



Enclosure 2a
February 9, 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
December 15, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Raimondo's Executive Order 20-75, this was a hybrid meeting.

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Board Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the December 15, 2020, Hybrid meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. She noted for the record that she and Student Representative Feliz, were attending in person, while members Beretta, Callahan, Davis, Field, Gaines, Martinez, and Purtill, were joining via the Zoom Webinar platform. She declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Participating in Person: Barbara Cottam and *Brandon Feliz

Remote Participation: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Garah Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

Absent: 0

[*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.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the December 15, 2020, hybrid meeting

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Garah Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the December 15, 2020, Meeting

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the December 8, 2020, Hybrid Meeting

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Infante-Green began by sharing the exciting news that yesterday the first person in Rhode Island received their first dose of the COVID vaccine. She voiced that although the end is in sight, there is still a long road ahead and that students and staff need to continue to stay safe. She noted that RIDE gave high schools the ability to shift to their limited in-person plan after Thanksgiving for two weeks and has relied on superintendents and school leaders to work with their communities and make decisions that best serve students and families. The Commissioner thanked everyone who was involved in the pilot testing programs, which were successfully launched in Providence, Central Falls, Lincoln and are now being expanded to South Kingstown. She shared that the return to in-person teaching and learning after the holidays will be staggered the same way it was back in September, to allow for families who travel, time to quarantine.

Next, Commissioner Infante-Green spoke about support for Multilingual Learners (MLLs). She expressed her disappointment with the test results that were released last week, from the ACCESS 2.0 assessment administered back in February. The results indicate that less than 4% of Rhode Island's MLLs are achieving English language proficiency, clearly proving that the number of MLLs continues to increase in our State. She stressed that these students and families deserve more educational opportunities and that the RIDE team has been working hard to engage stakeholders to draft the State's first-ever MLL Blueprint to be aligned with the Strategic Plan. RIDE has also been working with the Rhode Island Foundation to expand dual language programs in Rhode Island, providing MLLs another environment in which to explore high-quality instructional opportunities that leverage their cultural and linguistic assets.

Commissioner Infante-Green ended her report by sharing that last year RIDE started a statewide Educators of Color Committee. The committee, which has been meeting since last November, has created recommendations on how to attract and retain teachers of color. This is an area in which Rhode Island failed to meet expectations in all five of the areas ranked by the Education Trust, in a recent ranking of states about their policies and practices, when it comes to educator diversity. The Commissioner highlighted that about 58% of Rhode Island students are white, while the State's educational preparation programs are 84% white, the largest gap in New England.

4. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam noted that individuals interested in providing public comment were encouraged to submit written comments to the Council in advance of the meeting. The Council received a number of written comments that have been shared with Council members and will be made part of the permanent record of this meeting. Chair Cottam stated that 41 individuals registered in advance to provide verbal testimony and that she is waiving the 20-minute Open Forum as defined in the Council's Bylaws. She noted that due to the vast number of speakers, the two-minute rule would be enforced. Twenty-two individuals spoke in support of the Charter School recommendations and fourteen individuals expressed their ongoing concerns with in-person instruction, as well as their opposition to the charter school recommendations.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ACCESS Results and Multilingual Learner (MLL) Blueprint Overview

Lisa Foehr, RIDE's Chief of Teaching and Learning, was joined by Ana Karantonis, Assessment Specialist, and Flavia Molea Baker, Multilingual Learner Coordinator, who gave a state overview of the assessment results from last February's ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS administrations, and the work around the MLL Blueprint. Ms. Foehr underscored that Rhode Island MML's average scale score is below level five, consistently across the board, at every grade level.

Ms. Karantonis went over the year-over-year comparison scores for the last three school years, stressing that only 3.5% of the 15,555 students tested in the 2019-2020 school year, reached proficiency level, the lowest of all the states in the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium. She also went over the 2020 data by years of multilingual program service; chronic absenteeism data for 2018-2019; and Providence student results by years of multilingual program service, which represent 50% of all test ACCESS test takers in the State.

Council members asked if there is performance data on those students who exit out of the program; if there are districts, including charters, who are successful with this population of students and who can serve as models to other districts; and requested a breakdown of the data by district.

Next, Ms. Foehr presented the components of the Blueprint for MLL success that the Commissioner made reference to earlier in the meeting, stressing that this was a team effort with involvement by lots of stakeholders from the community, to really inform the development of the publications. The publications have been made public and are posted on RIDE's website.

