



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
January 5, 2026**

**COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Chair DiCenso welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Present:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, \*Alexandra Ford, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey,

\*Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda.

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

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Joe Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**RECUSAL:** 0

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion duly made by Mary Barden and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the October 28, 2025, meeting

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members

voted in the negative as follows:

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey,

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** Colleen Callahan, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines

**RECUSAL:** 0

### **3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Infante- Green opened by thanking everyone for their presence and steadfast support over the past year, noting that their commitment has positioned Rhode Island as a national leader in education. She expressed appreciation for the steady leadership shown in recent weeks and shared her condolences for the loved ones of those who lost their lives, and all those impacted by the tragedy at Brown University. She also acknowledged RIDE's longstanding partnership with the university through fellowships, research collaborations, and the many alumni who now serve across the organization.

Next, she shared that she recently had the privilege of representing Rhode Island students, educators, and families at the U.S. Senate hearing convened by Senator Mazie Hirono regarding the proposed closure of the U.S. Department of Education. She emphasized the critical role federal funding and professional support play in serving vulnerable students and driving innovation in schools. She made clear that dismantling the Department and its support would jeopardize the academic progress students, educators, and school communities have worked hard to achieve. Her message was clear, Rhode Island has strong momentum, and sustaining it requires more federal support. She affirmed that she would continue to advocate vigorously for students at the national level. She highlighted the importance of federal resources, noting that RIDE was awarded more than \$450,000 in McKinney-Vento subgrants to several districts statewide. She added that these grants will help ensure that students experiencing homelessness have access to tutoring, technology, and critical wraparound services.

She highlighted the continued innovation of Rhode Island's educators, noting that RIDE honored three recipients of the RI STEAM Educator Awards: Erin Giuliano (Park Elementary, Warwick), Christopher Colson (Goff Middle School, Pawtucket), and Tiffany Risch (Coventry High School). These educators were recognized for integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in ways that foster creativity and prepare students for future success.

She also shared that following the discontinuation of the federal Green Ribbon program, Rhode Island launched its own state-level initiative, similar to the Blue Ribbon recognition. The Green Ribbon Awards recognize schools that promote sustainable, healthy learning environments and embed environmental education into their culture. She congratulated Wilbur and McMahan School (Little Compton); Henry J. Winters Elementary School (Pawtucket); McGuire Elementary School and Stephen Olney Elementary

School (North Providence); Narducci Learning Center and Pleasant View Elementary School (Providence); and North Smithfield High School.

Lastly, she provided an update on virtual instructional day plans for use by LEAs in the event of inclement weather or other emergencies. To date, 26 LEAs have submitted plans for the 2025–2026 academic year, with nine plans approved since the last Council meeting.

#### **4. OPEN FORUM**

Forty- eight individuals addressed the council, and thirty-four written statements were submitted.

#### **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **5a. Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Overview**

Deputy Commissioner Echelson gave a brief of the presentation and then turned the meeting over to Director of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum, Dr. Phyllis Lynch and Associate Director of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum, Aréema Sweeney-Ashby.

Dr. Phyllis Lynch announced that Rhode Island was awarded the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, totaling \$40 million over five years. The initiative is structured across three divisions – Birth through Pre-K, Elementary (K-5) and grades 6-12, with funding allocated accordingly. She explained that LEAs and community-based organizations applied to participate and that, consistent with federal requirements, RIDE prioritized high-needs schools in the selection of subgrantees. Dr. Lynch outlined the grant’s primary objectives, including the establishment of the Rhode Island READS Coaching Corps, through which each subgrantee will partner with a state-endorsed coach to strengthen literacy instruction. Subgrantees will also formalize partnerships with Educator Preparation Providers to advance high-quality literacy practices among preservice and in-service educators, ensuring alignment of a comprehensive Birth–Grade 12 literacy vision. Additionally, subgrantees will reexamine and strengthen systems to deliver coherent and aligned instruction across Tiers I, II, and III to meet the needs of all learners.

She continued by describing the anticipated outcomes, emphasizing improved classroom practice, strengthened leadership, effective implementation of high-quality instructional materials, greater MTSS coherence, and sustained focus on equity and excellence for all students.

Ms. Sweeney-Ashby began by providing an overview of the implementation timeline, noting that the grant was launched in 2024, with early 2025 dedicated to planning and initial preparation. Phase I begins in the 2025 school year with core implementation, followed by Phase II in 2026, focused on expansion and integration. Beginning in 2029, the initiative will transition to a sustainability phase to ensure long-term impact.

