



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Enclosure 2c
October 21, 2013

The sixth meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Education was held on Monday, September 9th at Rhode Island School for the Deaf, Providence. Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

The board members took a roll call vote to determine who was present.

Antonio Barajas: present
Michael Bernstein: present
Colleen A. Callahan: present
Karin Forbes: present
Jo Eva Gaines: present
Michael A. Grande: not present (note: Mr. Grande arrived after the roll call vote was conducted)
Patrick A. Guida: present
William C. Maaia: present
Eva-Marie Mancuso: present
Lawrence Purtill: present
Mathies Santos: present

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mancuso asked for a motion to amend the agenda as presented in order to move up Items 9 and 10 to immediately follow the Open Forum. That way, the boards' attorneys would not sit through the entire meeting to participate in those items.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Michael Bernstein, it was

VOTED: That Agenda Items 9b and 10 be moved up on the agenda to immediately follow Open Forum.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by William Maaia and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

VOTED: That the Board accepts the agenda as amended.

Vote: 10 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 A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Mancuso explained that the Board of Education's bylaws allow for 20 minutes of public comment, limited to two minutes per person and beginning with comments pertaining to approval items on tonight's meeting agenda before presentation of comments on other topics. Speakers wishing to speak on the same topic as others were invited to appear on record stating that they agree with what others may have said on the same topic, to avoid redundancy.

Members of the Board of Education were asked to give their full attention to speakers but were reminded that they could not engage speakers in conversation or answer questions. If concerns or questions were raised from Open Forum topics, the Board could direct staff to follow up.

Because 23 speakers signed up, Chair Mancuso suggested extending Open Forum from 20 minutes to 40 minutes.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education extends the Open Forum from 20 minutes to 40 minutes.

Vote: 10 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 A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

[Michael Grande arrived during the Open Forum.]

1. Veronika Kot of RI Legal Services was concerned that only some children have access to the programs they need for progress. She said Rhode Island needs the right interventions to close equity gaps.
2. Rick Richards asked the Board to accept the ACLU petition. He had heard both Aims McGuinness and Tony Wagner state that Rhode Island needs innovative education, and he said accountability policy should focus on student needs.
3. Michael Paul of the ESL Teacher/RITELL Coordinating Counsel said that RITELL endorses the ACLU's petition and opposes high-stakes testing for ESL students. He said the NECAP is not a true measure of competence and can harm students, especially those new to the United States.

4. Jim Vincent, president of the RI-NAACP, also opposes high-stakes NECAP testing because he feels there is not enough time to adequately prepare students to score well.
5. Dave Egan, said that RIDE had not tested NECAP before implementing it as a graduation requirement and suggested two levels of high school diplomas, one as graduating and one for NECAP testers who could graduate with distinction.
6. Jorge Elorza of the Providence Student Union said he took the NECAP with an open mind despite feeling there is too much emphasis on one test. He wants high standards and rigor but questioned whether the NECAP is the right test.
7. Cauldierre McKay of the Providence Student Union questioned presentations by Stuart Kohl and David Driscoll at the board's retreat, noting that although four states take the NECAP test, Rhode Island is the only one tying the test to graduation requirements and also lacks the funding boost Massachusetts enjoyed. Only one person at the retreat opposed the test, and she asked Board members to listen to other viewpoints.
8. Amoreena Carney, parent of a child with a disability, said she fears her son will fail and give up after finally learning to like school because of pressures associated with NECAP. She asked the Board to ensure that its assessment and accountability policies are fair to all students.
9. Angela Miranda, student at the MET School, reported on two classes at CCRI that RIDE set up to practice math and college skills. She said the program was beneficial and should be run again to help more students become more confident and knowledgeable.
10. Luis Pena, a parent of a son with autism, fears that the Providence school system does not have the resources to treat his child effectively and that his son will fail NECAP. He asked the Board to accept the ACLU petition to reconsider the test as a graduation requirement.
11. Nick Figaro, an adjunct faculty member at CCRI, spoke of the course he taught to prepare high school students for NECAP. The class covered college basics, avenues to career choices, and improving skills such as math, and 90% of students completed the work.
12. Sandy Medeiros, parent of an East Providence junior with dyslexia and ADHD, spoke of her son's severe test anxiety. She thought it was fine to use the test as a preparation tool but asked the Board not to use it to penalize students with special needs. *[Chair Mancuso directed RIDE staff to explain the NECAP testing to Ms. Medeiros tonight.]*
13. Barbara Klein, a parent of three Classical High School students, listed several instances where NECAP tests were held on Jewish holidays. She has contacted RIDE in each instance but not received a response. *[Chair Mancuso directed RIDE staff to explain who sets the testing calendars to Ms. Klein tonight.]*
14. Sheila Resseger opposes NECAP as a graduation requirement, stating that it limits opportunities for otherwise qualified students. She said students need authentic preparation for their futures and referenced the opposition to this test as a testing requirement by Tony Wagner at the Board's August retreat.

