March 22.

President Di Pasquale announced that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (“NEASC”) Accreditation Visit is scheduled from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. He explained that this is a voluntary, peer review practice which engages institutions in regular review cycles consisting of a self-study process. President Di Pasquale invited all Board members to participate in the NEASC visit by attending any of the lunches or dinners being held.

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7a. Signature Authority – Annual Report**

As part of the duties delegated to the Commissioner of Higher Education by the Board in 1998, Clark Greene presented the Annual Report on Signature Authority. The Board was presented with lists of signature authority for each institution and the Office of Higher Education, as of this date.

### **7b. Diploma System**

Commissioner Gist stated that at the last meeting the Board was provided a status update on the Diploma System and the Class of 2014. She indicated that updates will continue monthly and that due to the Board’s March meeting being held early in the month, the update for March will be sent to the Board electronically.

She indicated that everything is on-track and moving forward. The third NECAP test is now being administered throughout the state. The Commissioner explained that the third test is optional; the districts are not required to administer the test to every student. So far it looks like most districts are making use of this important opportunity, and testing has been completed for over half the state.

In response to various Board members’ questions, Andrea Castaneda explained that the third test is equivalent in rigor to tests one and two. It is not easier to make growth, even though it is a little shorter, because skill test items were removed.

## **8. ACTION ITEMS**

### **8a. Approval of the Awarding of Tenure at the University of Rhode Island**

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Education approves the granting of tenure for Dr.

Jeff Konin with Initial Appointment as Chair and Professor of Physical Therapy in the College of Human Science and Services at the University of Rhode Island, effective as of March 1, 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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8b. Recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee on behalf of the University of Rhode Island**

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Education approves the Personnel Review Committee's recommendation.

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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8c. Appointment of Nominee – RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees**

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Mathies Santos it was

**VOTED:** That the RI Board of Education approves the appointment of Danielle Loughlin to serve on the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, as presented.

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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0



**8d. Approval of the Awarding of Honorary Degrees by the University of Rhode Island**

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Karin Forbes it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by the University.

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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8e. Approval of the Awarding of Honorary Degrees by Rhode Island College**

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Karin Forbes it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Education approves the awarding of honorary degrees to the individuals selected by the College.

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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**8f. Discussion and approval to unseal the unredacted portion of the Executive Session of the R.I. Board of Education September 9, 2013, minutes as transmitted to Judge Matos, in the matter of Providence Student Union v. Rhode Island Board of Education**

Board Members were provided a copy of the Executive Session minutes of the redacted September 9, 2013 meeting which were provided to Judge Matos. Chair Mancuso provided the Board an opportunity to review the minutes and invited Board members to ask any questions they may have.

Member Maaia requested he be allowed to review the original unredacted minutes of the September 9, 2013 Board meeting, while Member Santos requested a clarification on redacted versus unredacted minutes.

After review, no additional questions were raised.

On a motion duly made by William Maaia and seconded by Patrick Guida it was

**VOTED:** That the RI Board of Education approves unsealing the redacted portion of the Executive Session of the R.I. Board of Education September 9, 2013, minutes with the attorney/client material taken out in the matter of the Providence Student Union v. Rhode Island Board of Education.

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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

Chair Mancuso stated that the unredacted portion of the Executive Session of the September 9, 2013 meeting are now unsealed.

**8g. Discussion and authorization of the Chair of the Board to issue in writing the Board's reasons for the September 9, 2013, denial of Plaintiff's rule-making petition, in the matter of Providence Student Union v. the Rhode island board of Education.**

Chair Mancuso provided the Board with a draft letter dated March 3, 2014 to Steven Brown of the RI American Civil Liberty Union ("ACLU"). The Board was given an opportunity to review the draft.

In response to an inquiry by Member Callahan, Chair Mancuso explained that the request from the Court was to provide the reasons for not approving the petition based on the majority vote.

Member Purtill indicated that he would like to see the matter revisited as was noted in the executive session minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting.

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by William Maaia it was

**VOTED:** That the RI Board of Education authorizes the Chair to issue in writing the Board's reasons for the September 9, 2013, denial of Plaintiff's rule-making petition, in the matter of the Providence Student Union v. Rhode Island Board of Education.

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, Patrick Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**9a. Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) (all bargaining units except Graduate Assistants United)**

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Mathies Santos it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education convenes in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reason set forth above.

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

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

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 7:10 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Clark Greene, Authorized Officer, RI Office of Higher Education; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Board of Education; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel; Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College; Ray M. Di Pasquale, President of the Community College of Rhode Island; David M. Dooley, President of the University of Rhode Island; and Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Board Members Callahan and Purtill recused themselves from the Update on Collective Bargaining as they are involved with local unions in bargaining throughout the state.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:20 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded Michael Bernstein, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of March 3, 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, Patrick Guida, William C.  
Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

Chair Mancuso noted for the record that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

**10. NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday, April 10, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. – work session  
RIDE

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion duly made William Maaia and seconded by Antonio Barajas, 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, Patrick Guida, William C.  
Maaia, Lawrence Purtill and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.