



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION MEETING  
August 4, 2014

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education met on Monday, August 4, 2014 at the W. Alton Jones Whispering Pines Conference Center, 401 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, R.I. Council Chair Guida welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Guida thanked President Dooley and the URI staff for hosting the meeting.

**Present:** Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

**Absent:** None

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Guida entertained a motion to accept the agenda

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 accepts the agenda for the meeting of August 4, 2014 as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtill, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

## 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### - Annual Calendar of Council work sessions/meetings

Chairman Guida shared with Council members the annual calendar of Council work sessions/meetings, which was developed with their input.

For the benefit of those members who are new to the Board, Chairman Guida explained the difference between work sessions and meetings and that he was looking forward to the Council having productive and meaningful discussions and that everyone would get a fair opportunity to articulate their views in any particular area.

Council Member Callahan voiced that the PK-20 Board struggled with the fact that there was not enough time to really discuss matters in detail due to the many agenda items, and that she is looking forward to the opportunity to dedicate the necessary time and really focus on the big issues.

Chairman Guida went on to list some of the areas that the Council will be addressing over the next few meetings, and he looks forward to suggestions from Council members and encourages them to articulate any concerns that they might have.

### - Student Advisory Council

Chairman Guida explained that one of the components of Article 20 is the establishment of a Student Advisory Council to the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Student Advisory Council will consist of one elected high school student representative from each public secondary school in the State.

The chairperson of the Student Advisory Council will serve as an ex-officio and nonvoting member to the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education for a term of one year.

The law specifies that each public secondary school hold elections for its representative to the Student Advisory Council no earlier than the first day of March and no later than the end of the second full week in April.

RIDE will work with the RI Association of School Principals to get the process in place for next school year.

Eva-Marie Mancuso, Chair of the Board of Education, stated that the Governor chooses the postsecondary student who serves on the Council of Postsecondary Education and

she wonders if the same method can be applied for the selection of the student who will serve on the Elementary and Secondary Council.

Chair Guida stated that a student also serves on the Barrington School Committee as an ex-officio, non-voting member, and that the building administration does a magnificent job selecting students who have enthusiasm for serving on the school committee.

Commissioner Gist clarified that the way it is written in the statute, the students at the school elect their school representative, and that a group of students from each of the 54 high schools elect the student who will sit on the Council.

#### **- Graduating Class of 2014 - Update**

Commissioner Gist gave a periodic update on the status of the class of 2014.

Although some things have changed with the passage of new legislation, impacting the graduation requirements, she wanted to share how excited she is by the hard work by students and families, teachers, administrators, counselors, and many other adults, who stepped up to the plate, resulting in the class of 2014 being the best prepared class of students that we've had in the state. She went on to say that she is very confident that the work that our schools have been doing to change their systems, change the ways they are supporting our students, analyzing their course taking patterns and all of the things they did to make adjustments to ensure that students were better prepared when they got to high school, and as they are leaving high school.

For the benefit of those members who are new to the Council, RIDE prepared a brief history on the Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements starting with their inception in 2003. A lot has been happening over the last 11 years and a tremendous amount of work that has happened to make sure that our graduation requirements are based on multiple measures, that they take into account students' academic success, and also their ability to apply what they are learning through their senior projects, or their portfolios, or both, depending on the district.

Commissioner Gist then introduced Stephen Osborn, RIDE's Chief of Accelerating School Performance, who walked the Council through a PowerPoint presentation titled, Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements - An Update on the Class of 2014.

He began with an overview of the proficiency-based graduation requirements and the transition that has been taking place in R.I. over the last 11 years.

He also provided some high level information on the impact of S2059 SubA, most commonly referred to as the NECAP Moratorium Bill, and also how the class of 2014 met

the proficiency-based graduation requirements.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

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

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Patrick Guida, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Lawrence Purtil, Mathies Santos, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.