15. Angelo Garcia from the Segue Institute thanked the Board for its support and renewal of Segue's charter in July. He said Segue will do a better job in engaging the Board, and Board members were invited to visit the school and become more active in what Segue is doing in its community.
16. Tina Egan, parent of an East Greenwich senior with Down's Syndrome, noted that a Department of Justice settlement embraces employment for students with disabilities, but the NECAP test is a barrier preventing students from receiving the diploma they need for employment. She asked the Board to consider the employment needs of all children.
17. Sissy Ross, a junior at Classical High School, urged the Board to vote in favor of the petition to start a public process regarding NECAP in order to hear from all sides. As one who suffers from anxiety disorder, Ms. Ross urged the Board to open doors to education, not provide roadblocks.
18. Dennis Langley asked why private high schools are exempt from the NECAP graduation requirement. He said the test affects parents and the community and suggested that preparation begin earlier, in all 12 years of a student's education, and that its assessment be evaluated carefully.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mancuso asked for a roll call vote to enter into executive session to discuss:

- a. Collective Bargaining pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) – Update on negotiations with all higher education collective bargaining units (except graduate assistants)
- b. Discussion of Litigation – Providence Student Union et al. v. Board of Ed. et al. pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)

The board members voted as follows to enter into Executive Session:

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

With a unanimous vote, the Board entered Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.

All non-Board members in the audience were excused with the exception of Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education; Clark Greene, Interim Commissioner of Higher Education; David V. Abbott, General Counsel/Deputy Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education; Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations for the Board of Education; Ronald Cavallaro, General Counsel for the Board of Education/Office of Higher Education; David Dooley, President of URI; Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College; Ray Di Pasquale, President of CCRI; and Joseph Rodio, Attorney.

Colleen Callahan and Lawrence Purtill participated in the discussion on Item 9b but were recused from the Executive Session discussion on Item 9a.

After the Board's closed discussion, on a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Antonio Barajas, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education reconvenes in Open Session.

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

YEAS: Eva-Marie Mancuso, Antonio Barajas, Michael Bernstein, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:23 p.m.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session discussion of September 9, 2013.

Vote: 11 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, Michael Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

10. Additional Action Items

a. Board Determination on Petition of Providence Student Union et al.

Chair Mancuso informed the public that during executive session, the Board of Education had taken a roll call vote on Item 9b, Discussion of Litigation – Providence Student Union et al. v. Board of Ed. et al. pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2), and heard a motion to deny the petition to reconsider amendments to “high stakes testing” contained in the letter to the Rhode Island Board of Education contained in the petition dated June 21, 2013.

The roll call vote to deny the petition was recorded as follows, with the understanding that voting “yes” means to deny the petition and voting “no” means to allow the petition:

Antonio Barajas: no
Michael Bernstein: yes
Colleen A. Callahan: no
Karin Forbes: yes
Jo Eva Gaines: yes

Michael Grande: no
Patrick Guida: yes
William Maaia: yes
Eva-Marie Mancuso: yes
Lawrence Purtill: no
Mathies Santos: no

With 6 board members in favor of denying the petition and 5 members opposed, the petition was denied.

2. APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2013, WORK SESSION

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Patrick Guida, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the work session of July 11, 2013.

Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2013, MEETING

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 meeting of July 15, 2013.

Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2013, SPECIAL MEETING

Before voting, Mathies Santos noted that he had been absent from the special meeting when the duties of commissioner had been transferred to Clark Greene, but he wanted to acknowledge Ray Di Pasquale for taking on those duties for the past several years. The board recognized and thanked Mr. Di Pasquale.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED:	That	the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the special meeting of August 14, 2013.
	Vote:	11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
	NAYS:	0

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mancuso thanked the Rhode Island School for the Deaf for hosting tonight's meeting and presented a proclamation to Travis Zellner in thanks for his leadership as chair of the School for the Deaf Board of Trustees.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

a. Report of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Gist has been visiting schools and is pleased with the energy they are showing at the start of this school year.

