



**Enclosure 2a**  
**February 3, 2021**

**Minutes of the December 10, 2020  
Remote Meeting**

**Pursuant to Governor Raimondo's Executive Order 20-34, this meeting was held remotely.**

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Chair Barbara Cottam called the December 10, 2020, meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present. Due to social distancing restrictions, this meeting was held remotely:

**Remote Participation:** Amy Beretta  
Colleen Callahan  
\*Margo Cook  
Barbara Cottam  
Karen Davis  
Timothy DelGiudice  
Dennis Duffy  
Rachelle Green  
Thomas Izzo  
Marta Martinez  
Mike Mello  
Marianne Monte  
Lawrence Purtill  
Jeffery Williams

**Absent:**  
\*Brandon Feliz  
Gara Field  
JoEva Gaines  
\*Mike Grey  
\*Stephan Pryor

\*Ex-officio, non-voting member

Public access was provided to attendees of this Zoom webinar in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the provisions of the Executive Order; contact information was provided for those experiencing technical difficulties.

After going over some ground rules, Chair Cottam asked for a motion for acceptance of the agenda.

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Cottam asked for a motion to accept the agenda of the December 10, 2020, meeting.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the remote meeting of December 20, 2020

Vote: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**2a. Minutes of the September 22, 2020, Meeting**

Chair Cottam asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2020, meeting.

On a motion duly made by Marta Martinez and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the September 22, 2020, meeting

Vote: 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### 3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam announced that no one had signed-up to speak, but that a written comment had been submitted and shared with the members of the Board in advance of the meeting.

### 4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

#### - Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Infante-Green began by conveying that Rhode Island is in week two of the pause and that Covid-19 has been hard on everyone, but based on data, the State has remained steadfast that school is the safest place for kids at this time. Over the last several months, RIDE, in partnership with the Department of Health, has been working on a pilot on surveillance testing. The Central Falls School District completed its pilot last week and the results indicate that the numbers are very low considering that the city has a 19 percent positivity rate. Pilot testing is being expanded to Providence, Lincoln and South Kingstown, next week.

#### - Postsecondary Education

Ron Cavallaro, Postsecondary Education Acting Commissioner, deferred his report to Chief Financial Officer, Susan Mansolillo, to present on the budgets on behalf of the higher education system, during the discussion items.

At this time, Chair Board Cottam thanked members of both Councils who have met extensively on development of the budgets. She noted that Rhode Island, like many states, has not passed a Fiscal Year 2021 budget to date, due to the ongoing pandemic, yet, must consider education's FY 2022 budgets, which is not an easy task. She shared that Washington has come close to a deal for a second Covid relief package, only to be unsuccessful a couple of times and she hopes a deal can be reached soon and a package sent to the states that will help avoid massive deficits in education. As it stands now, the State's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is developing scenarios for FY 2021 and 2022, but until the General Assembly acts, they are just scenarios. Chair Cottam recognized that since the pandemic started, there have been unbudgeted expenses and unpredictable fluctuations in enrollment, staggering reductions to revenue on both the higher education and elementary systems. As a result, on the postsecondary side, the institutions have been forced to make some very difficult decisions that have included layoffs, contract adjustments, reductions and eliminations of some programs, and they have had to move 25 thousand college students to remote learning for the first time. In elementary and secondary education teachers have been teaching in person, some hybrid and some virtually. She expressed that it has been a very difficult time and thanked all of those involved with education for their support and concern for our students. She noted that everyone just needs to recognize that based on the actions or lack of actions at the state and federal level, the Councils may have to come back and reconsider these budgets, based on any updated information as it becomes available.

## 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings – 2021-2022 Academic Year

Dr. Tammy Warner, Office of Postsecondary Education (OPC) Assistant Commissioner, presented the changes to this year's concurrent and dual enrollment course list. She explained that this is a joint effort between RIDE and OPC and that the list has already been presented to the Councils, and is now being presented to the full Board for approval.

### b. PK-12 Capital Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2022-2026

Mark Dunham, RIDE's Director of Finance, explained that the proposed elementary and secondary education capital budget for FY 2022-2026 is \$520M, of which, \$264M has already been spent. There are \$500M for school building upgrades and replacements throughout the State; \$250M for projects previously approved by all parties in 2018; with the remaining \$250M not yet approved, but in the capital budget as a contingency, estimating that the plan will be approved in 2022. There are eight projects, and all but three of the projects, have been previously approved by this Board, the Governor and by the General Assembly. The three new projects are \$5M to replace an over 50-year old healthcare module at the Davies Career and Technical High School; \$200K for security enhancements at the RI School for the Deaf; and a resubmission of a \$4M project to replace 20-plus year old roofs over several years at the Providence Met School.

### c. PK-12 Fiscal Year 2021 Revised and Fiscal Year 2022 Current Service Level Budgets

Ana Riley, RIDE's Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, echoed Chair Cottam's comments in that the FY 2021 budget has yet to be approved, therefore, what is being presented is a Current Service Level (CSL) budget, which is the enacted budget of FY 2020. The proposed FY 2021 Revised and FY 2022 CSL budgets include all initiatives in the Governor's FY 2021 Recommended Budget, which due to the Covid emergency, was never acted upon by the General Assembly.