Ms. Molea Baker went over the five Success Principles based on research, to set the expectations. She stressed that the Blueprint represents a commitment to MLLs in our schools, to the families and community, and to all educators responsible for student success. She also went over how the work has developed and the goals that have to be achieved in the State in order to shift the process for MLL success. Ms. Molea Baker highlighted that thanks to funding from the RI Foundation, RIDE has started working on Goal #6 - Expand Opportunities for MLLs to Participate in High-quality Bilingual/Bicultural Programs and Develop Literacies in Multiple Languages. This is an important goal because, based on research, MLLs have the least opportunities to be in the best programs. She shared that RIDE is working with the six districts that have already applied for funding to expand their dual language programs, including Providence.

Member Field asked if any of the Providence schools in the group have been identified as doing things well.

Ms. Foehr replied that RIDE has visited the Levington School to get a better understanding of their dual language program, and that in Providence, the programs that stand out are the ones that have already started making those shifts to the dual language models and programming.

Member Callahan asked when the definition of "High Quality Instruction" will be developed and when can that start.

Ms. Foehr replied that the work is already underway with a small group of internal stakeholders at RIDE, representative of the different offices. RIDE has also been hosting sessions with some stakeholders from the original group and others that helped develop the Blueprint, to help inform it. Once the plan is fully drafted, there will be the typical larger stakeholder involvement input to continue to shape it.

6. ACTION ITEMS

Member Callahan voiced her concerns with the financial drain of all the proposals, particularly in light of the fiscal issues that are coming down the pike as a result of the pandemic. She expressed that she agrees with those who spoke earlier in that it is pretty irresponsible, and that any deliberations and considerations of the proposals be tabled until we know more about the fiscal implications and the fallout on the State and local budgets of the COVID pandemic.

Council Member Callahan made a motion to table the votes seconded by Council Member Purtill

On the motion to table the vote, the Council

VOTED: That the Votes on the Charter School Recommendations be Tabled

Vote: 6 members voted in the negative and 2 members
voted in the affirmative as follows:

YEAS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field,
Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez

ABSTAINS: 0

Motion failed

6a1. Approval of Achievement First RI Proposal for an Expansion

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary
Education moves to approve Achievement First Rhode Island's
proposal for an expansion to begin in school year 2021-2022 in
Providence and North Providence

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field,
Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez,

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

ABSTAINS: 0

Council Member Field expressed “since last week’s Council public comment and this evening’s testimony and the 56 emails that I received, I have been wrestling with the concerns that have been raised, including the concerns raised this evening by members Callahan and Purtill. I have also heard from parents who want to have a chance at the lottery - this is complicated and not easy. I struggle with the false narratives that people try to paint and pit against each other - whether is pitting public charters versus traditional public schools or educators in traditional schools that have been bashed by people who have not stepped foot inside their schools. I am so troubled by the toxicity around all of this and it just perpetuates stereotypes and reinforces silos that we don’t need in Rhode Island. What happened to the promise of full-service community schools in our urban core, which was a promise that was made and not kept and it needs to be somewhere in this plan moving forward if you start to look at those three star schools.

There are incredible educators and administrators in this State who are also part of the identified broken system - it isn’t just broken for students and families, it is also broken for people that are working so hard with and for those families. This is my last chance to speak as a Board member on this Council - I will be back at some point, I am sure. When I was at Pleasant View for five years as the Principal, we worked so hard as a community, as a full-service community school and we partnered with Family Service of Rhode Island, Dorcas International - parents would come to the school, take English classes at our school where they had parent/child time where they would get an hour per week to go and see what their kids were doing in class, we had the YMCA, the Highlander Capital Goodwill Fund, City Year. We had a full-service community director, a reading coach, a math coach, and out of all that, what is left, City Year, that’s it. That is not okay. Teachers cannot do it alone, administrators cannot do it alone, and families cannot partner with schools, who have people that have tapped out.

Things have to change for traditional public schools, but I also cannot find a way to tell parents who want a chance at a lottery, sorry it is not your time, you have to wait five more years. That does not sit well with me either. Public charter schools are not a panacea for school transformation and school reform and I know that we all know that and PPDS does need more funding. All of our schools need more funding, for God’s sake, our educators need to be paid

more money, it's embarrassing, but it doesn't mean that people who support public charter schools are anti traditional schools – it is just not true. I hope we don't pit each other and fall claim to these false narratives. Larry and a lot of other people have made some great points – I heard siphoning money – that is true to a point with those unintended costs, but those kids are also going somewhere else.