Applications are out for Green Ribbon Schools and are due on January 15, 2014.

Commissioner Gist will share with Board members a letter on college readiness.

She will bring a set of charter-school preliminary approvals before the Board at its October meeting, with a summary of the review process and public comments at the October work session.

Commissioner Gist also noted that the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy was not expanded by the Board's recent vote; rather, the charter renewal included a reconfiguration of the school design. The charter cap is still 770 and that did not change. Board members had several questions, which Commissioner Gist and Andrea Castañeda answered regarding Blackstone Valley Prep. The school's sites expanded in the Board's vote, from 5 to 7 sites, housed in Lincoln, Central Falls, and Pawtucket. It was noted that it would have been helpful to the Board if the expansion had been a separate approval request from the school's charter renewal for clarification. Chair Mancuso asked Board members to raise questions at the work session or the meeting before voting rather than revisiting past issues.

b. Report of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Interim Commissioner Clark Greene said the Office of Higher Education (OHE) has developed an RFP to increase performance through collaboration with K-12 and postsecondary education. Resources for veterans returning to school, including mental health, will be funded through CAGS.

The capital budget for the public higher education system is on tonight's agenda for approval. There is a meeting next Thursday at 1:00 with the State Budget Office and the Department of Administration.

OHE has developed an RFP to solicit help with the Affordable Care Act, in part to help sort out who is the employer and what is the role of the Board. The federal government has postponed the implementation of this act, which will give the system more time to plan.

Finally, Mr. Greene mentioned a recent *Providence Journal* Op-Ed piece in praise of the Office of Higher Education. He thanked Deborah Grossman-Garber for her work on that project.

6. APPROVAL ITEMS

Because the meeting had gone on so long already, Chair Mancuso suggested moving quickly through the action items rather than repeating the information that was already presented to the Board at its work session on September 5th. New information or new questions or concerns from Board members could be raised tonight.

6a – Revisions to the RI Educator Preparation Standards – Request for Public Comment

On a motion duly made by Mathies Santos and seconded by Patrick Guida, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves, for the purpose of public review and comment, the revisions to the RI Education Program Standards as presented.

Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

6b – Approval of Special Education Regulations

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves and adopts the changes to the Special Education Regulations, as presented.

Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6c, Appointment of New Members to the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

- VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the appointment of Joe Fischgrund, Lindsay Medeiros, Amanda Montgomery, and Heather Niedbala to serve on the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees as presented.
- Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
- NAYS: 0

The new appointees to the Board of Trustees were asked to stand, and the Board of Education recognized them.

Item 6d, Acceptance of Higher Education Capital Budget – FY 2015

Michael Bernstein wished to note the importance of having a solid and modern Student Union at the University of Rhode Island.

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

- VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the FY 2015 through FY 2019 Capital Improvement Plan as presented.
- Vote: 10 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, , William C. Maaia, and Lawrence Purtill
- NAYS: 0

[Mathies Santos had stepped out prior to the vote.]

Item 6e, Tenure for URI's Vice President for Research & Economic Development

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

- VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the granting of tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) for Dr. Gerald Sonnenfeld at the University of Rhode Island, effective as of October 1, 2013.
- Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
- NAYS: 0

Item 6f, Revised Resolution Regarding URI's Facility Clearance

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

- VOTED:** That the Board of Education adopts the attached revised resolution which delegates authority over user agency contracts to a managerial team at the University of Rhode Island.
- Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.
- NAYS: 0

Item 6g - Approval of a Uniform Real Estate License Agreement for the Re-establishment of a House for URI's Delta Sigma Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternal Organization

President Dooley asked General Counsel Louis Saccoccio to address the board regarding some recent changes in the Uniform Real Estate License Agreement. Atty. Saccoccio quickly outlined the changes, which were minor and which URI found reasonable, and it was noted that the Board would be voting to approve the amended version of the Agreement that had been distributed to them prior to the start of tonight's meeting.

Patrick Guida recused himself from voting on the grounds that he is a member of a different chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternal Organization.

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That approves this amended Uniform Real Estate License Agreement for the re-establishment of a house for the Delta Sigma chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternal organization, subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Committee.

