



**Enclosure 2a**  
**June 1, 2022**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**May 17, 2022**

**COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Chair DiCenso welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and noted for the record that Members Beretta, Cottam, and Commissioner Infante-Green would not be joining the meeting. Commissioner Infante-Green's Special Advisor, Victor Capellan, would be representing in her absence. She declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.

**Present:** Michael Almeida, \*Milly Asherov, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, \*\*Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill

**Absent:** Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam

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

[\*\*Marta Martinez arrived at 5:35 p.m.]

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the May 17, 2022, meeting

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

[Member Martinez arrived after the approval of the agenda]

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a. Minutes of the April 5, 2022, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the April 5, 2022, meeting

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

[Member Martinez arrived after the approval of the minutes]

### 3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Special Advisor Victor Capellan began his report by sharing that Commissioner Infante-Green wanted to be here tonight but has recently tested positive for COVID. She is isolating and is in close communication with the leadership team at RIDE, while she recovers. Mr. Capellan went on to thank all those who joined RIDE last week at East Providence High School for the State of Education event. This year's theme was Together for Our Kids, and a spotlight was placed on the incredible educators and students. He thanked the students, school leaders, Members of the Council RIDE staff, and both elected and appointed officials, including Lieutenant Governor Matos and Governor McKee, for helping ensure the event was a success. He also thanked the culinary students of East Providence, Coventry, and Woonsocket, for preparing incredible appetizers and desserts, the kindness pinwheels from students at Oakland Beach Elementary School in Warwick, Hamilton Elementary School in North Kingstown and North Scituate Elementary School. Mr. Capellan addressed the fact that this past year wasn't easy and although there were challenges, RIDE pushed forward as a state education system and helped students adjust, learn, and grow, which pushed the agency to do the same. RIDE turned adversity into advantage and used it to power new forms of education and new programs for our students. RIDE took aging schools and built world-class school facilities that will serve students for generations to come. As noted during the State of Education, RIDE in the darkest moment. came together to ensure everyone had the support they needed to keep moving forward. The State of Education address can be watched on RIDE's YouTube channel.

Next, Mr. Capellan reported that the All-Course Network, or ACN, is one of RIDE's most powerful tools to advance supplemental student learning outside of the school day. These opportunities are more important than ever, as RIDE collectively designs plans to help our students accelerate their learning, to try and offset the impacts of COVID-19. The ACN was listed in the LEAP Taskforce's

official recommendations, and RIDE is proud of the dramatic growth it has seen in the past two years because of ESSER investment. RIDE is excited to share that registration for SY22-23 courses opened two weeks ago and as May 17, 2022, has over 1,100 unique students registered, for more than 3,200 course seats. These high-quality, free learning courses are available on [EnrollRI.org](http://EnrollRI.org).

Mr. Capellan then discussed Financial Literacy Resources, stating that Governor McKee signed RI General Laws §16-22-13 into law last year, ensuring that all students in Rhode Island have access to and can demonstrate proficiency in, financial literacy. The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved new Rhode Island Financial Literacy Standards, based on revised national standards, in December 2021. RIDE is pleased to announce that as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the RIDE website now hosts many resources to support LEAs in meeting the additional requirements of that legislation, including adopting a standalone Financial Literacy course for high school students, and a proficiency requirement. The site now has the Financial Literacy standards, a list of curriculum and professional learning resources, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, and a list of Rhode Island-based contacts, all sourced through financial literacy ambassadors, an external working group of experts that has been meeting, facilitated by RIDE, since last summer. A press release was recently released with more information. which can be found on [RIDE.RI.GOV](http://RIDE.RI.GOV).

Mr. Capellan also highlighted that the College Board recently announced that Rhode Island has the largest 10-year growth in the percentage of high school graduates taking AP exams nationwide. Additionally, despite the impacts of COVID-19, Rhode Island's class of 2021 passed at least one AP exam at almost double the rate of the class of 2011. This means, Rhode Island has had the largest improvement in AP pass rates of any state over the past 10 and 5 years. Not only are we increasing the number of students participating in these powerful Early College opportunities, but we are also seeing dramatic gains in their performance. RIDE is grateful to the General Assembly for allowing the agency to double down on these positive trends, with an allocation that allows any interested low-income student in the state to receive a test fee waiver to take an AP exam at no cost to them, their LEA, or their families. Mr. Capellan also announced that on May 18, 2022, RIDE will be celebrating Rhode Island at the state's first AP Day at the Statehouse and would love for students, teachers and administrators to join in on this event.