The other piece to this is, and I want to say it for the public record, I am not only going to vote, I hope, in support of the expansion of Achievement First. It doesn't have to do with just test scores, because that is misguided too – it's about expectations that's been raised tonight – but we lose sight of what is most important when we focus on just one thing, because test scores are never going to tell you what is the most important things about a young person's potential. It will tell you some things, but it is never going to tell you everything. Thanks for the time, thanks for being great colleagues, and this is hard and I hope I am doing the right thing."

Member Callahan expressed "I agree with so much with what Member Field said and that she did great things at Pleasant View and that it is a shame that it all has been reduced to one of those partnerships, which are so needed. The last thing I want to do is get into the weeds of pitting one group against another, but I think that the reality of the situation we face is that Providence is really in the cross-hairs of what is being talked about tonight. This is a statewide conversation and it affects districts, students and families, statewide, but 80 to 90 percent of the seats that we are talking about, are really designated targeted to Providence. When we think about what is needed to close the gaps and when we think about what is needed, whether is community schools, additional teachers – I would love to learn from some of these schools, I would love to put things in place that create more than one teacher in the classroom and allow an administrator to be a true instructional leader, because there is somebody managing the place.

There are a lot of things that could be done, but they take money. They take funding and in this case we do know that it is not exactly just the money follows the child, we know that there are additional costs that are born – whether you call them "stranded" costs, the costs that are left behind, and very, very often, too frequently, the data show that the hardest to serve students are often the students who are left in our traditional public schools. If we approve these proposals tonight, overall, we are talking about, in the first year, almost \$20M in stranded costs that will be taken away from Providence public schools. It rises to the level of \$160M to almost \$200M over the course of these proposals. We are talking about what is needed and I ask this Board this question all the time, what will it take, what is the definition, what will it take for change – personnel and programs, professional development, supports for families, wrap-around services like the community schools – those are the things that we may be sacrificing if in fact we go forward with what I think is an irresponsible vote right now, not only in normal times, but in these abnormal times.

We still do not have a State budget, we still do not know what the impact will be on Providence and our other public schools, and quite frankly, I think this is the wrong time for us to make, not even getting into pitting one against another. We are talking about what we should learn from each other, which is what we should be doing. Right now we don't know enough. It is too uncertain a time for us to make this decision when the bill is going to come much later. We should not be voting to approve these right now."

Member Purtill expressed "My major concern is and it always be that, and especially now, during a pandemic, a once in a century event, that funding for all schools is going to be an issue as we go forward. Yes, money does follow the student, but there are a lot of costs that districts have that they lose out on. We are in the middle of a turnaround program, the first year of Providence, and if we are going to provide all of the programs that those students need and rightfully deserve, and frankly programs and resources that haven't been in place for decades, than I am concerned about what happens to that student who doesn't get in the lottery, what happens to that student who doesn't have the parents pushing for them, what are the programs that are going to be there. We talk about MLLs and everything else; that is going to cost money, that's resources. In fact, we should be working with some of the charters that are successful and I can think of one or two off the top of my head. I want to be quite clear that I think we have some outstanding charters in Rhode Island. The goal of charters was to help students who weren't going to necessarily fit into a traditional school program, not to be a similar or the same type of program. One of the things that concerns me is that we focus too much on test scores. There is a lot to student success behind student test scores.

We know that there has been institutional racism in education for a long time, but when I asked Dr. Pitino, the University of Georgia Professor, author and activist, this summer when I hosted an event that she spoke at, my one question to her was, I as a white union leader what is the one thing that I could do to help black and brown students, and her answer was, end standardized testing. I am not ready to end testing, but we can't just use test scores to measure student success, it has to be used to inform practice, but if we take resources away, how to we do that. So, if \$150M dropped-out of the sky tonight, great, this would be easy, but it is not easy and I am afraid that if we take much needed resources away from kids who really need it, and those are kids who a lot of them are living in poverty, that are black, that are brown, and are indigenous. Unfortunately, we could not have the discussion because the motion to table is non-debatable, but I think that putting this off until we really know the budget and until we see the turnaround plan, is the right thing to do."

