



**MINUTES OF THE
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

**Enclosure 2b
March 3, 2014**

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

A Rhode Island Board of Education work session was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014, at Barrington High School, Barrington, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the work session to order at 4:10 p.m.

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

Absent: William C. Maaia

Chair Mancuso thanked the Barrington School Department, Superintendent Michael Messore, School Committee Chair, Kate Brody and members of the Barrington School Committee, Principal Hurley and Asst. Principals Varone and Daft for hosting this evening's meeting.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Antonio Barajas it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education amend the agenda to remove Item 2g, RI Student Veterans Orientation Video from 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 Callahan, Karin Forbes, Michael Grande, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the amended agenda for 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 Callahan, Karin Forbes, Michael Grande, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

[Jo Eva Gaines joins the work session]

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

2a. Educator Certification Test Updates

Deputy Commissioner David Abbott stated that virtually every certification area requires a content area test. The tests, which are purchased from the Educational Testing Service, are periodically updated. There are now six tests that are up for review that need to be validated with RI teachers. Four of the six are being updated to reflect the Common Core Standards.

Mary Ann Snider explained that the current tests will be phased out in August of 2014. The new tests will become available simultaneously. Candidates will need to pass these tests before going out to student teach.

2b. Finance and management Request

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne presented the University's request for permission to enter into a lease agreement for office space in the Shepard Building in connection with the International Gallery for Heritage & Culture. This request is for a one-year lease with two one-year extensions. Once approved by the Board, said lease will be submitted to the State Properties Committee.

2c. Labor Board's Decision and Order on Unfair Labor Practice Complaint

Chair Mancuso stated that on January 21st the State Labor Relations Board issued its findings on the above complaint. The Labor Board found that the Board should not have cost out their proposals after authorizing the negotiator to put the proposal on the table and urged that the Board enter into good-faith bargaining. The SLRB issued the Board a penalty equal to the Union's legal fees. Chair Mancuso feels the decision is very helpful in that the SLRB found that the Board was perfectly within its right to go back and vote against the proposal when it came to their attention that it would raise tuition at the institutions, but that it should have been done in a more timely manner.

2d. RI College Master of Social Work (MSW) – Aligning Tuition

President Carriuolo explained that the College is looking to reset the graduate tuition for full-time study in the Master of Social work (MSW) program that will bring it to a level equal to all other graduate-level tuition at the College. After some discussion, President Carriuolo agreed the College would provide the Board with a breakdown of the impact on students in time for the Board's meeting on Monday.

2e. Budget – Update

Deputy Commissioner David Abbott presented a review of the Governor's Budget Submission for FY 2014 Revised and FY 2015 Budgets for Elementary and Secondary Education. His presentation included:

2014 Revised Budget

- \$2 million reduction in Housing Aid which has been accepted by the Budget Office
- An additional \$1.2 million in reductions in teachers' retirement, employee benefits, etc.
- \$.2 million reduction in fees to support teacher certification e portal, maintenance fees for Adult Education, building maintenance, and interpreters/translators.

2015 Budget

- Year 4 of the funding formula has been fully funded including categorical aid, including funding for Central Falls School Department. The total aid increase is approximately \$38 million.

Requested Increases Funded:

- Department of Justice monitoring costs of \$.125 million
- Federal grants funding cliff of \$.3 million

Requests not funded or minimally funded:

- Progressive Support and Intervention; requested \$2.7 million, allocation \$0
- FTE for Dual Language Programming; not funded, FTE not included
- 2 FTEs (unfunded in 2014) to support distressed LEAs; not funded, the FTEs remained in the budget
- Strengthening Schools and Profession; requested \$1.6 million, 8 FTEs, allocation \$.25 million, no FTEs

Other additional reductions:

- Elimination of funding to support the administration of the school breakfast program; \$.27 million
- Elimination of payments to LEA's for the non public text book loan program; \$2.4 million

Clark Greene presented the Governor's Recommended Budget for Public Higher Education. Mr. Greene explained that although the Governor's Recommended Budget calls for an increase of \$10.7 million over the FY 2014 revised budget, for a total of \$164,426.661, it is still \$8.7 million less than the current services level request.

The presentation included a breakdown of the increases by institution of the FY 2014 enacted budget versus the 2015 Governor's recommended budget. Said increases showed a \$5,456,604 increase at URI, \$3,906,805 at RIC, \$1,293,419 at CCRI and \$59,972 for the Office of Higher Education.

The Higher Education presentation included:

- state appropriation as a percentage of total revenues;
- an explanation of what the increase pays for;
- a breakdown of full-time equivalents for the three institutions and the Office of the Post Secondary Commissioner;
- RICAP Appropriations; and
- a listing of the newly approved Capital projects, a total of four at URI.

2f. Board of Education Governance Structure – Update

Clark Greene provided the Board with the update on the Education Governance Structure. He indicated that the Governor has adopted the proposal the Board put forth, and it is moving quickly through the General Assembly. A budget Article has been introduced by the House, and the Senate has introduced free standing legislation. He announced that hearings have been scheduled before the House and Senate on Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week. Chair Mancuso took the opportunity to invite all Board members to attend the hearings and participate.

Chair Mancuso and several Board members shared in a discussion regarding the implementation of a strategic plan for higher education.

3. NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 10, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. – meeting
CCRI – Warwick

4. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Lawrence Purtill it was

VOTED:	That	the work session of the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourn.
	Vote:	10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grande, Patrick Guida, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos
	NAYS:	0

The work session adjourned at 5:25 p.m.