Lastly, Mr. Capellan thanked the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and turned the meeting over to Chair DiCenso.

#### **4. OPEN FORUM**

Three individuals addressed the Council.

Written testimony is on file at RIDE.

#### **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. Providence Update

Chair DiCenso introduced Superintendent Dr. Javier Montañez and his team. Superintendent Montañez began by thanking everyone for the opportunity to share exciting updates from Providence Public Schools. He explained that the community Turnaround Action Plan (TAP) has many metrics and goals for how to continue to build the school system that the students deserve, and that data is used to track the progress towards those goals. The data from the mid-year assessment has shown students in grades K-8 have shown progress in mathematics, English language arts and reading. He expressed his appreciation to all the students and teachers for all their hard work during a difficult time. Superintendent Montañez thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak and turned it over to his Senior Advisor Joan Jackson.

Ms. Jackson began by noting the fact that data is a key factor in driving all decisions made at Providence Public Schools and that they have been monitoring progress at all schools including Mount Pleasant High School. Ms. Jackson expressed the fact that Mount Pleasant High School has had some struggles with student attendance, participation, and progress. Together with their team, especially with the transformation officers James Boyd and Patricia Royal, an intervention plan has been created for Mount Pleasant High School. A team was brought in to evaluate the school and changes have been made. Ms. Jackson then introduced Tiffany Delaney, Principal at Mount Pleasant High School, to share the progress that has been made at the school.

Principal Delaney started by expressing her gratitude for working with her team, which includes assistant principals and teacher leaders to focus on changing the culture at Mount Pleasant High School. She explained that they began the process by looking into the safety policies and procedures, conducted a needs assessment, and looked at different areas to make the building safer for students and staff. Alarms have been placed throughout the school and staff is more present and available for the students. Principal Delaney and her team have also created a new incentive for students and teachers called the BEAMS Bucks Incentive. Students are receiving BEAMS bucks for outstanding behavior and receiving prizes each Friday. Teachers are also receiving BEAMS bucks for outstanding instructional behavior and hallway coverage. Prizes for staff members are also pulled on Friday. She was also happy to report that Social Emotional groups for both staff and students have been established, including restorative practice implementation through reset and refocus rooms period by period for students. A Smart Clinic is also available for additional therapy services for students and families. She went on to address a change in the school's communication methods and explained that a weekly newsletter has been developed and is provided to all stakeholders and parents. She addressed the fact that, instructionally, the team has been conducting walkthroughs of every class period and PLC's to determine instructional focus. They have also prioritized classroom needs and individualized student support and are engaging with families to provide support to upcoming graduates. All these efforts have come into play resulting in an increase in passing students from second to third quarter. Principal Delaney shared a few initiatives and highlights from the students and staff, which include, the BEAMS bucks, PBIS program and spirit week. Eighty percent of students in the Teacher Academy passed their Parapro Assessments and will become certified Paraprofessionals; nine students will graduate from the Paid Internship with George West; Advisory Game Day; Brown College Day; field trips; and Senior Day are all in place to celebrate the students. She also provided information on a new partnership with Federal Hill House that will allow 32 Mount

Pleasant students a paid service-learning opportunity to work together to identify and offer solutions affecting their schools or community. She is looking forward to end of year goals, which include 80% of current seniors (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year) will graduate before the end of next summer. Sixty percent of students at Mount Pleasant will be on track for post-secondary success by the last day of school and 20% parent participation in PTO and school organizations and events.

Mr. Capellan added that Mount Pleasant has been struggling for years and wanted to highlight the work that Superintendent Montañez, Principal Delaney and the team are doing while achieving great results at Mount Pleasant.

Member Almeida questioned Principal Delaney on what she and the school are doing to hear the students' voices and their needs.

Principal Delaney responded that she worked with RIDE to get the students together. Events were held at the school for students to voice their concerns and needs. The PTO will be changed to the PTSO and students will be represented on different committees in the building.

Member Purtill expressed his appreciation to the fact that the data reflected the 80 percent of students that were in their 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> years as seniors. He was concerned with the remaining 20 percent and wanted to know what was being done to help those students.

Principal Delaney responded that they are involved in an extensive process to track the students in the school, and this allows them to determine which paths were best for these students. This was done on an individual basis to determine each student's need.

