



Enclosure 2b
May 9, 2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
March 28, 2017

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the March 28, 2017, meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, noted for the record that Member Purtill would not be joining the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Daniel McConaghy, *Colby Anderson, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

Absent: Lawrence Purtill

[*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

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 accepts the agenda for the meeting of March 28, 2017

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the February 22, 2017, Council Meeting

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the February 22, 2017, Council Meeting

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Member Forbes had to recuse herself from the vote as she did not attend the February 22, 2017, Meeting of the Council]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair McConaghy reported that no one had signed up to speak at Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Wagner began by introducing and welcoming RIDE's new Communications Officer, Megan Geoghegan, who comes to RIDE from Congressman Langevin's Office.

The Commissioner also announced that RIDE recently hired a Project Manager, who will be charged with two high-priority projects: the Governor's challenge around the Third Grade Reading Plan that was launched yesterday, as well as the New Skills for Youth Grant that Rhode Island was recently awarded.

Commissioner Wagner ended by reporting that he and Governor Raimondo co-signed letters that were sent to Rhode Island high school students who did particularly well on the PSAT test last fall. The letters congratulated and encouraged students to take advanced level courses, including advanced placement and dual and concurrent enrollment courses.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Appeals Committee Recommendations

Joe Rodio, Jr., Counsel to the Council, gave a brief overview on each of the Appeals Committee recommended decisions:

- Ramon Perez v. Providence School Board
- MET v. Chariho Regional School District
- DCYF v. Foster-Glocester School Committee (Student N. M.)
- DCYF v. Foster-Glocester School Committee (Student D. Doe)
- Cheryl Gibbs v. East Providence School Committee
- Student M. and Student J. v. Chariho Regional School District

b. 2018 Budget Proposal - Update

Commissioner Wagner provided an update on the components of the budget that the Council approved and which made it to the Governor's proposed budget:

- Full funding of the Funding Formula;
- Making the English Learners weight permanent moving forward;
- Increased access to early education programs through the categorical;
- Funding of the Rhode Island Promise proposal; and
- Funding for an advanced manufacturing course of study at the Davies Career and Technical High School.

Due to too many priorities and not enough resources, other initiatives that the Council had authorized to be submitted, such as investing in instructional fellows to come out of the classrooms to help RIDE lead the work of instructional improvement, were not included in governor's budget proposal. Many of the smaller programs did make it through including:

- \$200,000 for the kindergarten entry profile;
- A line item for the advanced coursework, albeit at a much lower amount;
- Targeted monies to support adult access to GEDs; and
- Funds to support English Language Learners.

Commissioner Wagner emphasized that every State Agency has to submit a constrained budget to help with the state's structural deficit, which means roughly a \$600,000 cut for RIDE in addition to a \$900,000 turnover target for the coming year. RIDE typically saves around \$300,000 annually from vacancies that the agency does not fill right away and will use those savings towards meeting the agency's target. RIDE will continue to have internal conversations on how to best achieve its targets with limited impact on services.

c. ESSA and Comprehensive Study and Unified Approach to Education - Update

Mary Ann Snider, Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, led the discussion and stated that she and the Commissioner recently attended a legislative conference around ESSA and the repeal of the federal regulations for accountability and school improvement. She shared that like other states that grounded their ESSA plans around the law, Rhode Island is in better shape than those states that had drafted early plans and payed close attention to the draft regulations that kept changing.

Deputy Snider explained that to shape the recommendations for the initial draft of the ESSA plan, RIDE spent the better part of last July through now engaging the field and gathering input. Based on that feedback, RIDE is starting to bring recommendations back out to the field and has scheduled six additional community forums.

Next, Deputy Snider brought the Council up to speed on the four major topics in the ESSA law:

- 1) Goals, accountability, and report cards;
- 2) School improvement strategies;
- 3) Supports for educators and leaders; and
- 4) Supports for students and schools.

Council members cautioned against setting the bar too low, as it will result in low outcomes. They are also concerned that if we keep changing the testing instruments, we will never get a true measure of student results.

Commissioner Wagner responded that we are setting the bar high, but we have to strike a balance because if you do not have a realistic target that is based on evidence and one that people can actually hit, they will just ignore it. As far as testing companies, they are only service providers who provide a service to measure student progress on our State standards adopted six years ago.

Deputy Snider shared some initial recommendations for the RI ESSA plan that moves away from a compliant-based accountability system to one that is more about shared responsibility.

Next, Deputy Snider went over the accountability system factors, the accountability composite index score, report cards, school improvement strategies, supports for educators and leaders, and supports for all students and schools.

d. Overview of the 2017 Charter RFP - Key Updates and Timeline

Steven Osborn, Chief of Innovation, went over key updates to the 2017 charter proposal cycle for both new charter applications and expansions, based on public feedback that RIDE received during the last application process.

- Enhanced public comment process:
 - o Extend public comment period to 116 days;
 - o Open-source local impact analyses;
 - o Public hearings post-posting of local impact analyses.
- Consolidated and differentiated proposal format:
 - o Retain focus on increasing quality student seats with a priority for serving educationally disadvantaged students;
 - o Unified proposal timeline, process, and procedures.
- Increased opportunities for feedback to applicants:
 - o RFP technical assistance sessions before charter deadline to help clarify and address any questions raised by charter applicants about the process;

- Draft proposal quality evaluations prior to capacity reviews – at least one week prior to each capacity interview, applicants will receive draft proposal quality evaluation, which will identify each unmet standard, enabling applicants to best prepare for capacity interviews.

6. ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Appeals Committee Recommendations:

6a1. Ramon Perez v. Providence School Board

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve the Appeals Committee recommendation on the matter of the Ramon Perez v. Providence School Board, as presented.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

Member Callahan recused herself from the vote.

6a2. - MET v. Chariho Regional School District

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve the Appeals Committee recommendation on the matter of the MET v. Chariho Regional School District, as presented.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

6a3. - DCYF v. Foster-Glocester School Committee (Student N.M.)

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve the Appeals Committee recommendation on the matter of DCYF v. Foster-Glocester School Committee (Student N.M.), as presented.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

6a4. - DCYF v. Foster-Glocester School Committee (Student D.Doe)

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Joyce Stevos it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve the Appeals Committee recommendation on the matter of DCYF v. Foster-Glocester School Committee (Student D.Doe), as presented.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

6a5. - Cheryl Gibbs v. East Providence School Committee

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve the Appeals Committee recommendation on the matter of Cheryl Gibbs v. East Providence School Committee, as presented.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

6a6. Student M. and Student J. v. Chariho Regional 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 moves to approve the Appeals Committee recommendation on the matter of Student M. and Student J. v. Chariho Regional School District, as presented.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns.

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

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.