Student Representative Feliz expressed “This is really a heavy subject for me personally as I am a product of a charter school. There is a point that keeps getting missed very often in the conversation is that parents right now are voting with their feelings. It is not that school choice is something that is purely done out of wanting different types of educational systems. I can speak to that experience that charter schools are looked at as the way out of a broken system for lots of families, especially for families in black communities, low-income communities, and that is the problem that we need to address. Parents feel that if they don’t send their kids to charter schools, they are not given the tools to allow them to become full people.

I want us to table the conversation at least for now as we are in a once in a lifetime moment, especially when it comes to this virus where we don’t really know what the next few months are going to look like for the current schools, never mind for new schools/new developments. Since the motion to table has already been voted on, I really want to bring attention to which schools we are approving for tonight. I think the one thing we must acknowledge is that charter schools and the system that we hope to build need to be supplementary and not solutions to systemic failures in our system. I also agree with the Commissioner in that I am tired of racial barriers and “choice” being used as buzz words, especially by school staff. We have seen that used multiple times by people running schools and I have yet to hear about any real solutions that are being developed, especially now. Because of that, I have to, in my opinion, oppose both Excel and Achievement First because of their corporate structure. Corporate schools are businesses selling themselves to education departments like ourselves.

Students cannot be put first when these decisions are being made. I am not saying that there aren’t amazing educators in these systems, I am not saying that there aren’t amazing administrators in these systems, but because of their corporate structure, I am afraid that these students are not going to be put first, especially when these schools are talking about scores and achievement like that. When we are talking about systemic racism, tests scores, such SATs, were created to make sure black communities cannot enter Ivy League schools. These schools come into communities on the guise that test scores will be rising, on the guise that is their focus and I don’t feel that they are serving the communities that they can. I am also concerned of the way that discipline is being positioned at these schools. I also want to express my support for PVD Prep, Segue, and Nuestro Mundo. I can speak for Segue who is for the community by the community and PVP Prep is going in that same direction, making sure that we are putting our students into the hands of community members whose care is important. Also coming up with new ways of educating like Nuestro Mundo is really powerful and will lead to us into having schools that are supplementary and not fixed in systemic issues. I know that was a lot at once, but I really want to make sure that we are making decisions for our students and not on what would sound best on paper.”

Chair Cottam stated “we do not have private schools, for-profit schools, or corporate structure here; that is illegal in Rhode Island. You referenced that and I want to make sure you know we do not have that.”

Student Representative Feliz asked if he could clarify the statement. “I am not saying that for Rhode Island schools specifically and I am not saying that charter schools are being funded by for-profit companies, but what I am saying is that they are run by overhead organizations and not really run by administrators on the ground.”

Chair Cottam replied “I just want to make it clear that we do not have public non-profit charters.”

Member Gaines stated “I would like to go back a few years. I came on this Board the first time in 1985 and I have been on and off for 35 years. That is one-year short of three generations of school kids. I have heard these same arguments, the same excuses, since 1985. When we started on this journey of charter schools, I don’t think there was anyone on this Board who was more skeptical than I was. I am a public school product, a public school educator and I had very, very great concerns about what I call “invasion” of charters. Seeing what has happened in Rhode Island with some of the charters and Segue being a perfect example, I have softened my attitude. I respect what the charters have done, I respect the fact that so many kids have had an opportunity to excel, that parents have had the opportunity to choose. I don’t want to take that away from them, and for that reason, I am going to support all of these proposals, both for the charter expansions and the new charters, and I hope that the request that I made initially when we had the very first charter granted, that the charter schools would cooperate, that there would be a connection between the charters and the publics, and that best practices would be shared, and I would respectfully request that we make that a requirement. Charter schools need to document their efforts at reaching out for collaboration and make those efforts in a report to the Board, when they come up for either renewal or expansion. That’s it.”

Commissioner Infante Green asked if she could add something. “Jo Eva, I am one-hundred percent with you there. I think we do need to partner and I think that is part of the plan with whoever comes on board. I have heard a lot about the concerns for Providence and the Turnaround Plan. Larry, the Turnaround Plan exists, it was done, it was released a couple of months ago. The part about test scores, it is not only about test scores for us; we also looked at dropout rates. When we are losing a quarter of our kids, dropping out of our system, that is a whole different story. We shouldn’t be the ones that choose whether parents select a school or not. If a parent selects that school, they feel is the right school for their kid; we don’t have that right. Parents of color do not have a lot of choice and resources. That is the bottom line. So, we should not be closing opportunities.