Ms. Jackson also stated that a group of 20 students who were overage and disengaged in their current classes have moved over to a venture that is being housed at Central High School. This is an 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. school to give everyone an opportunity to graduate.

Member Purtill followed up by commenting on the fact that hearing information on the 10% or 5% that went on to obtain a GED, or accomplish a different goal, are also success stories and should be shared.

Member Gaines commented on the fact that it was noted that a goal for Mount Pleasant High School was to have 60% of students on track for post-secondary success by the last day of school and wanted to know what the current percentage is.

Principal Delaney responded that they are currently over that percentage at 67% that started with 43%. This includes all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Member Callahan voiced her concern with the 43% of teachers that are consistently providing formative assessments per class and wanted to know what the plans are to bring that number up. Is it Professional Development, coaching, modeling to try and get the number up?

Principal Delaney responded that she set-up a coaching structure and the first level they are on is working with the PLC and their planning time. There is an active assistant principal who is there coaching the teacher leaders to help the teachers with the standards and making sure the objectives align with the standards. That Assistant Principal will be assessing students at the end of the process. She is hoping to see the numbers go up by the next walk-through.

Member Callahan wanted to confirm that models were given on what teachers can use as formative assessment tools.

Principal Delaney responded by saying yes.

Member Martinez questioned the 20% parent participation in the PTO and activity help and how they can raise that.

Principal Delaney responded that they currently have five active parents who she is meeting with to try and develop a plan. They are actively trying to grow the participation rate for the next school year given that it is already the end of the current year.

Member Martinez wanted to know if there would be any summer involvement with the parents.

Principal Delaney responded that yes, the plan that they have put together includes an event every month to reengage the community.

Student Representative Asherov stated that she was happy to hear of the changes and was interested in knowing if over the next two years a sense of community will be created in the school and if it will allow for the safety policies to shift. She stated that the more students are held accountable, the more it will lean away from heavy student monitoring. She asked what the school is doing in terms of the new incoming freshman.

Principal Delaney responded that they are already monitoring the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that will be freshmen at Mount Pleasant High School next fall and a structure of a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy will be in place to support them socially and academically.

Student Representative Asherov asked whether the weekly communication was available to the students or just parents and stakeholders.

Principal Delaney responded that the school has a podcast that is run by the students, where they create agendas, conduct interviews, and have structured the podcast themselves.

Member Davis expressed her concern with the 56% of students who found their class to be engaging and wanted to know if Principal Delaney felt she had the resources to help the teachers engage the students to increase that number.

Principal Delany responded that she did believe she had the resources and that they are working with the teachers on student engagement, which is included in the PLC, and are looking to see what can be improved. Teachers are coached and are included in discussions with one another to compare ideas.

Mr. Capellan added that the condition of the gym was in bad shape at Mount Pleasant, and they were not scheduled to have any capital work done. With help from the SBA, Mount Pleasant was able to get new lighting, new bleachers, floors, and that will help the community.

Member Almeida added that the auditorium was also renovated.

Chair DiCenso thanked Principal Delaney for presenting all the information on Mount Pleasant High School and mentioned that Member Gaines and herself were guidance counselors and that the resources they have available are great. She reiterated comments made by members of the council and was looking forward to hearing more great news.

**b. Recommendation of new Member to the RIVESP Advisory Board**

Deputy Commissioner Roldán shared that the Council has the authority to name, per the Commissioner's recommendation to the Council, members to the RIVESP. The board was fully constituted; however, it has a vacancy, and through conversations with the board as well as RIDE's internal review, is recommending Dr. Wendy Chen to the board. Dr. Wendy Chen is the Director of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus at Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University.

**c. All Course Network (ACN): Recap from SY2021-2022 and Preview of SY2022-2023**

Deputy Commissioner Odom-Villella shared that this was her first Council meeting as a RIDE member and thanked everyone again for her appointment. She then turned the meeting over to Spencer Sherman to introduce his team to expand further on the All Course Network.

Spencer Sherman introduced Liz Texeira, Director of College and Career Readiness and Brittany Brown who have been working on the ACN. Mr. Sherman shared a recap of the ACN explaining that it is a three-course catalog of options statewide for students - from municipalities, non-profits, colleges, includes both summer and year-round learning. As Mr. Capellan had shared, they have over 1,100 students registered already, over 4,200 seats available from 245 different courses from 45 different providers, which is a tremendous diversity, and this program is popular and growing. Mr. Sherman shared a brief video of what the ACN looks like in practice.

