



Enclosure 2b
February 9, 2015

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
Council on Elementary and Secondary Education
January 26, 2016

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Work Session was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at the Rhode Island Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I.

Board Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the Work Session of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present: Barbara Cottam, *Colby Anderson, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

Absent: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Jo Eva Gaines

[*Ex-Officio, non-voting member]

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the Work Session of January 26, 2016.

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

2. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Wagner began by reporting on a couple of conversations that RIDE has been engaged in with different stakeholders.

The first has been around graduation requirements and what it means for the class of 2021. In addition to all of the work that needs to be done to focus on the instructional support and improvement that we have been talking about as part of the Strategic Plan, a decision needs to be made whether or not we want to stay on course with what we currently have (class of 2021 single test as a graduation requirement) or do we do something a bit different and open up the assessment requirements to allow more options for students to demonstrate their minimum levels of competency with measures that might be more matched to their particular interests and pathways. There also needs to be a decision on what our timeline and approach should look like and what kind of supports and safety nets should be put in place along the way. At the February 9th Council meeting, RIDE will report out on the feedback that has transpired from the discussions with the various stakeholder groups that it has reached out to and met with.

He then talked about the second conversation that RIDE has been having, which is around the idea of whether there is a way to simultaneously keep the work that has been going on for the past six or seven years around student expectation standards that are tied to postsecondary readiness and career readiness along with our assessment work measuring student progress and those standards, while tweaking our accountability system with the opportunity of the federal reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, while amplifying the work around the reimagining the ways that we do schooling and the empowerment work.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Encl3a - Funding Formula Working Group - Update

Andrea Castaneda, Chief of RIDE's Division of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, joined the table and gave an overview of the final report of the Funding Formula Working Group.

She reported that the English Language Learners, Differences in Expense Profile, and Fixed and Marginal Costs Recommendations were the three topics that received the most attention and rich discussion.

Council Member Forbes voiced her concern with the word "tuition" when referencing public schools.

Next, Board Chair Cottam announced that Andrea Castaneda will be leaving RIDE and moving to Mexico with her family. She thanked her for all of her hard work and dedication to education and the students of Rhode Island and commended her for her ability to move large groups through a process and come out with an outcome that is not questioned but discussed to get to a better place for our students.

Commissioner Wagner also thanked Ms. Castaneda both personally and professionally, and conveyed that she is one of those rare individuals who can simultaneously run a very technical oriented operation, while at the same time being a deep policy thinker, while at the same time being a very effective spokesperson for the work, which is a very rare combination.

Ms. Castaneda expressed that she will miss everyone and that she enjoyed all of the challenges that she and the Council embarked on together.

Encl3b - The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (Met) Board of Trustees - Recommendation of appointees

Commissioner Wagner introduced the topic and explained that the Council has as one of its functions the responsibility of appointing members to the Boards of Trustees at the State Operated Schools and the Central Falls School Districts. The schools vet the candidates, forward the names to the Commissioner, who interviews them and makes the recommendations to the Council for final approval.

He then introduced the names of two candidates that the Met Center submitted to RIDE to fill two recent vacancies. Clark Greene, a former RIDE employee who has experience at the state and PK-12 and postsecondary levels, and Lorén Spears, a parent of students who have gone through the Met school and an advocate for educational services, particularly with respective Native American students. Both candidates bring different perspectives, which will serve the students well.

There was discussion around and agreement by some Council members that there should be set and staggered term limits for members of the various Boards of Trustees, while others voiced that it should be open-ended and be left to the individual schools to decide what works best for them.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by and seconded by Amy Beretta and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

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

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

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Karin Forbes, Marta Martinez, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.