



Enclosure 2c
January 12, 2015

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 10, 2014

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education met on Monday, November 10, 2014 at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I.

Chair Guida welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

He began by acknowledging the passing of Deputy Commissioner Abbott’s father and offered his sincere condolences to the Abbott family.

He also noted for the record that Member Gaines and Commissioner Gist would not be joining the meeting, and that in the Commissioner’s absence, Kim Bright, RIDE’s Chief of Staff, would represent her.

Present: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

Absent: Jo Eva Gaines

[Member Beretta arrived at 5:08]

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan 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 November 10, 2014

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the September 22, 2014 Council Work Session

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the September 22, 2014 Council Work Session

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Members Purtil and Santos recused themselves from this vote as they were not in attendance at the September 22, 2014, Work Session]

2b. Minutes of the September 22, 2014 Council Executive Session

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of September 22, 2014 Council Executive Session

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Members Purtil and Santos recused themselves from this vote as they were not in attendance at the September 22, 2014, Council Executive Session]

2c. Minutes of the October 14, 2014 Meeting

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the October 14, 2014 Council Meeting

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Member Beretta arrives at this time]

3. OPEN FORUM

Seeing that no one had signed-up to speak, Chair Guida asked if anyone in the audience needed to address the Council, and Joseph Previno, an educator at the Segue Institute for Learning, came forward. Mr. Previno thanked the Council members for their recent acknowledgment of the wonderful work happening at Segue and for encouraging the school to continue working on growth in their math scores. He was glad to report that the school continues to do some amazing things and is making strides and gains. Recent data from their internal math assessment shows an increase average proficiency of three-percent for each grade level, and that targeted intervention students closed the gap on their raw scores by an average of 11 percent in their grade level.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair Mancuso reported that this year the Board will resume the annual recognition of Commended Schools at a celebration to be held on Thursday, December 11th at 5:00 p.m. at the R.I. State House. These schools are being recognized for maintaining high levels of proficiency, closing achievement gaps and, in the case of high schools, maintaining a high graduation rate.

She also reported that the Council on Postsecondary Education has been having long discussions on the increase of tuition at the state institutions of higher education as part of their budget request, which the full Board will be asked to approve on December 1st.

Member Callahan suggested having Commissioner Purcell share with the full Board his periodic updates to the Council on Postsecondary Education, so that everyone is in the loop and is connected to what is happening in postsecondary education.

Member Forbes complemented the recent report released by CCRI on remedial courses and expressed that she would also like to see a similar report for Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island.

Chair Guida proposed adding "Report on Postsecondary Education" to all future agendas of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair Guida began by acknowledging the inconvenience of having to postpone and reschedule previously calendared meetings and thanked Member Purtill for rearranging his schedule to accommodate an important executive session on December 17th.

He went on to note for the record that this is the fourth meeting at which strategic planning has been discussed. He reported that Rhode Islanders are being asked to join the Council in a statewide conversation with the idea and the focus of imagining what is possible for the future of education both for our educators and our students. The process is ambitious, transparent and inclusive, and is designed to come from Rhode Islanders. The idea is for the product to belong to all of Rhode Island, with the Council having the heavy burden of making certain that it is done right.

The plan will be written by a relatively small, but representative group of stakeholders, who are committed to developing the plan in partnership with RIDE and the Council. There is bound to be some compromises and difficult decisions, which are part of any high-quality planning process. The Council is going to need to be clear with the design team at the front end around its expectations.

Considering the tight timeline and the need for the Ambassador Design Team to be

trained and ready to begin work in January, Chair Guida suggested, and the Council Members agreed, scheduling a dedicated meeting on December 11th, after the Commended Schools Celebration being held at the State House, for the purpose of having RIDE present the Council with a set of recommendations, and the Council choosing the team.

Member Purtill suggested having RIDE provide the Council with a complete list of applicants prior to the December 11th meeting.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

In Commissioner Gist's absence, Kim Bright, RIDE's Chief of Staff, began by reporting that thanks to the hard work and commitment on the part of students, families, teachers, school leaders, and community members across the state, Commissioner Gist has been able to state with confidence over the past year that the graduating students in the Class of 2014 are better prepared for postsecondary education than students in any previous class. That evidence has been confirmed by the latest data on the enrollment of entering students in remedial courses, recently released by the Community College of Rhode Island, which shows a decreasing percentage of students receiving a developmental placement.

She went on to report that RIDE has completed its second annual report on educator evaluations, "Improving Teaching and Learning: Year 2," which is based on information from the 2013-14 school year, the second year of full implementation of educator evaluations. The report includes information on summative ratings for teachers (percentage of ineffective, developing, effective, highly effective) at the district and state level.