Director Texeira began by highlighted the impressive growth seen from the 2015 school year when the ACN started and moving to a more inclusive name moving from Advanced Course Network to All Course Network to make all students feel welcome to take advantage of the supplemental course opportunities. The ACN has had a dramatic expansion of enrichment opportunities making sure that students all the way from Pre-K can partake in these supplemental course options. The ACN has also seen a surge in student demand, registration has only been

open for two weeks and already has over 1,200 unique students already signed up for courses. Director Texeira introduced Brittany Brown to go over the data from summer of 2021.

Ms. Brown began by showing a comparison between the percentage of students who are enrolled for the ACN and the statewide average of students broken down by race and ethnicity. One of the reasons for moving from Advanced Course Network to All Course Network was to ensure a diverse group of students that were being served both in race and ethnicity and priority population. For the first time all race and ethnicity are represented and has surpassed the percentage of students participating who identify as white. The program will continue to diversify the students that represent the ACN. Ms. Brown also shared a breakdown of the percentage of priority groups of students that are enrolled through the ACN and are students who identify as students with an Individualized Education Plan, Multilingual Learners and students who receive Free or Reduced Priced Lunch. This year the ACN moved away from a first come first serve basis and moved to a course lottery. This ensures schools and students have time to register for the courses they are interested in. Ms. Brown also shared parent and student testimonials to make sure what is working and what can be improved. Progress reports are also produced to have a clear understanding of the process.

Director Texeira went on to share a comparison of enrollment from Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022. Director Texeira noted a drop in student enrollment from Summer to Fall and Spring since only one lottery was provided and decided to move to semester-based lottery.

Ms. Brown noted that many improvements have been made from Summer of 2021, highlighting the fact that ACN saw a 700 percent increase in the number of students from urban communities enrolling in the current Spring Semester compared to the inaugural Spring 2021 semester. Communication has been a key factor in this increase. Weekly updates and office hours are provided to students and providers. Open houses have also been held for families in elementary, middle and high schools to understand the opportunities available.

Director Texeira called out the fact that there was a significant jump in the AP courses available and also the number of dual enrollment opportunities that are provided by our state colleges. These courses can all be accessed through enroll RI.

Lastly, Ms. Brown shared a sampling of the ACN summer courses which include a variety of different courses to choose from.

Director Texeira concluded by expressing the need to share information with all communities to get involved. All courses are now available for pre-registration at [EnrollRI.org](https://enrollri.org) through June 3, 2022.

Member Callahan congratulated the team on the expansion and asked what the balance was on the face-to-face meetings and online meetings.

Director Teixeira responded that she did not have the information available and would follow-up with a semester-based comparison for the Council.

Member Callahan was also interested in the credit-bearing opportunities and how RIDE is working with the districts on the work that needs to be done to ensure that the credit-bearing course fits into their requirements as a credit-bearing course.

Director Teixeira explained that the districts have to sign an assurance prior to the students taking the course.

Member Callahan reworded her question for clarity and asked what information was provided to the districts for them to determine whether a course was accepted or not.

Ms. Brown explained that a school member point of contact was provided for each student that receives the grades, attendance, and participation of the student. The school must approve the student and the courses that will be taken. All students will also receive an unofficial transcript that list the grades and courses taken. The student will also receive an unofficial transcript from a postsecondary school if the course was taken from there.

Member Callahan stated that this information is great, however, she asked if there is an opportunity for a school to review the description of the course prior to taking the class to determine if it fits into what the school wants to offer.

Director Teixeira stated that yes, it is part of the approval process, and all school counselors and administrators can look at the information of the courses and review all the materials before they determine if the student should enroll in the course.

Member Gaines mentioned that in the past students were required to pay for dual enrollment courses and wanted to know if they are free or if payment was necessary.

Director Teixeira clarified that there are no fees associated with the All Course Network.

Member Gaines questioned if students had to go through the All Course Network for dual enrollment courses for public schools.

Director Teixeira stated that there are Prepare RI funds that OPC manages where students in Rhode Island are eligible to take courses for free through that fund.

Mr. Sherman added that funding sources are irrelevant and once students and families go to the EnrollRI website, all the information regarding dual enrollment is available.

Member Purtill commented that he was pleased with the variety of courses that are offered, especially the umpiring course. He also commented on the lottery and the percentage of kids who did not make the lottery.

Director Texeira explained that the students that did not get a seat through the lottery had the opportunity to have a next level choice.