Deputy Riley gave some highlights of what is included in the Governor's FY 2021 Budget – implementing high-quality curriculum materials; supporting school systems in closing statewide equity gaps; and creating a strong instructional school culture, including those 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities. To support those initiatives, RIDE has requested several FTEs – 2 to support high-quality curriculum work; 3 for school system support; and 1 to support the expansion of high-quality Pre-K. In addition, RIDE requested \$1M from the Opioid Stewardship Fund to hire mental health professionals, and \$590K to provide mental/behavioral health training and curricula for in-classroom resources.

Next, Director Dunham went over RIDE's budget by funding sources for the two-year budget, an increase of \$151M, mostly due to the Education Aid Formula.

d. Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2026

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, expressed that the building of the FY 2022 budget has been yeoman's work without having a FY 2021 budget. Higher Education approached it the same way that it does every year by looking to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), an inflation index that provides guidance and information to colleges and universities. This year HEPI was projecting a 2.2 percent increase in tuition, which guided the Office of the

Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) and the Council to make a recommendation of a 2.5 percent tuition increase for both the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) and Rhode Island College (RIC). As both institutions worked through their budget process, CCRI was able to meet that challenge, but RIC had a tougher challenge, forcing their increase to be five percent. Both institutions are requesting a modest increase over the Fiscal Year 2020 levels. Postsecondary Council members have vigorously debated the budgets with the institutions and are comfortable with where the increases landed.

Next, Susan Mansolillo, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, went over the system-wide budget for postsecondary education – System Comparative of State General Revenue Appropriation Year over Year; In-State tuition increase (\$442/RIC – 5% and \$110/CCRI – 2.5%) and Out-of-State tuition increase (\$1,165/RIC and \$312/CCRI); and RIC's, CCRI's and OPC's FY 2022 Budget Request Unrestricted Revenue Budgets. She highlighted that general revenue and tuitions are the largest sources of revenue for the institutions. RIC has requested an increase to its state general revenue appropriations of \$5.9M and an increase to tuition and fees of \$1.3M. CCRI has level-funded their budget with the FY 2021 State appropriations reflecting no increase and have budgeted an increase of \$1.3M in tuition and fees. OPC's FY 2022 budget reflects a decrease in State appropriations of \$1.4M. The \$1.7M of the operating budget for OPC reflects a slight increase of \$.1M from the FY 2021 budget. The non-operating portion of the General Revenue Budget consists of a pass-through account and that reflects the decrease of \$1.5M from the FY 2021 budget. The FY 2021 Revised Unrestricted Budget Request for RIC, CCRI and OPC totals \$281.2M, while the system's Unrestricted Budget Request for FY 2022 totals \$293.1M, an increase of \$12.7M over the current year's Revised Budget Request, which has yet to be approved.

Ms. Mansolillo ended her presentation by going over the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2022-2026, a five-year look at existing ongoing and imminent projects that provide a vision for the future. The proposed plans for each of the institutions are to be financed by a variety of debt instruments and financing sources - RIHEBC Bonds, Rhode Island Capital Funds, Federal Funds, Asset Protection Funds, Private Donations, as well as the General Obligation Bond Requests. She highlighted that RIC has a total of six projects included in its proposed Capital Plan, with a total cost of \$315.9M, including one new project valued at \$28M. CCRI has nine projects included in its proposed Capital Plan for a total cost of \$138M, of which \$3.9M are new projects. OPC has two projects totaling \$4.3M in its Capital Improvement Plan for projects at the Northern RI Education Center (\$4.0M) and Asset Protection (\$0.3M) at OPC.

**6. ACTION ITEMS:**

**Enclosure 6a - Approval of the Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings for Academic Year 2021-2022**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings for Academic Year 2021-2022.

**Vote:** 13 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Enclosure 6b - Approval of the PK-12 Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2026**

On a motion duly made by Marta Martinez and seconded by Marianne Monte, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2022 through Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget Proposal, as presented.

**Vote:** 13 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Enclosure 6c – Approval of the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2021 Revised and Fiscal Year 2022 Current Service Level Budgets**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Mike Mello, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and transmits the PK-12 Fiscal Year 2021 Revised and the Fiscal Year 2022 Current Service Level Budgets to the RI State Budget Office.

**Vote:** 13 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Enclosure 7d – Approval of the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2022 through Fiscal Year 2023, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2021**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education System’s recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system’s operating budget request for Fiscal Year, 2022, as presented, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education’s recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system’s tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the Fiscal Year 2022 as presented, reserving the right to readjust tuition and fees as needed upon notification of the Governor’s recommendation and, later, upon action of the legislature, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system's Tables of Organization for Fiscal Year 2022, as presented, and further

That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation regarding the public postsecondary education system's budget allocation for the Fiscal Year 2021, as presented.

Vote: 13 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**Enclosure 6e - Approval of the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 through 2026**

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Marianne Monte, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the recommendation of the Council on Postsecondary Education regarding the public postsecondary system's Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2026

Vote: 13 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0



**7. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Chairman Cottam stated the next meeting of the RI Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Cottam called for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

**VOTED:** That, the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

**Vote:** 13 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, Mike Mello, Marianne Monte, Lawrence Purtill, and Jeffery Williams

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.