I agree with Larry and I agree with Brandon. Charter schools are a small portion of the solution; they are not the solution and we are not going to fix what is happening in Providence with charter schools. What we are going to do is give families the ability to have their kids in there. I want to make it clear that is a small percent and don't think that we are not trying to change the whole system. But those of you who are educators, know that it takes time to do that and we should not tell parents that your kid cannot be in another program because it is going to take us five years. We cannot do that.

Here is the other piece. Gara, I do want to reassure you that we are working on wraparound services and we are making an announcement next week on two programs that are starting. I had to fight tooth and nail because the status-quo didn't want me to bring "clinics" to the schools. They didn't want me to bring these partnerships. This is a small piece of the conversation. Maybe I haven't done a good job sharing everything we are doing, but I have to tell you that the pushback that I got to get these clinics and to have doctors and nurses that look like the community, I cannot tell you. We also haven't stopped anything else that we are doing. We cannot afford to do that. We have heard Harrison say many times, we don't get a COVID pass, kids of color don't get a pass; that is not how it works. This is life or death for a lot of kids, and how we feel, we don't have that right.

I do want to say that we do have things that are happening in Providence. We are getting ready to release our one-year report. I have the honor to sit with some hard working teachers last week who said that they received the best PD that they have ever received as educators. We invested in teachers. We are not trying to take away from Providence. We are responsible for all of the kids and the parents. This is not about one or the other. This is not what this is about. We have not taken our foot off the gas. We cannot do that. We are fighting over a handful of seats. The big work is happening in Providence every single day and what we have managed to do the last 12 months, hasn't been done in the last ten to twenty years. So there is hope, and at the end, we are responsible for all of the kids. When I talk about racism, I am talking about putting adult interests before kids. That is racism and I need us to be very clear that we are not going to let down the families and the kids in Providence. It is not just about test scores, but we know that with the tests scores we can see which kids are doing better and which are not dropping-out. Those are the things that we are looking at. I would not be able to sleep if we denied families that opportunity."

6a2. Approval of the RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School Proposal for an Expansion

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School's proposal for an expansion to begin in school year 2021-2022.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez,

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

ABSTAINS: 0

6a3. Approval of the Segue Institute for Learning Proposal for an Expansion

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve Segue Institute for Learning's proposal for an expansion to begin in school year 2021-2022.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez,

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

ABSTAINS: 0

6a4. Preliminary Approval of the Excel Academy Rhode Island Proposal for a New Charter

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to grant preliminary approval to Excel Academy Rhode Island’s proposal for a new charter to open in school year 2022-2023; with final approval contingent on the completion of all pre-opening requirements and conditions established by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Member Field expressed that the voices of the alumni who went back to their schools to give back to their communities was really, really important to hear and understand, because in some ways it feels like the outside coming in, and that is what swayed her, the alumni.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez,

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

ABSTAINS: 0

6a5. Preliminary Approval of the Nuestro Mundo Proposal for a New Charter

On a motion duly made by and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines Amy Beretta it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to grant preliminary approval Nuestro Mundo’s proposal for a new charter to open in school year 2021-2022; with final approval contingent on the completion of all pre-opening requirements and conditions established by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field,
Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez,

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

ABSTAINS: 0

6a6. Preliminary Approval of the Providence Preparatory Charter School Proposal for a New Charter

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Gara Field it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to grant preliminary approval to Providence Preparatory Charter School's proposal for a new charter to open in school year 2021-2022; with final approval contingent on the completion of all pre-opening requirements and conditions established by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 2 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field,
Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez,

NAYS: Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill

ABSTAINS: 0

6a7. Denial of the Wangari Maathai Community School Proposal for a New Charter

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Gara Field it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to deny preliminary approval of the charter proposal submitted by Wangari Maathai Community School.

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6b1. Approval of Necessity of School Construction - Central Falls

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling \$7,665,597, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6b2. Approval of Necessity of School Construction - Exeter-West Greenwich

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling \$17,800,000, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

6b3. Approval of Necessity of School Construction - Narragansett

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 Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling \$8,311,372, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-7-41.1, as presented

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

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

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.