Member Purtill stated that he would be interested to see the kids that did not have the opportunity to enroll in a class be able to have the district provide other opportunities.

Ms. Brown stated that RIDE would be offering semester-based lotteries to provide more opportunities.

Member Purtill asked that if a student did not get a seat would they be able to move to the front of the line on the next offered course.

Ms. Brown responded that they were difference courses offered each semester.

Student Representative Asherov stated that she participated in the Advanced Course Network when she was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and the courses she took helped her choose her path for the future. She explained that she has credits from participating in the ACN. She explained that it is a great program and a friend of hers was able to attend Harvard through the ACN.

Member Almeida inquired about adjusting the number of seats offered if the courses are too full.

Ms. Brown noted that they were able to accomplish this task this year and will adjust as the year progresses.

Mr. Sherman added that due to the lottery, the equity is advancing and the effort is working to target student communities.

Chair DiCenso thanked the team for their hard work and stated that she was pleased with the outcome of all opportunities that students have and hopes that it continues to grow.

#### **d. Art Re- Engages Talent in All Students (ARTS) Initiative**

Mr. Capellan began by highlighting the initiative that Mr. Carreno would be presenting as one of the exciting opportunities at RIDE. He thanked all the folks that engaged in this initiative.

Director Carreno began by addressing the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on students, distancing them from their peers, teachers, and school facilities. He explained that research shows that the arts promote and improve mental health, such as anxiety and depression, while also increasing academic performance. He stated that the \$5M initiative was split into two acts - \$4.5M were distributed to every LEA using a per student distribution; the minimum amount an LEA would receive will be \$10,000. LEAs can use the funds on auditoriums, instruments, and artwork. LEAs can choose the type of art that is based on their community. The remaining \$0.5M, which

will be leveraged with additional resources, will be awarded on an incentive-based system based on categories. An Arts Gala will be held if the initiative is approved.

Mr. Capellan expressed that this event came together from the feedback of all the art teachers in the state. He also stated that Commissioner Infante-Green was very passionate about this initiative.

Member Callahan expressed her gratitude that this initiative was developed and will provide the funds to support the urban communities.

Director Carreno acknowledged Kirtley Fisher, RIDE's Associate Chief of Staff, for her support with this work and thanked Dr. DaSilva, SBA Coordinator, for his work on developing the initiative.

e. **Pay-As-You-Go Formula Distribution**

Director Carreno continued his presentation of the Pay-As-You-Go Distribution and noted that in 2018, the voters in Rhode Island approved a \$250M bond, and to date, the Council has awarded \$216.5M. The remaining \$33.5M will be divided by nine communities seeking approval this evening. The SBA has been able to offer a 15 percent, on a first come first serve basis, and one thing to understand, is that even with the lower percentage, it does not mean the state is paying any less. This switches the balance between Pay-Go and housing aid. The state aid commitment remains the same. If the Statewide Bond is approved in the November 2022 ballot, LEAs approved tonight would be made whole and receive the remaining 5.7 percent.

Member Gaines asked if the 15 percent was in addition to the original bond

Director Carreno replied that yes and that this is constant since 2018. This situation is different due to the amount of remaining funds.

f. **Necessity of School Construction Applications**

Director Carreno presented on the Necessity of School Construction Approvals and spoke of all the approvals to date. He explained that today there are nine communities seeking approvals, impacting over 13,000 students and there will be five new schools. He stated that school construction not only improves education outcomes, but economic outcomes as well. Fifty-five million of all the funds have been distributed to minority owned businesses in our communities.

Member Almeida asked what Warwick Public Schools were seeking approval for.

Director Carreno stated that they were building two new schools on the same site.

Member Callahan asked who owned the Blackstone Valley Prep buildings.

Director Carreno explained that they would be purchasing the properties but with the conditions that if they sell or close the buildings the monies go back to the state.

Member Callahan confirmed that they would own their own building.

Mr. Capellan noted that his was the largest amount of money that the Council has approved in history.

Chair DiCenso expressed her happiness and thanked Dr. Carreno for all the hard work that he and his team are doing.

