



**Enclosure 2a**  
**September 21, 2015**

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION**  
**Council on Elementary and Secondary Education**  
**August 11, 2015**

**COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education Work Session was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at the Rhode Island Department of Education, Room 501, 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI.

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the Work Session of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, declared a quorum present and noted for the record that members Beretta, Martinez and Purtill, would not be attending the meeting and that member Gaines would be departing at 6:00 p.m. He then called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Amy Beretta, Marta Martinez and Lawrence Purtill

[\*Ex-Officio, non-voting member]

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

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

**VOTED:** That the Council Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the work session of August 11, 2015.

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

**YEAS:** Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, and Joyce Stevos

**NAYS:** 0

## **2. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Wagner began his reporting by highlighting some of the summer school programs that he visited, events that he attended, and meetings with individual stakeholders during his first week as Commissioner.

He went on to share that the next day he would be attending a meeting of the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) Governing Board on setting the standards for each scoring level on the PARCC high-school exams and the timing of the release of high-school results. As RIDE prepares to communicate with educators and with families regarding PARCC results, it is important to remind everyone that these are new assessments, which are based on higher learning standards than we have ever had before and that the assessment results will set a new baseline for R.I. and for all states in the PARCC consortium. The performance levels that students achieve will be different from the performance levels on prior assessments, and the results will not be precisely comparable. RIDE will be transparent about the results that it will release, and will encourage everyone to be cautious about the use of the scores. Learning has to inform any decisions that are made, including decisions around graduation requirements.

## **3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Encl3a – Strategic Planning Update**

Board Chair Cottam began the discussion by stating that while the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and RIDE were working on the Strategic Plan over the last 10 months, the Postsecondary Council and the overall Board of Education have been working on their own components of the planning process. The overall Board is entering the final stages of the process and today's final discussion of the PK-12 and adult education plan will help us reach the goal of getting a full PK-20 plan adopted by mid-fall.

Commissioner Wagner shared that the important thing is to keep in mind that the plan is a living document that can be revisited and tweaked as we go along.

Andrea Castaneda walked the Council through the six (teacher and leader support, early childhood education, personalized learning statewide, globally competent graduates, and informed instructional decision-making), proposed key outcome measures of the plan and answered questions around future measures and the need for periodic check-ins with both the Council and all stakeholders on how the plan is progressing.

### **Encl3b - School Construction Update**

Commissioner Wagner introduced the topic by sharing that earlier in the day he attended an event launching the School Building Authority, which will jump-start school repairs and construction, lifting the four-year moratorium on school construction projects.

Joe da Silva, RIDE's School Construction Coordinator, updated the Council on the details of the establishment of the School Building Authority, which will expedite school repairs by funding some construction projects on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, with immediate reimbursement to school districts from the School Building Authority Capital Fund. The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education as mandated by state statute approves the necessity of projects before any state money is awarded. The Council also certifies to the General Assembly that the bonding for the projects is in line with the necessity.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made by Joyce Stevos and seconded by Karin Forbes, it was

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

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Barbara Cottam, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

[Member Gaines departed the meeting at 6:02]

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.