



Enclosure 2a
November 13, 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
August 7, 2019

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, August 7, 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, noted for the record that Members Beretta, Callahan, Duffy, Gaines, Grey, Martinez, McConaghy, Mello, Monte, and Rumas, had notified her that they would not be joining the meeting, and called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Gara Field, Rachelle Green, *Lauren Griffiths, Thomas Izzo, Barbara Mullen, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

* Ex-officio, non-voting member

Absent:

- Amy Beretta
- Colleen Callahan
- Dennis Duffy
- Jo Eva Gaines
- Mike Grey
- Marta Martinez
- Daniel McConaghy
- Mike Mello
- Marianne Monte
- Stephan Pryor
- Jay Rumas

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Jeffery Williams, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of August 7, 2019

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Gara Field, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Barbara Mullen, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Next, Chair Cottam introduced and welcomed Dr. Barbara Mullen, the new member of the Council on Postsecondary Education, to her first meeting of the Board of Education.

Chair Cottam also introduced and welcomed Lauren Griffiths, the new Chair of the Rhode Island Student Advisory Council, to her first meeting of the Board of Education.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the May 29, 2019, Board of Education Meeting

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the May 29, 2019, meeting.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Timothy DelGiudice, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Barbara Mullen, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 2

[Members Davis and Field had to abstain from the vote as they did not attend the May 29, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam noted that no one had signed up to speak during Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair Cottam began her report by expressing that this is a significant moment of immense opportunity for the future of education in Rhode Island, and while the work is just getting started in some cases, it continues to grow in others. She praised the partnership between the PK-12 system and the postsecondary system, via the PrepareRI College Readiness project, PTech, Computer Science for Rhode Island, and other organizations, and called it “one of the bright spots of the ongoing work in the State.” She shared that to ensure that our rising high school seniors are prepared for college-level mathematics in 2020, the Provosts of the three public institutions of postsecondary education, as well as representatives from RIDE and OPC, met over the summer to outline a plan to launch and expand a mathematics readiness pilot at high schools across Rhode Island. The group will meet again in August to finalize the plan.

Next, Chair Cottam acknowledged her personal gratitude to Commissioner Infante-Green and the entire RIDE team on the ongoing efforts to address the severe challenges facing the Providence Public School District (PPSD). She invited everyone, regardless of their role, to stay the course and help support the Commissioner and RIDE in this effort, as it is critical to the students and families of Providence.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Infante-Green began her report by highlighting some of the findings in the Johns Hopkins Report of PPSD. She emphasized that the report was jarring; further confirming what many claim to have known was happening for many years. She noted that even though there are some bright spots, PPSD is a broken system in need of RIDE’s intervention. On July 23, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved the use of the Crowley Act to give her and RIDE its full authority to take whatever steps necessary to take control of PPSD and start fixing the broken system. Commissioner Infante-Green thanked Daniel McConaghy, Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, and Barbara Cottam, Chair of the RI Board of Education, for their clear and forceful leadership on this issue.

Commissioner Infante-Green went on to share that this is a legal process, triggered by the Crowley Act, which will take about 90 days to complete. She noted that she is finalizing her Draft Order concerning how she proposes to take control of the district, and once the Order is completed, the four interested parties – the Mayor, School Board, City Council, and Superintendent, will be served. The parties have up to 30-days to request a “show cause” hearing, where they can present evidence on why she should not take control of PPSD. After that hearing, she will issue her Final Order, at which time RIDE can move on to the real work of naming a State Turnaround Superintendent and finalizing plans for long-term transformation of the broken system.

Commissioner Infante-Green also shared that in preparation for the start of school on September 3, and based on the themes from the Johns Hopkins Report and community forums, RIDE is scheduling meetings with the Mayor's office and representatives from various vendors (Aramark, Gilbane, and Pest Control) who provide services to PPSD, to ensure that everyone is on the same page for expectations on what needs to be done. RIDE is also working with the district and the community to create safety zones, so that students can feel safe walking to and from school, as well as developing culture toolkits to help schools create school culture documents with input from the community.

Commissioner Infante-Green ended her report by announcing that after a successful pilot, the Attendance Nudge Tool that RIDE created will be launched to every school in the state this September. The Attendance Nudge Tool tracks student and teacher attendance and helps schools reduce chronic absenteeism. She also shared that she recently announced the names of 23 new PrepareRI Ambassadors - a select group of education and community leaders who will help guide RIDE's college and career pathways work around the state.

Board Member Izzo suggested that once the Commissioner has her plan in place, serious engagement with legislative leaders around a whole array of issues statewide (housing, nutrition, safe communities, attendance, etc.) needs to occur, in order for her plan to be successful.

Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro began his report by sharing that the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) was impacted by the budget recently passed by the legislature, and that as a result, OPC is a much leaner team right now. He assured the Board that OPC is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the office continues to honor its statutory and contractual duties.

Next, Acting Commissioner Cavallaro reported on two very important grants that OPC received this year and that it continues to consider a priority. OPC is working closely in partnership with RIDE and the Governor's Workforce Board to rollout the Walmart funded RI Best at Work Grant, which will establish partnerships between postsecondary institutions, employers, and other entities to upskill Rhode Island frontline workers through subgrants. The Lumina Foundation has also invested in strengthening Rhode Island support for adult learner access to, and completion of, secondary options, and through this grant, OPC is focusing in three deliverables: A comprehensive online portal, a statewide communications plan, and a network of community-based navigators, which will support adult learners.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. College Readiness Project - Status Update

Stephen Osborn, RIDE's Chief of Innovation, noted that tonight's presentations will cover two topics that are key and central to the conversations that happen at the Board level and that continue to strengthen the alignment between K-12 and the three public institutions of postsecondary education.

Mr. Osborn then turned the conversation over to Spencer Sherman, RIDE's Director of College and Career Readiness, who walked the Board through what has been happening over the last three months to ensure that every student graduating from high school is ready to enroll in credit-bearing coursework and on a path to on-time college completion. He shared the 10-year trajectory of Rhode Island's 2007-2008 freshman class, highlighting that 81% of students are graduating high school, 72% are enrolling in postsecondary institutions, but only 34% are completing either a four-year or a two-year postsecondary degree. Mr. Sherman went over three (academic readiness – making sure that students graduate from high school ready to take credit-bearing course work; transition to College eGuide – a guide explaining to students how the application process work and the steps involved; and Major-aligned College Credit – clarifying how all the work that a student does in high school aligns to all the work that they need to do in college) of the six workstreams and deliverables that were developed to address the issue.

Liz Texeira, Education Specialist at RIDE and the point person on this body of work, joined the table to walk the Board through the Major-aligned College Credit workstream. She shared that in Rhode Island students are taking advantage of dual enrollment opportunities at record rates, but those courses are not always aligned to their chosen majors. The solution to the problem was to map out the educational opportunities from middle school, to high school, to college, to career, in Rhode Island, so that students can see the vertical alignment of their chosen path and understand their long-term prospects.

Ms. Texeira went on to explain that the team expanded the mapping spreadsheet, which will eventually be turned into an interactive tool, to include RIDE-approved CTE programs. The three public colleges and the eight private colleges in Rhode Island organized a professional development training in October for high school counselors on how to best use this tool with students. She shared that this interactive tool will live on RIDE's website and staff will eventually be able to track which schools are utilizing it. It will also be built out to include internship opportunities, apprenticeship opportunities, and other work-based learning opportunities that are available to students across the state, starting at the middle school level.

Next, Mr. Sherman highlighted the academic readiness work and shared that with the goal of getting students graduating from high school ready to take on college level course work their freshman year, the RIDE team, along with OPC and the Provosts at the three public institutions, are looking at some mathematics models that are successful and can be expanded statewide.

Mr. Sherman introduced Sarai Perez, a PrepareRI intern at RIDE and a rising senior at Classical High School, who spoke about her work revising the PrepareRI College eGuide, a tool designed to help students navigate the transition from high school to college as well as provide information about available resources.

b. Perkins V State Plan Development and Industry Engagement

Mr. Sherman explained that Perkins V, the main federal law supporting career and technical education, was reauthorized in the fall of 2018 as the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. Rhode Island receives roughly \$6M annually, with the majority of the funds going to school districts. He emphasized that in today's economy, students need more than a high school diploma to succeed, and that 18 of the 30 fastest-growing occupations require more than a high school diploma. Currently around a quarter of high school students in Rhode Island are enrolled in CTE programs, and annually, Rhode Island dedicates over \$10.5M directly for CTE. He went over the features of the updated law and emphasized that the reauthorization of Perkins requires states to draft new long-term state plans. RIDE will develop a new plan in partnership with a broad array of stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, administrators, and employers) both at the K-12 and postsecondary levels, to ensure that all voices are heard.

Next, Mr. Osborn went over the steps that Rhode Island will take to align the \$6M that it receives annually to dramatically accelerate its goals of:

- Ensuring all high school students have access to a high-quality work-based learning experience in a high-skill, high-demand career field;
- Ensuring all high school students graduate with postsecondary credit;
- Helping all students develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to help them discover their passions and find coursework that allows them to follow and pursue a pathway that excites them; and
- Ensuring that all state funds from the General Assembly are invested in high-skill, high-growth CTE programs.