**g. Proposed Revisions to the Secondary Regulations - Update**

Stephen Osborn, State Strategy and Student Opportunity Officer began by providing an update on the secondary regulations and that the purpose of his presentation was to review topics that have come up during public comments. RIDE officially began the public comment process to revise the secondary regulations on March 7, 2022 and concluded on May 10, 2022. Seven public hearings were hosted, posted four town halls, and he met with anyone who would provide their time. The goal that was set forth was accomplished. Mr. Osborne stated that the secondary regulations are the most commented on set of regulations in the history of K-12 education in Rhode Island. Over 425 comments were received. Some topics to highlight are special education, for differently abled students the numbers are lower. Only one in eight of differently abled students took and passed the courses needed to be eligible for admission at URI, RIC, CCI, without remediation. He stated in his presentation that according to the National Center on Education, about 85 to 90 percent of students with disabilities can meet the graduation standards targeted for all other students, if they receive specially designed instruction and appropriate access, supports and accommodations and that can be accomplished by providing our teachers with more tools to make that happen. Nationally, there are three approaches to offer college and career-ready diplomas. RIDE is proposing a single diploma for all our kids. A default with personal curriculum opt-out, which is a diploma that specifies a college and career -ready course of study that all students are required to complete, but allows students with parents' permission to modify the requirements on an individual basis and still earn the same diploma. RIDE is not proposing any changes to the regulatory language related to certificates and is unaware of any LEAs currently utilizing certificates or Alternate Recognition of High School Accomplishment. Mr. Osborn noted that high schools have changed and the need to change the way students are supported needs to change as well. The average high school graduate is earning 30 percent more credits since 1982 and yet the school schedules look the same. Mr. Osborn introduced Olivia Smith.

Ms. Smith shared that most of the feedback was focused on the arts, physical education, health education and additional credits. She noted that there is a lot of confusion about the additional credit selection of the secondary regulations and that RIDE is exploring strategies to bring our educators the clarity they deserve as the proposal is finalized. She mentioned that the proposed world language requirement continues to generate significant discussion since the lack of world

language instruction in our high schools is closing doors for too many of our kids. RIDE is working with the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner to create solutions for these issues by increasing dual and concurrent enrollment, supporting students in career and technical education programs and by supporting multilingual learners.

Mr. Osborn shared that the reality is that most of the kids in most RI high schools are not graduating college or career ready. which is not acceptable. He explained that the proposed regulations will change this, stating that the kids of RI can and should be offered personalized learning experiences that connect them to their passions without being taken off a path that will graduate them college and career ready. He noted to the Council that if someone seek them out to share a concern about how the proposal will impact the approach to personalization, that the following question should be asked. "How will your approach to personalization support our kids to graduate high school prepared for success in college and career?" Lastly Mr. Osborn shared that over the next month RIDE will be finalizing the proposal to reimagine the high school experience, summarizing all public comments received, finalizing the proposed revisions to the secondary regulations, and developing an action plan to support the implementation of the regulations.

Member Gaines asked if the Council will be given the chance to discuss the proposal with RIDE before a final copy is presented.

Mr. Osborn stated that they would like to propose to preview some of the topics at the next council meeting before a final version is brought forward.

Member Gaines noted that the Council has suggestions and concerns on some of the information that was presented.

Member Callahan seconded the comments from Member Gaines and proposed a limited agenda at the next Council meeting to go over the proposed changes to share thoughts and comments.

Mr. Osborn stated that yes changes would be made from what went out to public comment.

Member Callahan mentioned that she attended a couple of hearings and is requesting a meeting to preview what was heard and to also share more information. She stated that she has specific questions and comments.

Mr. Osborn stated that yes, the information will be previewed.

Member Almeida shared some of the same concerns and asked if principals and other stakeholders would have an opportunity to discuss as well, after the revisions have been made.

Mr. Osborn stated that RIDE will review the feedback received and make changes based on the comments received.

Member Almeida expressed his concern that there may be public comments.

Mr. Capellan suggested workshops and meetings prior to the Council meeting.

Member Purtill agreed with Mr. Capellan and stated the difficulty around the process and that the approval date may move back.

Member Callahan suggested sending the revisions out to the public again.

Member Gaines agreed with the idea of having workshops.

Mr. Capellan explained that the discussions would happen, and that the Council will have the opportunity to weigh-in prior to the meeting.

Member Almeida noted all associations should provide representation.

Member Callahan noted that teachers should also be included.

Member Gaines added that students should also be invited to speak.

Mr. Osborn flagged that the proposal was developed over eight meetings last year that included over 350 stakeholders. Since the meeting with the Council in December, RIDE has met multiple times with stakeholders and welcomes the conversation to finalize the process and to include all voices.