Vote: 10 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, Michael A. Grande, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

Item 6h, Appointment of the Vice President of Administration and Finance at URI

Michael Grande stated that he found Ms. Valentino's education in her area to be lacking compared with the education of David Patton, the vice president of administration, whom the Board recently appointed at CCRI. For this reason, he would be opposing Ms. Valentino's appointment.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the appointment of Christina Valentino as the Vice President for Administration and Finance at the University of Rhode Island.

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS: Michael A. Grande

Item 6i, Recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee (PRC) for a Position at URI

Anne Marie Coleman, Assistant Vice President for Human Resource Administration at the University of Rhode Island, presented the Personnel Review Committee's request to create a new position at the University, the Director of Community and Organization Development.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the recommendation of the Personnel Review Committee.

Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 7a, the RIDE Operating Budget – FY 2015.

Commissioner Gist reported on three budgets that RIDE will bring before the Board for approval in October. Targets include \$41 million for Year Four of the funding formula. Mr. Dunham added that packets have three additional slides to address questions raised at the work sessions. The 7% constrained, hold-harmless budget includes education aid, retirement, and housing aid. The constrained budget is 7% of ACES, or \$18.5 million. In response to a question of how much ACES money includes pass-throughs, Mr. Dunham said \$5.3 million for accelerated school performance includes \$2.75 million in pass-throughs. There are also \$200,000 in grants to local districts, \$1.3 million in legislative grants, and \$200,000 required to match school lunch programs. Total ACES is \$9.8 million, with a quarter of that pass-throughs, leaving a balance of \$14.5 million.

Item 7b, Higher Education Governance Discussion – Goals and Functions

Interim Commissioner Greene referred to the two documents distributed at the work session and again tonight. They contain a proposal process with a timeline for Board objectives, and Mr. Greene stressed that these documents are to be considered in draft form only, as Board members are encouraged to continue providing comments and suggestions. It was also suggested that board members be invited to the October meeting, to be held with stakeholders.

Karin Forbes noted that a strategic plan for K-20 was discussed at the Board's August retreat; when will that be put in the timeline? Mr. Greene referred Karin Forbes to the second document, which contains the items discussed at the Board retreat. He indicated that he wants a general consensus of areas to consider.

Patrick Guida asked if Board members will have an opportunity to augment the list, and Mr. Greene said this will be considered a draft, live document until adopted by the Board. Colleen Callahan suggested considering higher education functions in light of the whole K-20 system. Board members were asked to forward suggestions to Mr. Greene before the next Executive Committee meeting, which will be held on September 23rd. The R.I. Department of (Elementary and Secondary) Education (RIDE) is working on a plan already, but the Board must focus on a higher education plan because one does not exist. Michael Bernstein added that higher education is sometimes overlooked and needs a strong commitment from the Board.

Jo Eva Gaines asked about K-12 and higher education connections such as dual enrollment, and Chair Mancuso responded that anything can be put into the whole-system perspective. The goal is to show where everything fits in the continuum.

8. PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

a. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo noted that Chair Mancuso, Mathies Santos, and Governor Chafee all attended the opening of Alex and Ani Hall. Half of the hall is open and in use, and half will open in March 2014.

In addition, 800 students, faculty, and staff members attended the first-year convocation at RIC.

8,585 students are enrolled this semester, which is slightly below target, but FTEs are slightly above target.

b. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale reported that 17,790 students are enrolled at CCRI but this is not a final number; 18,000 or more are expected by the end of enrollment. The Westerly satellite campus has increased 18%. The economy continues to drive students toward community college, and President Di Pasquale plans on presenting demographics to the Board.

President Di Pasquale referred to the hard-copy report he handed out before the start of tonight's meeting, asking Board members to note on their calendars the various upcoming events. He was also pleased to note there has been a more than 7% increase in workforce development.

c. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley noted that Board members received data on URI diversity prior to the start of tonight's meeting, which contains corrections to the data presented at the Board's retreat. There has been a significant increase in diversity among faculty, staff, and students between the Fall of 2008 and 2012, and this is a critical priority for URI.

URI also realizes the importance of students' taking the right amount of credits, and President Dooley was pleased to announce that 65% of students now take 30 credits or more per year. This number has increased 20% over the past seven years.

Finally, President Dooley drew Board members' attention to a flyer each received earlier tonight for this year's symposium, "Great Public Schools." The symposium will include national and international experts, and the Board is invited to attend.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by William Maaia and seconded by Mathies Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 11 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, Michael A. Grande, Patrick A. Guida, William C. Maaia, Lawrence Purtill, and Mathies Santos.

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.