



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Monday, January 13, 2014 at North Kingstown High School, North Kingstown, RI. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Chair Mancuso thanked Superintendent Phil Auger, School Committee Chair Kimberly Page and all members of the School Committee and Principal Dr. Thomas Kenworthy and his staff for hosting this evening's meeting.

Attendance was as follows:

Antonio Barajas: present
Michael Bernstein: present
Colleen A. Callahan: present
Karin Forbes: present
Jo Eva Gaines: present
Michael A. Grande: absent
Patrick A. Guida: present
William C. Maaia: absent
Eva-Marie Mancuso: present
Lawrence Purtill: present
Mathies Santos: present

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Michael Bernstein and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education accept the agenda for the meeting of January 13, 2014.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Colleen A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, and Patrick Guida

NAYS: 0

[Member Lawrence Purtill joins the meeting.]

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2013 WORK SESSION

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of December 5, 2013.

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 A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2013 MEETING

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2013.

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 A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2013 EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Michael Bernstein, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the executive session of December 9, 2013.

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 A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Mancuso reminded everyone wishing to address the Board that they would be limited to two minutes per person. The following individuals spoke:

Joseph Gravina, Director of Technology and Information Systems,
Segue Institute for Learning

- Mr. Gravina who spoke in support of the School's renewal, highlighted its revamped portfolio system and the students' individual portfolios on performance based assessment. He was pleased to announce that Viola Davis has donated \$30,000 to the School through the Safeway Foundation

Elizabeth Connelly, Director, Anchor Academy

- Supports the renewal of Anchor Learning Academy

Fay Baker, Acute Care and Integrated Health Services, The Providence Center

- Supports the renewal of Anchor Learning Academy

Gary Bliss, Director of Government and External Relations, The Providence Center

- Supports the renewal of Anchor Learning Academy

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mancuso reported that she continues to speak on behalf of the Board at different functions throughout the state. Last week Chair Mancuso and Clark Greene participated in a forum that RIPEC ran at Fidelity Investments on funding and the status of higher education. Chair Mancuso continues to meet with Governor Chafee on a weekly basis updating him on higher education issues.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gist thanked everyone in the North Kingstown School District for welcoming and hosting this evening's meeting.

5a. Updates and issues affecting local and national education.

Commissioner Gist presented the timeline for the release of the NECAP results for the assessments that were given to students last October. As the timeline reflects, information will be released much sooner than has been typically done.

The Commissioner was pleased to announce that on December 20th, President Obama named two Rhode Island teachers as winners of the 2012 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching: Ms. Regina Kilday, a mathematics teacher at the Metcalf Elementary School in the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District; and Ms. Clare Ornburn, a science teacher with the Ashaway Elementary School in the Chariho Regional School District.

Lastly, the Commissioner reported that four Providence Schools placed in the top ten out of 143 schools from across the country that have signed up for the *Get Schooled Grad4Más Attendance Challenge*. They are:

Gilbert Stuart Middle School, 2nd Place;
Governor Christopher Del Sesto Middle School, 3rd Place;
Mount Pleasant High School, 4th Place; and
Juanita Sanchez Educational Campus, 10th Place.

She congratulated the students, teachers and their families for the great work they are doing to improve attendance and advance teaching and learning.

5b. Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.

Clark Greene reported on behalf of the Office of Higher Education. He reported that the Department of Academic and Student Affairs together with the Department of Education are in the process of working with the organization *Jobs for the Future* on strengthening dual enrollment opportunities in the state. This effort is being launched to inform the work of the Board and in response to legislation passed by the General Assembly last year. *Jobs for the Future* has worked in multiple states across the nation on developing dual enrollment policies and structures. They have also done work in Rhode Island in the past on this issue and are knowledgeable about the existing options and programs available to Rhode Island students. The office is looking forward to getting this work under way in early February.

Last week, the Office of Higher Education submitted to the legislature their report on Senate Resolution 512 which requested that our institutions support and encourage Rhode Islanders who have earned some post-secondary academic credits to complete their postsecondary degrees. So far, CCRI has helped 452 students who had accrued partial credit toward a degree, RIC continues its work with their "Finish Strong" program, as well as URI, who at the last meeting reported their success with their "Finish What You Started" program. The Office is going to continue to look at these practices and to look at practices nationwide, and hopefully come back with recommendations to the Board on how to continue to strengthen these programs.

OHE is launching a series of three workshops next month on how to work collectively as a system to improve the college-going and graduation gaps for low-income and minority students in our state. The workshops are being delivered by The Education Delivery Institute. Mr. Greene thanked Vice Presidents Greg Lamontagne, Ronald Pitt and Provost Donald DeHayes for the high-level leadership they have been providing to ensure Rhode Island's nontraditional students are successful in college.