She explained that each participating LEA and community-based organization is developing a comprehensive literacy plan to guide its RI READS implementation. Each grantee has also hired RI READS Coach(es) to strengthen classroom instruction. Coach support includes structured professional learning

for RI READS Coaches and school/CBO leaders, in-person and virtual communities of practice, and specialized training culminating in a RIDE Coaching Endorsement. She further outlined strategies to strengthen partnerships in support of literacy outcomes, including quarterly partner convenings, expanded access to and implementation of high-quality curriculum materials (HQCM), completion of HQCM modules, and use of the Literacy Look-For tool with in-service and preservice educators and leaders. Additionally, the initiative is establishing a shared framework for identifying and supporting clinical educators who mentor candidates during clinical and residency experiences. She concluded by highlighting the alignment of educator preparation programs through competency integration, targeted professional learning, and defined graduate outcomes, with the goal that program completers demonstrate proficiency in HQCM implementation by May 2028.

### **5b. Charter School Renewals**

Deputy Commissioner Echelson gave a brief description of the presentation and then turned the meeting over to State Strategy and Student Opportunity Officer Stephen Osborn. Mr. Osborn began by presenting the charter renewals previously introduced in November, which include Beacon Charter School, Nuestro Mundo Charter School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Providence Preparatory Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, Highlander Charter School, Charette Charter School, and Village Greene Virtual Charter School.

Mr. Osborn provided a comprehensive overview of each school's performance. He then outlined the renewal recommendations advanced to the Council, including any proposed conditions associated with the renewals, for the Council's consideration and action.

Council members raised questions regarding the renewals, and Mr. Osborn responded accordingly, providing clarification and additional details as requested.

### **5c. Charter School New Seats and Expansions**

Deputy Commissioner Echelson gave a brief description of the presentation and then turned the meeting over to State Strategy and Student Opportunity Officer Stephen Osborn. Mr. Osborn began by presenting the charter new seats and expansions previously introduced in November, which include the Greene School, De La Comunidad Bilingual School, and New England Tech Academy.

Mr. Osborn provided a comprehensive overview of each school's performance. He then outlined the recommendations that would advance to the Council, for their consideration and action.

Council members raised questions regarding the new seats and expansions and Mr. Osborn responded accordingly, providing clarification and additional details as requested.

### **5d. Necessity of School Construction**

Deputy Commissioner Echelson gave a brief description of the presentation and then turned the meeting over to Chief Operating Officer Mario Carreno. Mr. Carreno began by discussing the statutory framework and necessity construction approvals, outlining the process through which LEAs apply for and receive state aid for school construction projects. He emphasized that since 2018, the Council, the General Assembly, and Rhode Island voters have collectively authorized more than \$5 billion to support the repair and renovation of school facilities in every municipality across the state.

He noted that seven LEAs are currently before the Council for consideration – East Providence, Lincoln, North Kingstown, Providence, RISE Prep, Smithfield, and West Warwick, with proposed projects totaling \$376,829,571 in eligible costs.

### **5e. Facility Opportunity Initiative**

Mr. Carreno presented the Facilities Opportunity Initiative (FOI), launched in 2022 to advance facility excellence for Rhode Island students. To date, the initiative has provided more than \$40 million in upfront funding to support the creation of transformative learning environments designed to optimize teaching and learning. Funding priorities focus on student-centered, high-impact improvements, including the development of 21st-century learning spaces and enhancements to dual-use facilities that serve both students and the broader community, such as auditorium upgrades.

He further noted that in its third year, the program prioritizes the state’s five urban and urban-core LEAs with housing aid reimbursement rates above 65 percent—Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket—with a total capital allocation of \$6,551,905.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

### **6a. Charter School Renewals**

#### **Beacon Charter School**

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 moves to renew the charter of Beacon High School for five years beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of school year 2030-2031 as presented  
And

That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Beacon Founders Academy for three years, beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of school year 2028-2029, with conditions as presented.

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Charette Charter School**

A motion was duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Amy Beretta,

**That** the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Charette High School for one year beginning with and expiring at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, with conditions as presented.

