



**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

---

A Rhode Island Board of Education work session was held on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at the Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the work session to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Present:** Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

**Absent:** Michael Grande, Patrick Guida, and William C. Maia

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

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education amend the agenda to remove the Executive Session portion from the work session of January 9, 2014.

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

**YEAS:** Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

**NAYS:** 0

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Lawrence Purtill it was

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the amended agenda for the work session of January 9, 2014.

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

**YEAS:** Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos

**NAYS:** 0

## 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### **Item 2a – Adult Education Program Standards – Feedback from Public Review**

Commissioner Gist reported that after the Board's vote in November to allow for a 30-day public review and comment of the Adult Education Program Standards, only one public comment surfaced. The Standards were shared with the 34 state-funded adult education program administrators, the Adult Education Advisory Council and the attendees at the quarterly Adult Education leadership Institute. In addition, they were shared with the media, superintendents, principals, and the Department of Education's statewide list serve.

The Commissioner turned the presentation over to Andrea Castaneda and Phillip Less for a walk through on the presentation and to answer any questions the Board may have on the standards and the public feedback received.

Mr. Less and Ms. Castaneda answered questions on whether or not the standards pertained to English as a Second Language learners, the cost of the test and its portability, and other issues.

### **Item 2b – School Health Regulations – Request for Public Hearing**

Commissioner Gist explained that the *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs* are reviewed each year by the RI Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Health. Depending on the need or lack thereof, there may or may not be any changes required. The Commissioner indicated that this year, there are three major proposed changes to align with the new laws relating to school safety plans and assessments; new bullying and cyber-bullying laws; and the *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases immunization requirements* for seniors.

### **Item 2c – Anchor Learning Academy – Annual report and request for renewal.**

Commissioner Gist recalled that in the summer of 2011, Governor Chafee signed into law an Act Relating to Education for students with substance abuse issues. This resulted in the formation of the Recovery High School which is now known as the Anchor Learning Academy. The initial authorization was for a two year period. At the conclusion of the two year period, the School was required to submit to the Commissioner a report including their graduation rates, course performance, and performance on the state assessment, etc. Based on this and in order for Anchor Learning Academy to continue to refine their program and provide these important services to our students, the School is seeking a two year renewal of that pilot project.

### **Item 2d – Central Falls Teacher Contract**

Commissioner Gist reported that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls School District and the Central Falls Teachers Union was renegotiated. The Contract, which has already been ratified by the union, is effective September 1, 2013 through August 15, 2015.

### **Item 2d – OMB A-133 Compliance Report for URI, RIC & CCRI**

Associate Commissioner Susan LaPanne presented the A-133 audit performed by the external audit firm of O'Connor and Drew on each institution. These reports are used to audit approximately \$300 million dollars in various federal student aid and federal grant programs. Dr. LaPanne explained that the report presented to the Board for their approval contained only four minor deficiencies system wide, all of which have been addressed. There were no material deficiencies reported. Said reports were completed within the required completion date and in compliance with the requirements of the State Controller's office.

### 3. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, January 13, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. -- meeting  
North Kingstown Senior High School, 150 Fairway Drive, North Kingstown

Friday, January 31, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. – work session  
RI Department of Education

Thursday, February 6, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. – work session  
Barrington High School, Barrington

Monday, February 10, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. – meeting  
CCRI – Warwick

### 4. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Larry Purtill it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the work session of the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourn.
	Vote:	8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos
	NAYS:	0

The work session adjourned at 4:37 p.m.