



Enclosure 2a
September 12, 2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
August 15, 2017

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the August 15, 2017, meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and noted for the record that Member Beretta would not be joining the meeting. He welcomed Antonio Burton, Vice-Chair of the Student Advisory Council, who was representing Thalia Philippe, Chair of the Student Advisory Council, who was not able to join the meeting. He also welcomed Karen Davis and Gara Field, the two new members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. He declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Daniel McConaghy, *Antonio Burton, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, **Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill,

Absent: Amy Beretta

[*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

[**Arrived at 5:35 p.m.)

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 August 15, 2017

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

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

YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0

[Council Member Field arrived at 5:37 p.m.]

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the June 20, 2017, Council Meeting

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the June 20, 2017, Council Meeting

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

Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 0

NAYS: 0

[Members Davis and Field had to recuse themselves from the vote, as they did not attend the June 20, 2017, Meeting of the Council]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair McConaghy reported that no one had signed up to speak at Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Wagner began by reporting on the budget and shared that RIDE has been granted the authority to adjust the August payments in order to reconcile with those school districts that had received lower than expected July payments. A challenge still remains as there is a 25 million dollar placeholder for a budget cut that was placed at the Department of Administration, which may further impact RIDE's numbers.

Next, Commissioner Wagner reported that RIDE anticipates releasing the state assessment results (grades 3-8 and high school) as well as the PSAT and SAT results the week of August 21, and the statewide facilities audit results on September 12.

Commissioner Wagner ended his report by sharing that the state's Office of Management and Budget recently completed an audit of RIDE operations and that overall findings were very positive, with some recommendations for improved efficiency in school construction aid and the Legal Office.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ESSA Plan and Comprehensive Study and Unified Approach to Education – Update

Commissioner Wagner shared that the State’s proposed ESSA Plan went through another set of revisions to integrate input from the 30-day public review and comment period. The Plan is currently with the Governor for a mandatory 30-day review period, and is being submitted to the federal government on September 18.

Next, Mary Ann Snider, Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, gave an overview of the public feedback received and how it was categorized, and went over some examples of the different ways in which RIDE addressed the public input. All of the public feedback is posted on RIDE’s website and some of the feedback is being addressed in the companion document or in the implementation guidance document. She indicated that although the U.S. Department of Education has up to 120-days in which to review Rhode Island’s Plan and provide feedback, RIDE will be moving forward in the school year as if the Plan will be fully approved.

Next, Carol Blanchette, RIDE’s Chief of Teaching and Learning, went over the Unified Approach to Education Report, as required by a bill introduced in legislation in 2016 and sponsored by Representative Greg Amore. The report is the product of a workgroup comprised of RIDE leadership, superintendents, curriculum directors, higher education, Representative Amore, John Simmons from RIPEC, with contributions from over 2,000 educators. The report is not a recommendation for a statewide curriculum, but rather a recommendation for a statewide framework and direction for districts to develop and adopt their own curriculums. The report enumerates recommendations in the following domains:

- Curriculum frameworks for the core subjects;
- School-based management models;
- Professional development plans for educators; and,
- Equal opportunity to succeed for all students.

To accomplish the goals outlined in legislation, RIDE with support from the RI Partnership, will work with districts to create a culture of continuous improvement in Rhode Island education and do the following:

Strategy 1: Develop a consistent curriculum in English language arts and math.

Strategy 2: Enable districts to create or identify high-quality materials and plan for implementation. *Unified Approach to Statewide Education Report– June 2017* 8

Strategy 3: Commit to ongoing and relevant professional learning so that teachers have the content and instructional practices necessary to implement the curriculum.

Strategy 4: Use protocols to continuously improve practices and curriculum based on reviews of student work, assessment data, and classroom observations.

Strategy 5: Support current leaders and identify teacher leadership roles for shared leadership.

b. Charter School Update

Brian Darrow, Director of RIDE's Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, provided an overview of the requests that RIDE received for expansions to current charters (The Greene School, Segue Institute for Learning, and Trinity Academy for the Arts) and proposals for new charter schools (Charette and Wangari Maathai Community School). He also went over the fall 2017 charter council timeline and gave an update on next steps for council-charter engagement.

c. Recommendation of New Member to the Central Falls Board of Trustees

Commissioner Wagner introduced Andrew Bramson, President and CEO of the College Crusade of Rhode Island, as his recommendation to fill an at-large vacancy on the Central Falls Board of Trustees. He shared that RIDE has been working with the State Operate Schools to ensure that term-limits are being enforced.

d. Central Falls Roof Capital Project

Commissioner Wagner shared that the Central Falls School district needs to address a severe structural issue with the roof at Central Falls High School. The district had requested to divert some of the funds from the capital fund award that it recently received dedicated to complete select projects at the high school and at the Early Learning Center. Due to the severity of the existing condition, the roof structure must be addressed in order for the building to be safely occupied and additional funding is necessary. RIDE is recommending the use of the School Building Authority Capital Fund Allocation to repair the roof so it does not have to delay the work on the Early Learning Center.

Joe da Silva, School Construction Coordinator for the School Building Authority (SBA) at RIDE, went over the procedural guidelines for unspent School Building Authority Capital Fund Allocation, which districts can request when additional funds are needed to deal with emergencies. He explained that unlike Housing Aid savings, which become available each September and are included in that year's SBA Capital Fund distribution, unspent SBA fund savings are finalized on a different cycle as districts have until December 31st to finish projects.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6a. Approval of the FY 2019 Capital Budget

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

6b. Approval of the Appeals Committee Recommendation:

- o **Deborah Salvatore v. South Kingstown School Committee**

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

VOTED: That in the matter of Deborah Salvatore v. South Kingstown School Committee, the Commissioner's decision is affirmed, as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: *Lawrence Purtill

*As President of NEA-RI, Member Purtill had to abstain from the discussion and vote as the teacher in this matter is being represented by counsel of NEA-RI.

6c. Approval of New Member to the Central Falls Board of Trustees

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the recommendation of Andrew Bramson to the Central Falls Board of Trustees, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

6d. Approval of the Central Falls Roof Capital Project

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education ~~formally approves the FY 2019 Capital Budget Request, as presented~~ (this motion was inadvertently approved and a request for an amendment to the motion was approved at the September 12, 2017 Council meeting) approves the reallocation of unused FY 2016 School Building Authority Capital Funds in the amount of \$475,000 for the Central Falls roof project.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

7a. Commissioner Wagner's performance review, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1)

Chair McConaghy noted for the record that Commissioner Wagner had been notified of his right to have the discussion in item 7a held in open session and that he has indicated no objection to proceeding in executive session.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education convenes in executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1) for the reason set forth above.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

All non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of Ken Wagner, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Council reconvened in open session at 7:00 p.m.

Chair McConaghy reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education seal the minutes of the executive session held on August 15, 2017

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.