



**Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m.**

**PURSUANT TO  
GOVERNOR RAIMONDO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-103,  
THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY.**

**MINUTES**

Chair Timothy DelGiudice called this remote meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present via the Zoom webinar platform.

Council on Postsecondary Education members participating remotely:

Timothy DelGiudice, Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education  
Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education (joined meeting at 5:42 p.m.)  
Dennis Duffy  
Rachelle Green  
Thomas Izzo  
Michael Mello  
Marianne Monte

Absent: Jeffery Williams

Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (RIOPC) staff participating remotely:

Ronald Cavallaro, Esq., Acting Commissioner, General Counsel  
Anne Marie Coleman, Director of Labor Relations  
Susan Mansolillo, Chief Financial Officer  
Tammy Warner, Ph.D., Assistant Commissioner, Academic and Student Affairs  
Lynn Owens, Assistant to the Commissioner

Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) participants:

Meghan Hughes, Ph.D., President  
Rosemary Costigan, Ph.D. Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Alix Ogden, Associate Vice President, Administration  
Kristen Albritton, Vice President, Finance and Strategy  
Greg LaPointe, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs  
Amy Kempe, Director, Marketing and Communications

Rhode Island College (RIC) participants:

Frank Sánchez, Ph.D., President  
Clark Greene, Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives, Chief of Staff  
Stephen Nedder, Vice President, Administration and Finance  
Robert Eaton, Director of Budget  
Helen Tate, Ph.D., Provost/Vice President, Academic Affairs

Chair DelGiudice noted that public access was provided to attendees of this Zoom webinar in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the provisions of the Executive Order, and provided contact information for those experiencing technical difficulties. He also noted that prior to the Council entering Executive Session, attendees would be placed on hold and the meeting would be locked. The Chair went on to share that at the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Council would return to Open Session and resume public access. He then mentioned that videos of the Open Sessions would be posted on the RIOPC Facebook page following the meeting.

## 1. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education accept the agenda for the meeting of December 9, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Marianne Monte, it was

VOTED:        THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of December 9, 2020.

VOTE:         6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:         Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS:         0

ABSTAINS:    0

Barbara Cottam was not present for the vote.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes

### A. Minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the minutes of the meeting that took place on October 21, 2020, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Michael Mello, it was

VOTED:    THAT        The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the

minutes of the meeting that took place on October 21 2020,  
as presented.

VOTE: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green,  
Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Barbara Cottam was not present for the vote.

### **3. Open Forum**

Chair DelGiudice noted that individuals interested in providing public comment were encouraged to submit written comments to the Council. Those written comments have been shared with Council members, are available at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and will be made part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Chair DelGiudice stated that three people registered in advance to provide verbal testimony; the registration period closed at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. He noted that each speaker was afforded three minutes to speak, in accordance with the by-laws.

Chairwoman Cottam joined the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Erik Christiansen, President of the Rhode Island College/AFT (American Federation of Teachers) and Professor of History at Rhode Island College, shared his thoughts regarding public higher education funding, and asked that the Council approve and advocate for RIC's FY22 budget.

Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, Chair, Department of Sociology at Rhode Island College, stated that she was speaking on behalf of current and future students to urge the Council to advocate for increased funding for RIC.

Vincent Bohlinger, Chair, College Council and Professor/Director of Film Studies at Rhode Island College, commented in support of President Sánchez' FY2022 budget, and encouraged the Council to approve and advocate in favor of it with the Governor and the legislature.

Chairman DelGiudice thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments.

### **4. Reports from the Chairs**

- A. Council on Postsecondary Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national higher education.

No report.

- B. Board of Education – Updates and issues affecting local and national PK-20 education.

No report.

## **5. Report from the Commissioner**

- A. Acting Commissioner Cavallaro read into the record the following notice of programmatic change that was submitted by the Community College of Rhode Island and reviewed by RIOPC. He confirmed that the change is within the role and scope of the program and that Council approval is not required.