During discussion, Member Beretta made a motion for an amendment:

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was,

**VOTED:** **That** the motion be amended to include conditions and that any change in the membership of its Board of Directors first be approved by the Commissioner acting on behalf of the Council and further, the Commissioner has the right to affect a change in its board membership whenever deemed necessary.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

**ABSTAINS:** 0

After further discussion of the amended motion, it was,

**VOTED:** **That** the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Charette High School for one year beginning with and

expiring at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, with a condition that any change in the membership of its Board of Directors first be approved by the Commissioner acting on behalf of the Council and further, the Commissioner has the right to affect a change in its board membership whenever deemed necessary, and with other conditions as presented.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

**ABSTAINS:** 0

### **Highlander Charter School**

On a motion duly made by Michael Grey and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was,

**That** the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Highlander Charter High School for three years beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of the school year 2028-2029, with conditions as presented.

During discussion, Michael Grey made a motion for an amendment:

On a motion duly made by Michael Grey and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was voted:

**That** the motion be amended to renew the charter of Highlander Charter High School for two years beginning with and expiring at the end of the 2026-2027 school year and expiring at the end of the 2027-2028 with conditions and that any change in the membership of its Board of Directors first be approved by the Commissioner acting on behalf of the Council and further, the Commissioner has the right to affect a change in its board membership whenever deemed necessary.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso

Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

NAYS: Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

ABSTAINS: 0

After further discussion of the amended motion, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Highlander Charter High School for two years beginning with and expiring at the end of the 2026-2027 school year and expiring at the end of the 2027-2028 with a condition that any change in the membership of its Board of Directors first be approved by the Commissioner acting on behalf of the Council and further, the Commissioner has the right to affect a change in its board membership whenever deemed necessary, and with other conditions as presented.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

NAYS: Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

ABSTAINS: 0

### **Nuestro Mundo Charter School**

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 moves to renew the charter of Nuestro Mundo Charter School for three years beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of the school year 2028-2029, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative,

YEAS: Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**Paul Cuffee Charter School**

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 moves to renew the charter of Paul Cuffee Charter School for three years beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of the school year 2028-2029, as presented.

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Providence Preparatory Charter School**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Providence Preparatory Charter School for three years beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of the school year 2028-2029, as presented.

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Trinity Academy Charter School**

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 moves to renew the charter of Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts for three years beginning with school year 2026-2027 and expiring at the end of the school year 2028-2029, as presented.

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

### **Village Green Virtual Charter School**

On a motion duly made by Michael Grey and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Village Green Virtual Charter High School for one year beginning with and expiring at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, with conditions as presented.

During discussion, Member Beretta made a motion for an amendment:

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Michael Grey, it was voted:

**VOTED:** That the motion be amended to include a condition that any change in the membership of its Board of Directors first be approved by the Commissioner acting on behalf of the Council and further, the Commissioner has the right to affect a change in its board membership whenever deemed necessary.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

**ABSTAINS:** 0

After further discussion of the amended motion, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Village Green Virtual Charter High School for one year beginning with and expiring at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, with a condition that any change in the membership of its Board of Directors first be approved by the Commissioner acting on behalf of the Council and further, the Commissioner has the right to affect a change in its board membership whenever deemed necessary, and with other conditions as presented.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

**ABSTAINS:** 0

## **6b. Charter School New Seats and Expansions**

### **De La Comunidad Bilingual Charter School**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Michael Grey, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to preliminarily approve De La Comunidad Bilingual School with the ability to serve 628 students from Cranston, Pawtucket, and Providence as presented.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patti DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

**ABSTAINS:** 0

### **New England Technical Academy**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to preliminarily approve New England Technical Academy to become a new charter school with the ability to serve 576 students from communities statewide, with a lottery variance to ensure 75% of enrolling students come from Pawtucket Providence as presented.

**Vote:** 3 members voted in the affirmative,  
4 members voted in the negative

#### **Motion Failed**

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan, Patricia DiCenso, Michael Grey

**ABSTAINS:** 0

### **The Greene School**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Michael Grey, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to preliminarily approve the Greene School's proposal for an expansion to begin in school year 2027-2028 serving students statewide, as presented.

**Vote:** 5 members voted in the affirmative,  
2 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Amy Beretta, Karen Davis, Patti DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** Mary Barden, Colleen Callahan

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**6c. Necessity of School Construction Approvals**

**East Providence**

On a motion duly made by Mary Barden and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for the East Providence Public Schools, totaling \$6,020,304 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$2,871,685.

**Renovations:**

Orlo Avenue Elementary School	\$2,149,334
Silver Spring Elementary School	\$1,659,613
Agnes B. Hennessey Elementary School	\$249,484
Kent Heights Elementary School	\$242,251
Myron J Francis Elementary School	\$411,004
Waddington Elementary School	\$545,275
Whiteknact Elementary School	\$564,035
Riverside Middle School	\$199,308

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,  
0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Lincoln**

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

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for Lincoln Public Schools, totaling \$23,771,872 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$10,530,939.