Member Almeida shared that the vision and direction of the approach is valid and that he appreciates the work. He stated that some districts need this level of policy to make changes. He noted that he wants to make sure all voices are heard.

Mr. Osborn stated that the goal is to get this right and not to be right.

Member Davis shared that Mr. Osborn has the right disposition to handle the meetings. She thanked him for all the hard work.

Mr. Osborn shared that he was happy to have the conversations and understands the importance that the regulations have on the communities.

Member Gaines expressed her concerns regarding the comments that were raised by individuals at the hearings and that they should be addressed. She was not happy that folks were stating that physical education and health were being removed.

Mr. Osborn expressed that Member Gaines' comments were much appreciated in that changes impact people and there is concern on the interpretation of the standards that are valid.

Member Davis noted that the number of credits increasing adds to the stress level of the students.

Chair DiCenso spoke of the idea of a workshop and will check with legal to see who can participate and provide a memo to the Council.

Mr. Capellan recommended that RIDE look at parameters of the workshop and provide information to the Council and make the decision with the Commissioner.

Chair DiCenso stated that everyone should be heard, however, we should abide by the parameters.

Member Callahan noted that this will be a multiple step process, however, it is legally possible to get the input and voices but not to redo the hearings.

Mr. Capellan explained that RIDE will review the process and send over the information

- h. Request to the R.I. Board of Education that it delegate a portion of its authority under R.I. Gen. Laws 16-45-6.1(d)(3) to the Appeals Committee of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and request that the Committee hear appeals of schools and districts from the findings of the CTE Board and RIDE as to the “substantial similarity” of career preparation programs, and recommend to the full Board of Education what relief, if any, should be provided to the appellants.**

Chair DiCenso made it clear, that this is not a delegation of the final decision-making of the Board of Education. The item must come back from the Appeals Committee of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education with a recommendation, but the Board maintains the final right and authority to issue the final decision after reviewing the recommendation. Chair DiCenso then turned the meeting to Anthony Cottone, Chief Legal Counsel.

Mr. Cottone shared that after recent legislation concerning CTE programs, now a student, in order to be able to attend an out-of-district CTE program must show that there is not a substantially similar CTE program in their district of residence. Substantial similarity is the function of a list that is published each year by the CTE Board along with RIDE. The ability to challenge that list and state whether it is substantially similar or not by schools and districts is an appeal to the Board under that statute. Since the Board of Education is not used to hearing appeals of this nature and motions that might involve discovery or other things, the Appeals Committee of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education will hear the appeals. Mr. Cottone shared that the Commissioner suggests that the Council recommended to the Board that they delegate just the procedural mechanism of hearing the appeal. The Appeals Committee would then make a recommendation to the Council and the Council would make a recommendation to the Board, which would then act on the appeal.

Mr. Cottone shared that he had spoken to Member Beretta, Chair of the Appeals Committee, and she supports the idea.

Member Gaines asked if the way they would hear the appeals and if they would hearing the initial complaint.

Mr. Cottone responded that there is a thirty-day period where districts can appeal the list that comes out from the CTE Board. That appeal will go if the recommendation is approved to the Council's Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will listen to the appeal and make a recommendation to the Council, which will then make a recommendation to the Board.

Member Almeida asked if the appeals happen at a certain time of the year or if they come during any time.

Mr. Cottone noted that the list is produced in January and the districts have 30 days to appeal. There are currently two pending appeals.

Member Callahan clarified that this is limited to that specific timeframe and that they are not talking about students that want to go to an out-of-district CTE program, if told that they are denied.

Mr. Cottone shared that those appeals go to the CTE Board.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Approval of new Member to the RIVESP Advisory Board

Chair DiCenso asked for a motion to approve the new member to the RIVESP Advisory Board. The motion was duly made by Council Member Purtill and seconded by Council Member Callahan.

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the appointment of Dr. Wendy Chen, MD PhD, to the Advisory Board for the RI Vision Education Services Program, as presented.

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**b. Approval of Arts Re-engages Talent in all Students (ARTS) Initiative Awards**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the allocation of \$5M of the Fiscal Year 2022 ARTS Initiative School Building Authority Capital Fund, as presented.

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**c. Approval of the Pay-As-You-Go Formula Distribution**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the a one-time formula adjustment for the final distribution of Pay-As-You-Go funding for projects that receive Necessity of School Construction approval on May 17, 2022, as presented. If a second Statewide School Construction Bond is approved on the November 2022 ballot, LEAs approved on May 17, 2022, will be made whole.

