



**Enclosure 2a**  
**February 22, 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**January 10, 2017**

**COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Board Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the meeting, stated for the record that Council Chair McConaghy and Council Members Callahan and Gaines would not be attending the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Present:** \*Colby Anderson, \*\*Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

**Absent:** Colleen Callahan, Jo Eva Gaines, Daniel McConaghy

[\*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

[\*\*Amy Beretta arrived at 5:43 p.m.]

**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 meeting of January 10, 2017

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Amy Beretta arrived at 5:43 p.m.]

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**2a. Minutes of the December 20, 2016, Council Meeting**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the December 20, 2016, Council Meeting

Vote: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and  
Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Member Forbes had to recuse herself from the vote as she did not attend the December 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting]

[Amy Beretta arrived at 5:43 p.m.]

### **3. OPEN FORUM**

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

### **4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Wagner began by reporting that the PARCC Organization is expanding its offerings and has introduced the idea of a tiered structure in an effort to be responsive to states' needs as they continue to evolve around assessments. Tier 1, everyone administers the same exact test; Tier 2, states administer their own test but they use PARCC questions to populate that test. To support that change in service structure, RIDE, the official procurement agent for the entire PARCC Consortium, has put out an RFP to solicit a partner to help implement that kind of vision. Rhode Island was the procurement agent for the prior PARCC contract and will continue to be for the current PARCC RFP.

Next, Commissioner Wagner reported that RIDE has scheduled a fourth public hearing on the proposed revisions to the English Learner Regulations that are currently out for public review and comment. The proposed revisions went through an extensive engagement process with all relevant stakeholders, including teachers and superintendents from high and low-incident districts that serve English language learners. He shared that the initial feedback has not been very positive, which is confusing, since the feedback is coming from the very same people who actually endorsed the revisions. Prior to bringing the regulations to the Council for final approval, RIDE will be meeting with those stakeholders to address their concerns.

Commissioner Wagner ended his report by sharing that in a couple of weeks RIDE will be relaunching the "climate and culture" parent survey. This survey will provide valuable information to balance things, such as, test scores and graduation rates with other kinds of measures and perspectives. RIDE engaged with different stakeholders in the development of the survey and worked with a partner that has developed these types of surveys in other states.

The survey will be a work in progress and RIDE will use the first year's data to tweak it and make any necessary adjustments. As part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) conversation, RIDE will make a recommendation to the Council of ways in which it should incorporate these kinds of surveys into the ESSA plan.

## 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Core Arts Standards - Request for Endorsement

Commissioner Wagner reminded Council members that at their November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the arts education community presented their request for Council endorsement of the National Core Arts Standards to replace the Rhode Island Fine Arts Grade Span Expectations (GSEs). Commissioner Wagner stressed that once adopted; the standards come with a wide-range of resources, including classroom-based materials and formative assessment processes, which will be helpful to teachers.

Commissioner Wagner turned the conversation over to Carol Blanchette, RIDE's Chief of Teaching and Learning, who highlighted some of what was presented and discussed at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting:

- The National Arts Standards (NCAS) guide educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in grades Pre-K-12;
- The NCAS address standards for Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts;
- The standards were developed collaboratively by the National Arts Educator Association and teacher leaders from across the country;
- The RI State Council on the Arts surveyed arts educators and found that the majority of educators were in favor of the endorsement of the NCAS;
- RIDE also conducted a survey and found that the majority of educators are in favor of the endorsement as well.

Commissioner Wagner stressed that one of the initiatives of this work is to help generate the enthusiasm and interest and to engage students' creativity and passion in various content areas by integrating the arts.

## **b. Diploma System – Council Designations**

Commissioner Wagner explained that approving the Council Designations is the next step in the long process of updating the Secondary School Regulations. The regulations stipulate that full and effective notice of the graduation requirements must be provided to students and their families no later than October 1 of the student's Freshman Year. In order to meet that timeline, the Council needs to approve the designations at their January 31, 2017, meeting.

The recently adopted Secondary School Regulations include the concept of a designation to reinforce the pathways work that school districts have been doing across the state for a long time. The Council now needs to make a decision on which designations they want to start with in addition to the level of proficiency that a student needs to attain in order to earn that designation.

RIDE is recommending three designations:

- Commissioner's Seal – Certifies that a student is proficient in high school standards-aligned English language arts and mathematics content;
- Seal of Bi-literacy (enacted in State Statute in the last legislative session) – A student must meet the established performance standard on RIDE-approved assessments in English language arts and world languages;
- Pathway Endorsement – Certifies that a student has accomplished deep learning in a chosen area of interest and is prepared for employment or further education in a career path.

As far as the level of proficiency, Commissioner Wagner explained that RIDE will not be getting into the business of evaluating all of the assessments, doing the research, or figuring out which cut-score meets RIDE's standards. Instead, RIDE will use nationally recognized assessments and will work on establishing a review protocol of the measure.

Commissioner Wagner turned the conversation over to the Mary Ann Snider, Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, who went over a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions.

Deputy Snider highlighted the importance of the designations. In addition, she shared that in all RIDE's public outreach engagements, it was reinforced over and over again that there is in fact only one diploma and that the designations are an opportunity for students to personalize their learning experiences in high school in a couple of different ways. She explained that the designations will appear on students' transcripts and that there will be a seal on their diploma. RIDE will design the seal and provide guidance, but the designations will be conferred by the districts.

Council Member Forbes asked whether the Council will be setting the pathways that students need to study or if students will be allowed to come up with their own.

Commissioner Wagner responded that the Secondary School Regulations require that the Council decide whether to offer a pathway endorsement. Once the Council makes a decision, RIDE will work with the field to get consensus on which endorsements have enough statewide interest. Districts may also choose to develop their own pathway endorsements as long as they follow RIDE's criteria, which will be established with input from stakeholders statewide.

Council Member Beretta voiced her concerns with the vague proposed timeline for developing and communicating the Council Designations. She suggested that RIDE modify the timeline by listing precise dates and pushing up the dates to give the Council ample time to review and have a discussion prior to RIDE notifying the districts, students and families.

Council Member Stevos asked if dual enrollment courses would meet the requirements of a commissioner's seal.

Commissioner Wagner responded that in this first round dual enrollment can only be counted as a course-based experience and will be part of the pathway endorsement as there aren't agreed-upon comparable measures for it to meet the requirements of a commissioner's seal.

Council Member Beretta praised the work done by RIDE and expressed that in the 12 years that she has been on and off the Board this is the most student-centered approach to graduation requirements that she has seen.

### **c. New Administrative Procedures Act**

Commissioner Wagner explained that the Governor has a new Executive Order, which requires every state agency to recode and reformat all of its regulations by July 2018. RIDE has 24 regulations that need to be recoded and reformatted and about six regulations, which were promulgated prior to the passing of the Administrative Procedures Act, that need to be revised and re-promulgated, and approved by the Council.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approval of the Commissioner's recommendation denying the charter proposal submitted by Wangari Maathai Community School.**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Joyce Stevos it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to deny the charter proposal submitted by Wangari Maathai Community School.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez,  
Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**b. Endorsement of the Core Arts Standards, to replace the Rhode Island Fine Arts Grade Span Expectations**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorses the National Core Arts Standards, to replace the Rhode Island Fine Arts Grade Span Expectations.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez,  
Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez,  
Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.