**Renovations:**

Lincoln High School	\$10,878,935
Lincoln Middle School	\$1,725,407
Central Elementary School	\$2,401,766
Lonsdale Elementary School	\$1,661,672
Northern Elementary School	\$5,987,480
Saylesville Elementary School	\$1,116,612

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,  
0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**North Kingstown**

On a motion duly made by Mary Barden and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for North Kingstown Public Schools, totaling \$136,271,138 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$47,694,898.

**Major Projects:**

Wickford Middle School New Construction \$50,456,400

**Renovations:**

Davisville Middle School \$41,273,903

North Kingstown High School \$7,313,744

Davisville Academy \$4,706,132

Fishing Cove Elementary School \$5,498,955

Forest Park Elementary School \$5,135,614

Hamilton Elementary School \$6,800,603

Quidnessett Elementary School \$7,150,716

Stony Lane Elementary School \$7,935,071

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**Providence**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Colleen Callahan , it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for Providence Public School District totaling \$87,414,816 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$69,669,608.

**Renovations:**

Feinstein Elementary at Sackett Street	\$2,441,406
George West Elementary School	\$6,535,638
Leviton Dual Language School	\$1,826,381
Reservoir Avenue Elementary School	\$2,113,477
Robert L Bailey Elementary School	\$4,514,878
Veazie Street Elementary School	\$4,742,897
Young and Woods Elementary School	\$2,572,392
Webster Avenue Elementary School	\$3,402,897
Esek Hopkins Middle School	\$1,728,701
Nathan Bishop Middle School	\$1,617,018
Central High School	\$2,742,169
Classical High School	\$3,408,691
Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School	\$2,484,027
E-Cubed Academy	\$3,120,333
Hope High School	\$3,309,889
Juanita Sanchez Complex	\$2,339,116
Providence Career and Technical Academy	\$1,100,092

Times2 Academy	\$9,081,581
RFK PK-8 School	\$2,559,176
Lima Stuart PK-8 School	\$3,304,712
Messer West Broadway PK-8 School	\$2,490,845

**VOTE:** 7 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**RISE Prep**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Amy Beretta , it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for RISE Prep Mayoral Academy ,totaling \$51,410,489 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$15,423,147.

**Major Projects:**

RISE Prep Mayoral Academy High School

**VOTE:** 6 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** Patricia DiCenso

**Smithfield**

On a motion duly made by Mary Barden and seconded by Michael Grey , it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for Smithfield Public School totaling \$7,748,702 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$2,712,046.

**Renovations:**

Smithfield High School	\$7,294,399
Vincent J. Gallagher Middle School	\$454,303

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,  
0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**West Warwick**

On a motion duly made by Mary Barden and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines , it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Necessity of School Construction projects for West Warwick Public School totaling \$64,192,250 pursuant to 16.7-4.1 as follows (please note when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$43,843,307.

**Major Projects:**

Maisie Quinn Elementary School \$48,383,652

**Renovations:**

30 Payan Street Alternative Learning Program \$5,105,455

West Warwick High School \$6,295,919

John F. Deering Middle School \$1,444,175

Horgan Elementary School \$1,983,283

Greenbush Elementary School \$799,723

Wakefield Hills Elementary School \$180,043

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso,  
Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**6d. Facility Opportunity Initiative**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Michael Grey, it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve  
The allocation of \$6,551,905 of the FY 2026 SBA Capital Fund as follows:

Central Falls \$2,497,246

Woonsocket \$2,062,461

Providence \$856,996

Pawtucket \$815,000

West Warwick \$320,202

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

YEAS: Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education move into executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) with respect to:

Discussion and possible action with respect to pending litigation in Angelica Infante-Green, in her capacity as Chief Executive Officer, and On behalf of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education v, RIDE Professional Employees' Union, Local 2012, AFT, R.I., Superior Court Case No. PM-2025-02739, which concerns an appeal from an arbitration decision.

**Roll Call was taken by Christine Kechejian**

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

YEAS: Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

**Following Discussion**

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Mary Barden it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approve to go back into Open Session.

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

Chair Grey noted for the record that a vote was not taken with respect to the matters discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Colleen Callahan it was,

**VOTED:** That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approve to seal the minutes.

**Vote:** 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Mary Barden it was,

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

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative,

0 members voted in the negative

**YEAS:** Mary Barden, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Patricia DiCenso, Jo Eva Gaines, Michael Grey

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAINS:** 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.