



Enclosure 2a
April 26, 2016

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
March 31, 2016

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education met on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the Secondary School Regulations.

Present: Daniel McConaghy, *Colby Anderson, Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

Absent: Marta Martinez and Colleen Callahan (listened in via conference call)

[*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

Chair McConaghy stated for the record that member Martinez would not be joining the evening's meeting, member Callahan would be listening in via conference call, and that Commissioner Wagner would also not be joining as he was testifying at the State House.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the Work Session of March 31, 2016

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

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

NAYS: 0

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Secondary School Regulations

Mary Ann Snider, RIDE's Chief of Teaching and Learning, gave an update on where RIDE is in its thinking after the community meetings that it has held to gather feedback on revising the Secondary School Regulations.

She stated that the substantive part of the evening's meeting is to get Council members' feedback on a series of questions and issues that they need to weigh in on prior to RIDE moving forward with revising the regulations.

Ms. Snider began by reminding Council members that they agreed to open up the regulations for discussion last fall to ensure a fair and equitable diploma system for all students.

Currently students in the class of 2016 through 2020 are expected to meet two components of expectations - successful completion of coursework and two diploma assessments in order to earn a diploma.

Since the last update to the Council, RIDE has completed 22 meetings and 4 community meetings, each attended by at least 100 people.

RIDE will now take all of the 2,000-plus comments that it collected from all of the outreach and anchor its thinking around three principles:

- The value of the diploma to the community and the student.
- Access - making sure that learning is personalized to students' needs and that students' opportunities to learn are accessible to all students, especially to those with learning differences.
- Equity - students' opportunity to learn is equitable and ensuring that students learn both deeply and broadly to prepare them for college and careers.

Ms. Snider then went over some policy questions that came out of the community meetings for the Council to consider on how to build and support a diploma system that:

- Is meaningful to students, prepares them for the rigors of postsecondary life, and does not merely become a checklist for students to complete;
- Accounts for the diverse abilities of all learners while maintaining high expectations for all; and
- Provides for equitable opportunity statewide, while maintaining local flexibility.

Based on the feedback received, RIDE is proposing that beginning with the Class of 2021 and beyond, in order to earn a diploma, students must continue to earn a minimum of 20 courses, including:

- 4 English Language Arts
- 4 Math
- 3 Science
- 3 Social Studies
- 6 locally determined courses, presumed to include world languages, technology, arts, physical education, and health;

Plus, 1 performance-based diploma assessment, which could include either a:

- Senior Project
- Exhibition
- Portfolio
- Comprehensive Course Assessment (general exam)

Council Member Forbes expressed that it has been her experience that students tend to show literacy only in English and not numeracy in the performance-based assessment, and suggested that, going forward, guidance provided to the districts stipulate that a mathematics component be required.

Council Members discussed and made the following recommendations:

- Add flexibility to substitute up to two (not in the same content area) of the 20 required content-area courses for students to pursue individualized pathways;
- Reduce the number of performance-based diploma assessments to one;
- Remove the comprehensive course assessment from the list of required performance-based assessments that are tied to proficiency;
- Expect all students who earn a diploma to perform against high-school standards in their coursework;
- Calibrate proficiency in literacy and numeracy represented in Commissioner's Seal, rather than as a graduation requirement;
- Allow students on the Alternate Assessment to receive a diploma, as determined by the LEA;
- Maintain availability of certificates as an option for students not receiving a diploma and requiring certificates to document students' specific skills and knowledge;
- Require LEAs to notify parents annually of how to access students' ILPs; and
- Ensure that students and parents are notified of graduation and commendation requirements by October 1st of 9th grade.

3. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

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

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

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

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.