Mr. Osborn shared that the number of RIDE-approved CTE programs have increased by 61% since 2015-16 and in the past four years, Rhode Island has doubled the number of students in CTE Programs from 6,000 to 12,000. Since 2016, RIDE has launched the PrepareRI Internship Program, the Advanced Course Network, and engaged industry leaders through a CTE Board of Trustees to develop rigorous, industry-aligned standards for CTE programs, and turned a fragmented system into a more linear and aligned system that is demand driven to meet the need of employers.

Linda Larsen, Director of Education Outreach for SENEDIA and Chair of the CTE Board of Trustees joined the table to highlight the importance of the new Perkins V plan. She noted that the CTE Board of Trustees is a 15-member legislative body appointed by the Governor and responsible for the oversight of career and technical education in Rhode Island, including the rigorous academic piece and the skills development piece, and ensuring that students are

successful meeting industry needs. She stressed that the State's Career and Technical Education program needs to be the nimble, demand-driven, talent development body that is needed, and that the Perkins plan, which hasn't been revised since 2006, needs to be concise, bold and innovative, and developed in partnership with industry partners, in order to close the skills gap and move the work forward.

c. Dual and Concurrent Enrollment – Update

Dr. Donald DeHayes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Rhode Island, began the presentation by sharing that dual and concurrent enrollment programs at URI are managed by the Office of Strategic Initiatives in the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies. Provost DeHayes highlighted that last school year 1,844 students enrolled in concurrent/dual enrollment courses with the majority (1,828) of those courses being offered at high schools. URI also offered about 24 courses through concurrent enrollment where forty-six high schools were represented. Provost DeHayes stressed that it is critically important that high school teachers have the same academic credentials, especially Computer Science advanced degrees, that URI requires its own faculty teaching those courses, which are mandated by the New England Commission on Higher Education, URI's accrediting body. URI is currently piloting two new concurrent enrollment initiatives: Pre-calculus with Cranston East and Cranston West High Schools, and college level German.

Next, Dr. Holly Shadoian, Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Affairs at Rhode Island College (RIC), shared that RIC's Early Enrollment Program (EEP) was established in 1980 and is the second largest (44 courses) and oldest program in New England. RIC has a staff of three retired teachers who work part-time as Associate Directors, who visit all the high schools, and also reach out to teachers who want to become approved as EEP instructors. Dr Shadoian highlighted that one of the most amazing things about RIC's program is that it touches students in high schools where there are few opportunities, especially in urban areas. Currently 42 RI public high schools, four RI private high schools, and seven MA public high schools, belong to the EEP. There are 189 EEP instructors in high schools and 24 faculty liaisons; at least one for every subject area. Dr. Shadoian went over the list of the top five schools in Rhode Island that offer EEP courses and the number of students registered (Smithfield leads on both categories). She also shared the top five highest enrolled EEP classes and highlighted some of the challenges (funding to serve urban schools, increasing the number of approved EEP instructors, and getting more concurrent enrollment students to attend the public institutions) that the program is facing.

Next, Sara Enright, Vice-President of Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), gave an overview of the Rhode Island Promise initiative and the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program at CCRI. She noted that CCRI has four primary Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Programs – High School Enrichment – for high school juniors and seniors; Running Start – full-time dual enrollment for high school seniors; STEM Connect – concurrent enrollment program funded by Perkins grant; P-Tech – early college high school focused on 4-6 year associate degrees), with a fifth one (PrepareRI Youth Apprenticeship Program – career connect apprenticeships) starting in the fall. When compared to

the other two public institutions, CCRI is predominantly dual enrollment versus concurrent enrollment, giving students throughout the state real exposure to a college environment.

Vice-president Enright ended her presentation with the RI Promise Scholarship initiative, which was launched by the legislature in the spring/summer of 2017. She noted that the program requires that recent high school graduates enroll fulltime, and to earn the second year scholarship, students have to earn 30 credits and at least a 2.5 GPA. She noted that this program was initiated to ensure that as a state, as many students as possible come out of high school and quickly get on a path to continuing their education. She also noted that prior to RI Promise, around 1,100 first-time, full-time, direct from high school Rhode Islanders enrolled at CCRI in 2016, and that number jumped to 2,237 last fall, an increase of 113%. She also highlighted that this public policy has moved the needle on the college going rate and has created access to students of color and low-income students, who over the years have lacked access to higher education and opportunity. Vice-President Enright ended by stressing that as folks figure out what works, staying the course and really committing to young people, the state, including the Board, need to commit to this public policy as no other higher education public policy in the recent past has done any better.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Karen Davis, 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: Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Gara Field, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Barbara Mullen, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.