Next, she shared information on RIDE's ongoing work around dual enrollment, charter public schools and the graduation and accountability work groups. In partnership with the Office of Postsecondary Education, the RIDE team is currently finalizing a set of draft regulations with the goal of ensuring that all of Rhode Island's students, regardless of their zip code, have access to high-quality dual enrollment opportunities. The full Board will be asked to approve the draft regulations, for the purpose of public review and comment, at its December 1st meeting.

Additionally, RIDE anticipates bringing forward some recommendations for charter school amendments at the January 5th Work Session of the Council. These recommendations are the result of the review process completed by the Division of Accelerating School Performance, which assesses the requests based on a school's sustained academic success, demand, and capacity for continued academic growth.

Lastly, as the Commissioner reported back in September, RIDE has organized a graduation work group, which includes elected officials, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, special education advocates, representatives of non-English speakers, and leaders from business and industry, to have deep discussions about what it should mean to receive a high school diploma in Rhode Island. RIDE has also organized a second workgroup made up of the aforementioned stakeholder groups to take a look at the state's accountability measures, as it transitions to a new statewide assessment and ahead of the next application for flexibility under ESEA.

Member Santos requested that meeting dates of the graduation work group be shared with the Council.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7a. Recommendation of Nominees to the R.I. School for the Deaf Board of Trustees

Ms. Bright introduced the topic by reminding Council members that one of their many responsibilities as a Council is to appoint the members of the Boards of Trustees to the state-operated schools and the Central Falls School District from nominations made by the Commissioner.

Today, RIDE is requesting the Council's approval of two candidates to fill vacancies on the R.I. School for the Deaf Board of Trustees. She noted that the two candidates possess the leadership, strength and commitment to advance the school's goals and mission and she urged the Council to consider RIDE's recommendation of their appointment. With these two appointments, the School for the Deaf will now have the required five members that satisfy the current need for members who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Ms. Bright went on to commend Dr. Marie Lynch, Chair of the School for Deaf Board of Trustees, who was present at the meeting, for her leadership and commitment to the students at the R.I. School for the Deaf and wished her continued success. Dr. Lynch will be leaving the Board on December 2, 2014.

Council Members echoed Ms. Bright's praises of Dr. Lynch and thanked her for her leadership over the last few years.

7b. Strategic Planning Update

Ms. Bright reported that RIDE is extremely excited to report that after a quick launch, it garnered 3,000 survey responses in a short period of time. RIDE has also received almost 200 applications from individuals interested in serving on the Ambassador Design Team and over 1,000 individuals also signed-up to be

involved further in the process. The RIDE team has developed an interview protocol that can be used throughout the community as it looks to learn more about individual ideas and thoughts about education. That protocol is currently being tested by almost 40 district teachers of the year, who are using it to interview their students.

The next stage in the process involves reaching RIDE's goal of attaining 10,000 survey responses prior to the end of the current calendar year as it reaches out to the communities to learn more about, not merely what people believe, but also why they believe it. RIDE will also be selecting and training the Ambassador Design Team.

Ms. Bright turned the conversation over to Andrea Castaneda, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, who is also spearheading the strategic planning process, to walk the Council through the handout.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8a. Approval of nominees to the R.I. School for the Deaf

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the appointment of Johnathan Henner and Jane Newkirk to the R.I. School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, as presented.

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

Member Callahan noted for the record that the two candidates seem to be eminently qualified and thanked Marie Lynch for the outreach and for her service to the Board of Trustees.

Member Santos also noted that it is important that the schools also look for diversity when recruiting candidates to serve on the various State Boards of Trustees.

8b. Endorsement of the National Standards for Personal Finance

On a motion duly made by Larry Purtill and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorses the Council for Economic Education National Standards for Financial Literacy, as presented.

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

Member Purtill further motioned for the record and Member Callahan seconded, the terrific work and presentation done by Charlotte Palmer, a Senior at East Greenwich High School.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

9a. Update on collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Mathies Santos, 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)(2) for the reasons set forth above.

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 6:05 p.m.

Council Members Callahan and Purtill departed the meeting as they recused themselves from discussion of agenda item 9a - Update on collective bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

All other non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of Kim Bright, RIDE's Chief of Staff, Andrea Castaneda, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, and Margaret Santiago, RIDE's Manager, Human Resources.

The Council reconvened in open session at 6:20 p.m.

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

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education seals the minutes of the executive session held on November 10, 2014

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

Chair Guida noted for the record that Council Members Callahan and Purtill had departed the meeting as they recused themselves from discussion of agenda item 9a and voting of additional action item 10a - Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

10. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM

a. Approval of Local 2012 Tentative Agreement

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Local 2012 Tentative Agreement, as presented.

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

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

11. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Amy Beretta, 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: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

DRAFT