From the Office of Finance and Management there will be a presentation on the 2013 External Audit Reports, OMB A-133, for approval. The office continues to work with the institutions on the Affordable Care Act with the assistance of legal counsel to be assured that we are in compliance with the ACA. At present, work is being done on:

- The Governor's Office and OMB on budget and legislative proposals from the institutions and budget and legislative language on the Board's governance proposal;
- The response to the audit waiver report;
- Revisiting the Board's policies on proprietary schools; and
- The National Guard on an issue relating to grades and reimbursement for students whose military service may interrupt their studies.

6. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

6a. University of Rhode Island

Provost Donald DeHayes presented a report on behalf of the University. He explained that the University has been awarded a grant from the Small Business Administration to become the new host of the Rhode Island Small Business Development Center. The first year of the grant is for \$575,000. This will enable the University to provide economic development to small businesses throughout the state.

The Provost informed the Board that the University has introduced multiple new classes including a new introductory bio-technology class being made available to students on-line, which joins the list of growing credit bearing dual enrollment classes being offered. There is also a non-credit bearing class involving the School of Education and the Department of Mathematics working with the teachers and students at Cranston High School East to improve student's math skills.

As part of the University's progress on keeping track of student credit completion, the University has begun a program, *Fifteen to Finish*, whereby students are encourage to complete 30 credits per year. Provost DeHayes was happy to report that the University has seen an increase from 45% of students completing 15 credits per semester to 65% in just a few years. The University hopes this trajectory will continue.

6b. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo was pleased to report that the two Rhode Island teachers who received the Presidential Award for Excellence, Ms. Clare Ornburn and Ms. Regina Kilday, are both Rhode Island College alums. President Carriuolo was also happy to report that four out of ten awards for scientific research at the seventh annual New England Science Public-Biology New England South Regional meeting were awarded to RIC students.

The College is offering students additional ways to supplement their studies including an Early Spring Session which offers undergraduate and graduate courses during the College's traditional winter break.

Lastly, President Carriuolo announced that Ms. Viola Davis, also a RIC alum, donated \$10,000 to the College for the Upward Bound Program.

[Member Mathies Santos arrived]

6c. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale presented the Board with highlights from his written report which included:

- The College has received a \$380,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation to make upgrades in the College's manufacturing equipment. These upgrades are particularly exciting for the College as the Governor's Workforce Board announced two CNC certificate programs will be used as the classroom portion of a new, nontraditional manufacturing apprenticeship program with Rhode Island Manufacturing Extension Services and the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association.

- The College's 10-year visit from NEASC is scheduled for March 30th through April 2, 2014. A comprehensive self-study has been completed which reflects on the incredible work done by multiple committees and the entire College community.
- Most recently, students participated in an MIT climate change research program. Students who took part in the workshops are now part of data that the project is collecting for its two-year research initiative. Ultimately, the data analysis from the project will be made public in the hopes that state and local officials and the general public can see the ways in which they can have an impact in local communities struggling to deal with the effects of climate change.
- The College's Police Department is offering a series of domestic violence and sexual assault awareness trainings this month. The program will also include a component related to Title IX, which protects against sexual harassment and sexual discrimination.
- The CCRI Foundation's "Changing Lives Celebration" held on December 12th raised nearly \$67,000 to help even more students achieve their dreams. President Di Pasquale thanked all the Board members who attended the event and helped make it a success.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7a. New Data Hub Data

Mary Ann Snider along with Peg Votta of the Rhode Island Department of Education presented the RI Data HUB story on "Math Preparation and Postsecondary Success" which helped answer the question "*Does secondary math proficiency affect Rhode Island students' postsecondary success?*" Participants included the RI Office of Higher Education, ProvPlan, RI Kids Count, CCRI, RIC, URI, College Unbound/Big Picture Learning, Facilitator Mary Jo Feeney, and Julia Steiny, Communications Consultant. This story represents the struggle with graduation requirements and the level of math needed to be successful in post-secondary studies. The story began with a cohort of students who in 2005-06 were 8th graders, and are now enrolled in colleges/universities within and outside of Rhode Island. The group focused on what level of math is necessary to help students be successful.

Peg Votta, walked the Board through a slide presentation which showed that:

- High math proficiency is related to higher college enrollment:
 - Fewer than 42% of those who scored at Level 1 on the 11th-grade NECAP enrolled in higher education;
 - Nearly 81% of those who scored at levels 3 and 4 on the 11th-grade NECAP enrolled in higher education.
- Where do they go? Documenting an educational "brain drain":
 - Of the students who enrolled in postsecondary education, more than one-third (37%) of Level 3 students and nearly two-thirds (63%) of Level 4 students attended out-of-state institutions.
- Low NECAP proficiency forecasts student need for remedial math at CCRI:
 - Roughly 80% of students who scored a level 1 on the math NECP needed substantial remediation in math, as measured by Accuplacer at CCRI.
- Yes, high school math proficiency strongly correlates with academic success in college:
 - Only 24% of Level 1 students enrolled in and persisted to a third semester of college.

