



Enclosure 2e
January 12, 2015

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
Council on Elementary and Secondary Education
November 17, 2014

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Work Session was held on November 17, 2014, at the Rhode Island Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI.

Chair Guida welcomed everyone to the Work Session of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, declared a quorum present and noted for the record that Council Member Forbes would be joining the meeting in progress. He also welcomed Postsecondary Commissioner Purcell, Rhode Island College President Carriuolo, as well as other members of the Council on Postsecondary Education (Thomas Izzo, Antonio Barajas, John Smith, Judy Ouellette and Kerry Rafanelli), who joined this Work Session because the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education was going to be addressing a few issues, which were being recommended for approval by the full Board of Education at its December 1st meeting.

He then called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

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

Member Forbes arrived at 5:10 p.m.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Eva-Marie Mancuso, it was

VOTED: That the Council Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the work session of November 17, 2014.

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

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

NAYS: 0

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Guida began his report by noting for the record that it was Allan Lewis' (videographer) birthday and recognized Member Gaines as the top vote-getter in the election for membership on the Newport School Committee, and being selected to serve as Chair.

[Member Forbes arrives at this time]

He went on to report that the last of the five public hearings scheduled regionally to gather public input on the proposed changes to the Secondary School Regulations, would be held the next day. He noted that he had personally attended three of the hearings and that they have been sparsely attended. RIDE will provide the Council with a report on the public feedback at its January 5th Work Session.

3. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Gist began by providing an update on the transition to the Common Core State Standards as well as to the PARCC Assessment. In addition to the curriculum work and early professional development on the Common Core State Standards, RIDE has been working with partners in postsecondary education and with school districts to conduct more than 30 community forums and informational sessions on the Common Core State Standards. It also held day-long workshops with district personnel in preparation for the PARCC Assessments.

RIDE also offered mini grants to teachers to participate in a series of structured workshops on *close reading*, and is working with science and mathematics teachers from eight LEAs on their content-knowledge and pedagogy aligned not only to the Common Core State Standards but also to the Next Generation Science Standards.

She emphasized that over the last five-years, R.I. has invested a lot of time, energy and money (11.3 million dollars) in preparation for the transition to the standards and she looks forward to continue working with the Council in preparation for the transition.

Next she updated the Council on the recent Science NECAP results. When RIDE staff received last year's data, they became very concerned with the results, particularly at grade 8. They began working with school districts to review the item-level data for constructive released items, where a majority of students, who were high performing students on other portions of the test, scored a 0. So far the initial review indicates that the scoring was done correctly, but RIDE is doing an external review of the equating process and will report on the results of the review in early December.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Encl4a - Dual Enrollment Regulations - Proposed Draft for Public Review and Comment

Commissioner Gist began the discussion by expressing how excited she is about the collaborative effort between RIDE and the Office of Postsecondary Education in forming a workgroup comprised of key leaders from each of the state's public institutions of higher education, school district superintendents and teachers, to develop a set of key priorities outlining recommendations that served as a guide in the development of the draft Regulations for Dual Enrollment. These regulations, with the goal of ensuring that all of Rhode Island's students, regardless of zip code, have access to high-quality dual enrollment opportunities, are the result of a legislatively-mandated policy prescribed by the Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act of 2013.

Commissioner Gist turned the conversation over to Stephen Osborne, RIDE's Chief of Accelerating School Performance, who walked the Council through the draft regulations and answered questions from Council members. Member Callahan shared that she sat on a couple of meetings of the workgroup and the one thing that always came up was the cost of the courses and who would be responsible. She went on to ask that since we are asking districts to bear some of the costs, if anything has been done to give them some idea of how much this will cost them, as well as who will be the backup funding for those students who are being promised that that will not be denied access regardless of their inability to pay. Mr. Osborne responded that each year higher education will establish the different course fees, which will need Board review and approval, prior to implementation, and in an effort to ensuring that funding is set-aside to support those costs, RIDE and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to outline how those costs will be covered and to determine strategies to ensure that no side is unfairly taking on additional costs related to expanding dual enrollment. That agreement will be revisited annually depending on the funding sources.

Commissioner Gist explained that what has been agreed upon for the coming year is that the Presidents of the three public institutions of higher education have agreed that the costs will be approximately \$200 per student for concurrent enrollment students, who take the courses at their high school. For those high school students taking dual enrollment courses on the college campuses, the cost will be the same as for any other college student taking a course on campus. She went on to explain that it is a very common practice for students to pay for the course, but what has not been worked out is who bears the cost for those students who are not able to pay and for whom we are making a commitment.

Board Chair Mancuso suggested that since this is a legislatively-mandated regulation, that the Board go back to the legislature and ask for the funding to support the mandate.

Commissioner Purcell pointed out that higher education cannot commit to the cost of each course until the funding and the tuition increase requests are approved by the state as it will impact higher education's ability to deliver and what the cost will be. He also cautioned requesting any additional funding from the legislature until the state side of the higher education budget has been adjusted as it may have an impact on that.

Member Santos asked if "free and reduced lunch" is being used as the criteria for determining need or if there is an expanded definition. Commissioner Gist shared the fact that the "free and reduced lunch" definition is being transitioned away, so states are going to have to rethink that definition in all kinds of decisions.

Encl4b - Strategic Planning

Board Chair Mancuso shared that the large-scale electronic survey that RIDE recently released has garnered 5,000 responses thus far and she encouraged each Council member to help get the survey out within their own groups and networks.

Council Chair Guida reported that the strategic planning website has been launched for about three weeks and that all stakeholders can see the results as they are live-streamed. In addition to launching the website, RIDE has also launched the Ambassador Design Team recruitment effort. The group of between 15-20 community members will partner with the Council to develop the content for the new Strategic Plan.

Chair Guida turned the conversation over to Andrea Castaneda, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, who shared that the daily survey responses continue to be very solid, but that there is still a lack of representation from business people and students. She then walked the Council through the timeline of the strategic planning process.

Member Callahan requested that the full list of Ambassador Design Team applicants be shared with the Council in advance of the meeting when the team will be chosen, to which Board Chair Mancuso disagreed.

Commissioner Gist recommended bringing to the Council a very detailed report with the names of all of the applicants and the criteria for how the team was selected. She also reminded the Council that applicants who do not make the Design Team will be invited to participate in other areas of the plan.

Encl4c - PK-12 FY 2015 Revised and FY 2016 Budget Requests

Commissioner Gist went over the three big major elements of the FY 15 enacted budget and all major changes from the previous year, as well as the FY 2016 education aid budget submissions. The revised FY 2015 Budget reflects minor refinements that might be required since the budget was passed in this summer. The current service level FY 16

budget contains the projected costs of continuing to provide services and activities at approximately the same level seen in previous years. The constrained FY 2016 budget covers the state budget office targets of a 7.5 reduction in designated costs or RIDE's effort toward that.

Chair Guida asked if any member of the Council on Postsecondary Education had any questions on the PK-12 budget as the full Board will be asked to approve it at the December 1, 2014, full Board meeting, but no one had any questions.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Colleen Callahan, 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.

Chair Guida noted for the record that Commissioner Gist was notified of her right to have the discussion in item 5a held in Open Session and that she had indicated no objection to proceeding in Executive Session.

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

All non-Council members in the audience were excused with the exception of Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and David Abbott, RIDE's Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel.

The Council reconvened in open session at 6:30 p.m.

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

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos 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 17, 2014

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

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

NAYS: 0

6. 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: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.