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**d. Approval of Necessity of School Construction Applications**

**6d1. Blackstone Valley Prep**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$29,754,017 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### **6d2. Lincoln School Department**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$26,036,794 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### **6d3. Little Compton School District**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$4,976,864 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**6d4. New Shoreham School District**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$9,056,722 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**6d5. Providence Public School District**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$146,328,771 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**6d6. Scituate School Department**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$4,951,559 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**6d7. Smithfield School Department**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$12,777,550 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**6d8. Tiverton School Department**

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$2,628,974 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**6d9. Warwick School Department**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Michael Almeida, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$314,559,510 pursuant To R.I. Gen. Laws 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

**f. Approval of the motion to request to the R.I. Board of Education that it delegate a portion of its authority under R.I. Gen. Laws 16-45-6.1(d)(3) to the Appeals Committee of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the motion to request to the RI Board of Education that it delegate a portion of its authority under R.I. Gen. Laws 16-45-6.1(d)(3) to the Appeals Committee of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and request that the Committee hear appeals of schools and districts from the findings of the CTE Board and RIDE as to the “substantial similarity” of career and preparation programs, and recommend to the Full Board of Education what relief, if any, should be provided to appellants

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**g. Approval of Times2 Academy Charter Renewal**

On a motion duly made by Marta Martinez and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Times2STEM Academy, with conditions, for three years beginning with school year 2022-2023 and expiring at the end of school year 2024-2025

At this time Council Members went into discussion.

Member Gaines voiced that, unfortunately, she cannot support the recommendation as presented, however, she noted that she had an alternative recommendation that she would like to read and offer as an alternative to the motion. She stated that, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education move to renew the charter of Times2 STEM Academy, with conditions, for three years beginning with school year 2022-2023 and expiring at the end of the school year 2024-2025. The school shall be required to complete all conditions prior to March 2023. Failure to meet any identified renewal condition shall result in the start of the charter revocation process. She went on to explain her reasoning.

Member Purtill seconded the motion and discussion took place.

Member Gaines noted that she supported the Times2 academy initially, however, a decline came, and confidence was lost. She believes that giving a three-year renewal without strong conditions would be a mistake and we cannot afford another three years of failing kids.

Member Callahan asked that Member Gaines reread the conditions once again.

Member Gaines stated that the school will be required to complete all conditions prior to March 2023. Failure to meet any identified renewal conditions shall result in the start of charter revocation process.

Member Callahan asked Mr. Osborn that based on the materials provided, where we are in the process of appointing an individual to oversee the school.

Mr. Osborn stated that the term they decided on was Special Advisor and as soon as the vote is made tonight, the recruitment process will begin.

Member Gaines mentioned that Lawrence Purtill had expressed interest to serve on the Board and where does that stand.

Member Purtill shared that he had read the legalities and is aware that it would be a conflict of interest.

Mr. Capellan pointed out that when the process for revocation begins, the Council will have that right, and flagged that Member Gaines' proposed language needs to be corrected by replacing the word "shall" instead of "may."

Mr. Cottone agreed with the fact that the language should be corrected.

Member Gaines is open to changing the wording.

Member Callahan stated that the reason she asked about the Sr. Advisor and agrees and likes the idea of having flexibility if the conditions are met and other items are not met.

Mr. Osborn shared that the revocation process is a very clear process.

Member Purtill questioned if a friendly amendment can be made.

Mr. Cottone noted that Member Gaines can make a motion to amend and restate the question after discussion to be clear what is being voted on. It would be a motion to amend the proposed amendment.

Chair DiCenso asked for motion to amend the amendment brought forth by Member Gaines.

On a motion duly made by Karen Davis and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the motion to amend the amendment.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative and 1 member abstained, as follows:

YEAS: Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 1 - Michael Almeida

Council Members had a brief discussion to clarify the terms.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Times2 STEM Academy, with conditions, for three years beginning with school year 2022-2023 and expiring at the end of the school year 2024-2025. The school shall be required to complete all conditions prior to March 2023. Failure to meet any identified renewal condition may result in the start of the charter revocation process

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative and 1 member abstained, as follows:

YEAS: Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 1 - Michael Almeida

Mr. Capellan expressed his gratitude to Kirtley Fisher who would be leaving RIDE on May 18, 2022.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

**VOTED:** That the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Adjourns

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

YEAS: Michael Almeida, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.