At the end of the slide presentation, Commissioner Gist spoke of the actions that are under way in K-12 which include:

- Implementing the Common Core state Standards and aligned assessments across all grade levels;
- Increasing the rigor of mathematics instruction in high school;
- Providing additional support to students whose achievement falls below proficiency; and
- Continuing to implement the RI Diploma System to ensure our students are better prepared for success beyond high school.

Clark Greene presented the actions under way within postsecondary education, such as:

- Funding personalized academic student support services at each of Rhode island's public postsecondary institutions;
- Partnering faculty members with local school districts to provide intensive professional development in math instruction; and
- Conducting longitudinal research to better understand PK-20W student outcomes.

Wrapping up the presentation, Chair Mancuso listed the actions still needed:

- Ensure that districts are working to identify and support middle-school students with low achievement levels in mathematics and that high-school students enroll in course sequences that provide instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards;
- Ensure that districts and higher-education institutions present more opportunities for contextualized mathematics learning with hands-on experience;
- Ensure that intensive math remediation is available and that students are placed in co-enrolled postsecondary credit-bearing courses with remedial support; and
- Ensure more significant state merit scholarships and internships are offered to motivate our highest-achieving math students to stay in Rhode Island.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8a. Approval of the Adult Education Program Standards

Chair Mancuso noted that since last Thursday's Work Session, the Board has received six letters of support from the Adult Program Centers.

On a motion duly made by Jo-Eva Gaines and seconded by Patrick Guida, it was

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves the Adult Education Program Standards, effective January 14, 2014, as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

8b. Approval of the School Health Regulations for the purpose of Public Hearing

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education authorizes the proposed rules and regulations for School Health Programs, for the purpose of public hearing, as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

8c. Approval of the Anchor Learning Academy's request for renewal

Chair Mancuso noted that the Board has received a letter of support from Speaker Gordon Fox on Anchor Learning Academy's request for a renewal.

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Patrick Guida it was

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves to extend the term of the Anchor Learning Academy for two (2) additional years, authorizing them as a Recovery High School Program until June 2016 under their current operating terms, as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

8d. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District

Member Bernstein congratulated all parties involved in negotiating the Agreement.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Michael Bernstein it was

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education approves the proposed September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2015, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative, 0 members voted in the negative and 1 member recused as follows

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

NAYS: 0

Recused: Colleen A. Colleen

8e. Approval of the OMB A-133 Compliance Report for URI, RIC and CCRI

Chair Mancuso presented for approval the OMB A-133 compliance reports for URI, RIC and CCRI for the current fiscal. She indicated that representatives for O'Connor and Drew were available to address any questions the Board may have.

Member Callahan thanked Dr. LaPanne for the excellent report she provided the Board with at the Work Session and congratulated her on the good work.

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded by Mathies Santos it was

VOTED: That the RI Board of Education accepts the A-133 audit reports for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013, as presented.

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

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

NAYS: 0

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mancuso entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss:

9a. Update on Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) (all bargaining units except Graduate Assistants United)

On a motion duly made by Patrick Guida and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education convenes in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) for the reason set forth above.

A roll call vote on this motion was taken as follows:

- Antonio Barajas: yes
- Michael Bernstein: yes
- Colleen Callahan: yes
- Karin Forbes: yes
- Jo Eva Gaines: yes
- Michael A. Grande: absent
- Patrick A. Guida: yes
- William C. Maaia: absent
- Lawrence Purtill: yes
- Mathies Santos: yes
- Eva-Marie Mancuso: yes

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

After a short break, the Board convened in executive session at 6:35 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Clark Greene, Authorized Officer, RI Office of Higher Education; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Board of Education; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel; Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College; Ray M. Di Pasquale, President of the Community College of Rhode Island; Donald DeHayes, Provost for the University of Rhode Island; and Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Board Members Callahan and Purtill recused themselves from the Update on Collective Bargaining as they are involved with locals in bargaining throughout the state.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:46 p.m.

[Member Callahan rejoined the meeting in open session at this time. Member Purtill departed for the evening after his recusal from executive session.]

On a motion duly made by Antonio Barajas and seconded Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of January 13, 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 A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

Chair Mancuso noted for the record that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

11. NEXT MEETINGS

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

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Michael Bernstein and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

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 A. Callahan, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick Guida, and Mathies Santos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.