- i. From The Community College of Rhode Island:

Establishment of a Certificate in Graphic Design

## **6. Discussion Items**

Chairman DelGiudice introduced the FY2022 budget discussion items and noted that the State of Rhode Island has yet to approve an FY2021 budget. He stated that there have been countless budget exercises conducted by the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Administration, the legislature, the institutions and the Commissioner's office. The Chair said he looks forward to the passing of a FY2021 budget within the next few days, and is hopeful for another federal COVID relief package to avoid devastating deficits at the state level which will no doubt be transferred to our institutions.

Chairman DelGiudice noted that, since the pandemic started, our institutions have spent millions of dollars on unbudgeted expenses, and have seen unpredictable fluctuations in enrollment and staggering reductions to their revenue. As a result, this Council and the institutions' administrations have been forced to make very difficult decisions that have included layoffs, contract adjustments, reductions and eliminations of programs, all with faculty and staff working tirelessly to move thousands of students to hybrid and remote learning. He thanked the faculty and staff of RIC and CCRI for their efforts.

Regarding the FY2022 budget, the Chairman stated that the Council looked to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), an inflation index specifically used for institutions of higher learning, to consider its national benchmarks, forecasts and recommendations. HEPI has recommended a 2.5% rate increase across the country. The Chair confirmed that the Council and the Commissioner's office recommended that the schools build their FY2022 budgets with a modest general revenue increase and a target 2.5% tuition increase.

As noted below, both institutions will be presenting their budgets tonight. Chairman DelGiudice remarked that CCRI has met the challenge put out by the Council, proposing a 2.5% tuition increase, while RIC is proposing a 5% increase. He cautioned that, as the State firms up their FY2021 budget, and the federal government considers additional stimulus packages, this Council may have to re-address the budget proposals.

A. The Community College of Rhode Island - Discussion of the Proposed FY2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2022-2026).

President Meghan Hughes presented a PowerPoint on CCRI's proposed FY2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2022-2026) ([CCRI document](#)). She noted that the submittal includes an unrestricted budget proposal reflecting the true costs of running the institution, and a second budget in line with the request by the State Office of Management and Budget for all state agencies to submit a budget which reflects a 15 % reduction from the enacted FY2020 budget. Continued funding for the RI Promise Program is included in the proposals. She noted that the budget proposals were prepared without having an approved FY2021 budget in place. She emphasized that the budgets support the goals of the college; to enhance student success and completion, to expand partnerships and programs, and to strengthen institutional effectiveness.

President Hughes summarized the impact the pandemic has had on faculty and students at CCRI, and the college's response to the pandemic. She highlighted recent success at CCRI, including two and three-year graduation rates among the highest in CCRI history, more degrees and certificates awarded in the '19-20 academic year than in more than 20 years, and an increase in Division of Workforce partnerships and revenue. The President noted that faced with a decline in enrollment (7% down from last fall), CCRI's priorities for the coming year include investment in student supports, advancement of its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, assessment of academic quality and investment in technology.

The President stated that the total unrestricted operating budget request is \$116,404,654, a .9% and \$1.0 million increase over the FY2020 Enacted Budget. This request includes \$55.5 million in tuition and fees, an \$800,000 or 1.4% decrease from FY20. This decrease reflects a decline in enrollment of 543 full time equivalent students (conservative number reflecting anticipated downward pressure due to the pandemic). In addition to tuition and fees, CCRI has requested \$54.4 million in state appropriations, which represents a 4.7% increase over the FY2020 Enacted Budget.

She reviewed tuition and fees, in line with the guidance provided by the Council. CCRI is asking for a 2.5% increase in tuition and fee rates, bringing its annual cost for full time students to \$4980, an increase of \$120.00. This increase is directly in line with the latest HEPI index, keeping the tuition well below the federal Pell limit of \$6,345.

She outlined the need for the \$2.4 million request in state appropriations (4.7% increase over FY20) to support the college's current level of service and expenses.

President Hughes provided an overview of the College's constrained budget that the State Office of Budget and Management directed State agencies to submit. Focusing on preserving the institutional health of the college while causing the least possible harm to its community, the college had to find \$8.5 million in new cost savings (state funded base budget reduced by \$7.5 million, combined with the anticipated reduction in \$1 million in tuition and fees due to depressed enrollment). She outlined the core principles guiding the strategy to reduce costs: preserve filled positions to the greatest extent possible, ensuring direct instruction is supported, preserving funding critical to student success, and safeguarding mission critical initiatives.

