



Enclosure 2a
July 16, 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
June 18, 2019

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Board Chair Cottam, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Council Chair McConaghy, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. She noted for the record that Council Chair McConaghy and Member Beretta would not be joining the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines,
*Lauren Griffiths, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

Absent: Amy Beretta
Gara Field
Daniel McConaghy

[*Ex-officio, non-voting member]

Chair Cottam introduced and welcomed the newly elected Chair of the Student Advisory Board, Lauren Griffiths, an incoming Senior at Portsmouth High school, as the new Student Representative on the Council.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the June 18, 2019, Meeting

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

YEAS: Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the May 14, 2019, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the May 14, 2019, Meeting

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

YEAS: Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, and Marta Martinez

NAYS: 0

[Member Purtill had to abstain from the vote as he did not attend the May 14, 2019 meeting of the Council]

3. Executive Session

At 5:35 p.m., Chair Cottam asked that all non-Council members, with the exception of Commissioner Infante-Green and the legal team, to leave the room and called for an Executive Session.

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

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education enter into Executive Session for an update and discussion regarding pending litigation K.L. by and through her Parent L.L. on Behalf of a Class of Those Similarly Situated v. the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education et al. United States Court, C.A. No. 14-0077, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

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

YEAS: Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Cottam called for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session and noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education seals the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 18, 2019

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

YEAS: Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

4. OPEN FORUM

Andrew Bramson, President and CEO of the College Crusade of Rhode Island spoke on the achievements of one of the Crusades' former students, who recently spoke at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine commencement, where she received her doctorate.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Infante-Green began her report by sharing that the State budget was passed late Friday night and that she is encouraged by the General Assembly's continued commitment to Education. She is also pleased that the budget expands pre-K, fully funds K-12 education and support for multi-lingual learners, and creates four new positions at RIDE, which will allow RIDE to do important work to improve student literacy, increase support for STEM programs, and strengthen the agency's school leadership and school improvement capacity.

Next, Commissioner Infante-Green shared that the Johns Hopkins University report on the review of Providence will be released at the June 25th Council meeting. She announced that she and Mayor Elorza have scheduled eight Providence targeted forums to have open conversations with Providence educators, school staff, and administrators, as well as students, and families, on how to improve Providence schools.

Commissioner Infante-Green went on to share that the Wangari Maathai Charter School would not be opening in the fall as they were not able to secure a lease, despite negotiations with the John Hope Settlement House, before the legislatively mandated deadline of June 1st. She noted that the school's leaders had reached out to all of the impacted families to provide supports and to ensure that all children are successfully placed. RIDE will revisit the topic later this summer to determine if the school should be given a second change to open.

Commissioner Infante-Green also gave an update on Times2 Academy. She shared that Ken McDaniel, who helped found the school and recently stepped back into the Board Chair role in April, passed away on June 11th. Upon his passing, the school requested an extension to the June 30th submission of their plan, which was prescribed to their charter renewal conditions. RIDE's charter and legal teams are working with the school leadership to identify if there is a need to update any renewal documents to match the updated timelines.

Commissioner Infante-Green ended her report by sharing that RIDE recently announced the 20 high school teams that will receive XQ+RI planning grants to develop in-depth innovation plans for student-centered schools that prepare all young people for the future. Seventeen high schools were selected, along with three teams with concepts for entirely new schools. The 32 proposals submitted were evaluated by a group of local and national experts based on how student-centered the proposal was, the boldness of the proposal, and how broad-based the planning team was that developed it. Each of the selected teams will receive a \$25,000 grant to continue building their proposals into complete innovation plans. While all the selected schools will benefit from the opportunity to build out their initial plans, in early 2020, RIDE will announce the five schools that were selected for implementation grants of up to \$500,000 each for successful redesign plans.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Proposed Changes to Certification Tests

Lauren Matlach, RIDE's Director of Educator Excellence and Certification Services, went over the two certification changes to assessment instruments and passing scores that are no longer available by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which require Council approval.

She explained that the ETS has updated the School Leaders Licensure assessment in order to better align it to the National Professional Standards for Educational Leaders as well as RI Standards for Educational Leadership. The recommended cut score of 151 is the recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study conducted in February 2018. A representative from Rhode Island participated in the standards setting study.

The second assessment is the All Grades World Language Assessment in Chinese (Mandarin). Rhode Island previously adopted ETS' content tests for French, German, Latin, and Spanish and adopting the Chinese (Mandarin) World Language test makes it more consistent with other testing requirements for All Grades World Languages. The recommended cut-score of 164 is the recommendation from the multistate standard-setting study, in which two Rhode Island representatives participated in 2012.

b. Proposed Changes to Certificate Expiration Dates

Lauren Matlach, RIDE's Director of Educator Excellence and Certification Services, explained that as part public review process during the proposed regulations changes to certification in 2018, RIDE discussed changing the expiration date for certificates by one month, from August 31 to July 20, in order to provide additional time to complete renewal requests prior to the

beginning of the school year. Since this change is not regulatory in nature, but does require Council approval, RIDE is now requesting approval for this date change. RIDE will continue to send 180-day and 90-day reminder notices to all educators whose certificates are expiring. If approved, this date change would take effect for all certificates issued beginning January 1, 2020.

Council Members asked that consideration be given to those individuals who may be finishing up some college credits in the month of August and who may be effected by this change.

c. Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget

Sandra Lopes, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Operations, introduced the topic by explaining that the Capital Budget request is essentially the first step in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget planning process on a five-year plan that covers repairs, renovations, and improvements typically at State-owned properties. This year's request includes nine projects valued at \$544M, which includes \$29M already spent or encumbered, for the Davies Career and Technical High School, the Metropolitan Career and Technical Center, the Rhode Island School for the Deaf, and selected statewide initiatives.

Next, Mark Dunham, RIDE's Finance Director, went over the nine projects and how the \$544M dollars are being allocated over the next five years. He noted that all the projects have been previously approved by the Council, the Governor, and the General Assembly.

d. Public Feedback on the proposed revisions to the Regulations on Comprehensive Early Childhood Education (CECE) Programs

Mary Ann Snider, RIDE's Deputy Commissioner, went over the additional changes made to the the regulations based on the feedback received from three organizations (RI Kids Count, RINAEYC and Ready to Learn Providence) during the public review and comment period. Most of the recommendations centered around adding clarifying language.

7. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Endorsement of World Language Standards

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

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorses the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages as Rhode Island's World Language Standards

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

Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

8. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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

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

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

Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0