President Hughes reviewed CCRI's FY2022 RICAP funding request, and its \$12 million Capital Improvement Plan, which is part of the \$117 million higher education bond proposed by the Governor, and includes improvements to student services at Warwick and Lincoln campuses, and classroom and lab upgrades at the Providence and Lincoln campuses.

President Hughes responded to Council inquiry, confirming that CCRI tuition remains well below the federal Pell grant limit. Senator Izzo inquired about the budget review process going forward, given the possibility of additional federal funding.

B. Rhode Island College - Discussion of the Proposed FY2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2022-2026).

President Frank Sánchez presented a PowerPoint on RIC's proposed FY2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2022-2026) ([RIC document](#))

President Sánchez began his presentation with some highlights of RIC's success and sustainability efforts, to build momentum at the institution, including increased first-year enrollment (12%), 6% increase in 4-year graduation rate, record fundraising (\$3 million annually) and a new branding and marketing campaign. He said this will set the stage for growth at Rhode Island College.

The President introduced Rhode Island College's proposed "Compact with Rhode Islanders" to significantly and dramatically increase the number of career ready graduates for RI's economy, seen as essential for the State's recovery from the pandemic. The "Compact with Rhode Islanders" includes program review to support growth and success, new flexible, accessible enrollment options, and first choice in college access and affordability.

President Sánchez reviewed the key points of the FY2021 revised budget:

- Enrollment declined (6%) versus prior year, mainly as a result of the pandemic.

- 7,544 projected head count versus 7,072 census
- This will result in approx. (\$6.1 million) less in tuition and fee revenue versus Council's Approved Budget in October 2019
- FY 2021 state appropriation is currently being funded at \$47.8 million, which is:
  - (\$9.0 million) less vs. Council's Approved Budget \$56.8 million
  - (\$4.3 million) less vs. Governor's FY 2021 Budget \$52.1 million

President Sánchez listed cost saving measures taken at the College which reduced expenditures by approximately \$18 million from the FY 2021 Council Approved Budget (October 2019).

President Sánchez reviewed the FY2022 proposed budget, itemizing the following mandatory expenses:

- \$6.5 million in fixed costs from union contracts and commitments
- \$4.15 million AFT faculty contract compensation adjustment
- \$1.6 million cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for AFT, PSA, Non-Union staff
- \$750,000 healthcare and fringe benefit increased costs; other commitments \$500,000 impact from Early Retirement Program; \$1,750,000 payout versus (\$1.5 million) in initial savings
- \$2.25 million investment to target new student populations with online, evening, and weekend scheduling
- \$2.4 million to restore FY 2021 division reductions identified as "temporary" mainly due to the remote instruction environment
- Increase state appropriation \$5.9 million over Governor's FY 2021 Budget
- \$4.2 million to adjust base 8.0% (fixed costs & new investments)
- \$1.75 million to fund Proposed Early Retirement Program
- Increase tuition 5.0% to generate net \$1.3 million
- \$442 increase for in-state student (\$221 per semester)
- 5.0% generates \$3.2 million, but net (\$1.9) million loss from 3.0% decline in enrollments
- Additional \$2.6 million available by not subsidizing Henry Barnard School in FY 2022; operations ceasing at end of FY 2021

President Sánchez reviewed RIC's schedule of tuition and fees included in its FY2022 Operating Budget request, setting the annual tuition rate for in-state full time undergraduate students at \$9,277, a 5% increase from FY2021's budget request. He noted that the tuition rate remains the lowest within the region amongst RIC's peers.

The President reviewed RIC's FY2022 RICAP funding request, and its \$38 million Capital Improvement Plan, which is part of the \$117 million higher education bond proposed by the Governor, and includes the modernization of the Clarke Science building. He outlined future capital improvement plans.

Chairman DelGiudice reviewed the requested increase in funding. RIC's chief financial officer Steve Nedder clarified the numbers, confirming that the figures listed in the budget presentation were based on information available at the time of printing. The Council discussed possible state appropriations currently under consideration by the General Assembly, and the distribution of any continuing CARES Act funding. Responding to Council inquiry, President Sanchez confirmed that the last time the school increased its tuition, they saw an increase in new students coming to campus.

C. Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) - Discussion of the Proposed FY2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2022-2026).

Acting Commissioner Ron Cavallaro presented a PowerPoint on OPC's proposed FY2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (FY2022-2026) ([OPC document](#))

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro introduced his budget presentation by stating that the effect of the COVID pandemic and the response to it has had significant impact throughout all of higher education, including at OPC. The challenges presented, from working and learning from home, the cancellation of workforce development and training courses at our centers, the limitations on our ability to meet our objectives set prior to the pandemic, and the concern about the health and safety of our staff, students, and families, cannot be overstated. In spite of this, the staff at OPC continue to do the work assigned to it.

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro provided an overview of OPC's statutory duties and responsibilities, and its administrative authority for the Council, supervising the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, the Workforce Development Center in Westerly, and future supervision of the Northern Rhode Island Education Center in Woonsocket.

He briefly noted that in fiscal year 2020, the office achieved an additional \$500,000 in temporary savings above the state's required efficiencies. However, during the FY 2021 budget cycle, the Office was level-funded, but at the fiscal year end 2020 actual level. As a result, OPC's FY 2021 current level service budget was cut by \$500,000 to what they believed was level funding. OPC identified this issue with the administration and justified the need for the additional funds. When the health crisis struck, the remainder of the funds were not restored to the operating budget. The Acting Commissioner noted that every day, OPC works to do more with less.

In FY 2022, the Action Commissioner explained, OPC's operating budget shows an incremental increase until we can restore the funding to the necessary levels. He noted that over the past few years OPC has raised in excess of \$900,000 in grant funding that currently funds three full-time employees. Without the grant funding, cuts from recent years would have been more destabilizing.

The Commissioner stated that despite being underfunded and extremely understaffed, OPC contributes to the success of students and the institutions with initiatives like the following.



One example of our **education and workforce development** activities are our management of Lumina Foundation grant to help adults overcome barriers to their attainment goals. This year, OPC launched the RI Reconnect portal and have engaged with over 200 adults who are looking to enter/re-enter higher education or who seek workforce training.

**Veterans** and those who access the benefits of the GI Bill are important to the state's attainment goals and our office works with all postsecondary institutions across the state to promote increased access for Veterans and other Military affiliated students, while ensuring program quality and appropriate use of funds.

The Office has assisted over 600 adults, and counting, to secure wrap-around supports crucial to ensuring persistence and completion of job-related educational opportunities as part of RI's **Back to Work** initiative.

OPC promotes early college opportunities for high school students through its management of the **dual/concurrent fund**. The Office is currently working closely with the institutions to increase and enhance dual enrollment offerings, and assist RIDE colleagues in promoting the All College Network and Enroll RI platform. This year OPC partnered with the Department of Corrections on reviewing challenges and opportunities for promoting educational access among justice involved populations. As part of this work, the Office will engage in a review of the Council's equity policy and create an **equity action plan that will focus on understanding and addressing equity gaps among underserved student populations**.

Working closely with the Governor's office, OPC will be **defining and promoting credentials of value together with other** agencies and with employers to better understand the value of industry credentials and make sure that we are promoting high value credentials that are aligned to high wage, high growth industries.

Acting Commissioner Cavallaro noted that the OPC Budget request for FY2022 includes \$39,996,820, which includes \$2 million for the completion of the Northern Rhode Island Education Center. The General Revenue consists of **Operating, \$1.7 million, and Non-Operating, \$14 million**. OPC only controls the \$1.7 million operating portion of the general revenue budget. The remainder of the general revenue budget - labeled non-operating - is comprised of **pass-through funds**, including: the Nursing Education Center (\$2.6M); RI Promise (\$7M); Children's Crusade Endowment (\$3.5M); and Shepard's Operating & Parking (\$1.4M).

The \$8.1 million in federal funds includes DHEA reserves (\$4M), Gear Up, and other small federal grants. The Other Funds category includes DHEA funds derived from the College Bound Fund 529 program; which includes \$6M for the Promise 1 need-based grant.

In conclusion, the Commissioner noted that the largest line items in the budget are all pass through accounts. The Westerly Education Center and the proposed Education

Center for northern RI are self-supporting through restricted funds, with the exception of the lease funding for northern RI which is from general revenue. The Nursing Education Center is supported by the two institutions.

Senator Izzo commented on the funding of the RI Nursing Education Center, which is used extensively by University of Rhode Island students.

## 7. Action Items

### A. Approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education 2021 Meeting Schedule

Chairman DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule as presented.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the 2021 Meeting Schedule, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachele Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

### B. Approval of the Awarding of Faculty Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Chairman DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the awarding of Faculty Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island to Cythnia Johnson, John Montalbano, Renee Saris-Baglana, Amanda Vanner, and Genevieve Verdi, effective January 1, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Marianne Monte and seconded by Michael Mello, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the awarding of Faculty Tenure at the Community College of Rhode Island to Cythnia Johnson, John Montalbano, Renee Saris-Baglana, Amanda Vanner, and Genevieve Verdi, effective January 1, 2021.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

C. Approval of a recommendation from the System Personnel Review Committee (SPRC).

- i. Upgrade of Coordinator, Business Operations, at the Westerly Education Center.

Chairman DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approves the recommendation from the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the upgrade of the position of Coordinator, Business Operations, at the Westerly Education Center.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the Recommendation from the System Personnel Review Committee regarding the upgrade of the position of Coordinator, Business Operations, at the Westerly Education Center.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

D. Approval of the Postsecondary Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Requests, Tuition and Fee Rates and Tables of Organization for FY 2022, and the Unrestricted and Restricted Budget Allocations for FY 2021 and recommendation to the Board of Education.

Chairman DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's operating budget request for the FY 2022, as presented; that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the FY 2022 as presented, reserving the right to readjust tuition and fees as needed upon notification of the Governor's recommendation and, later, upon the action of the legislature; that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's Tables of Organization for FY 2022, as presented; and that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's budget allocation for the FY 2021 as presented.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's operating budget request for the FY 2022, as presented.

THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's tuition, mandatory fees, and auxiliary enterprise fees for the FY 2022 as presented, reserving the right to readjust tuition and fees as needed upon notification of the Governor's recommendation and, later, upon the action of the legislature.

THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's Tables of Organization for FY 2022, as presented.

THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system's budget allocation for the FY 2021 as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

- E. Approval of the Postsecondary Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2022-2026 and recommendation to the Board of Education.

Chairman DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the public postsecondary education system’s Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2022 –2026 and forward it to the Board of Education for its approval. The Plan will then be submitted to the State Budget Office for review and consideration for inclusion in the Governor’s recommended budget.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the public postsecondary education system’s Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2022 –2026 and forward it to the Board of Education for its approval. The Plan will then be submitted to the State Budget Office for review and consideration for inclusion in the Governor’s recommended budget.

VOTE:                    7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS:                   Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS:                    0

ABSTAINS:            0

## 8. Executive Session

Chair DelGiudice advised attendees that they would be placed on hold for the duration of the Executive Session; the hold will be released once the Council is back in Open Session.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education enter into executive session for the following items:

- A. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- B. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: THAT            The Council on Postsecondary Education enter into

Executive Session for the following items:

- a. Discussion regarding potential litigation, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).
- b. Discussion regarding collective bargaining – all bargaining units, pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2).

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. Virtual public access was paused.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 8:19 p.m. Virtual public access resumed.

Chair DelGiudice thanked attendees for their patience while on hold during the Council’s Executive Session. He confirmed that the Council was back in Open Session.

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 9, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Rachelle Green and seconded by Marianne Monte, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 9, 2020.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 9. Additional Action Item

- A. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rhode Island Association of Certified Teachers of Motor Vehicle Safety-NEARI.

Chairman DelGiudice called for a motion that the Council on Postsecondary Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Rhode Island Association of Certified Teachers of Motor Vehicle Safety – NEARI, as presented.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Rachelle Green, was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education approves the extension of the Rhode Island College/AFT contract, as presented.

VOTE: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative.

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

## 10. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Chairman DelGiudice announced that the Board of Education will meet on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. via the Zoom meeting platform.

## 11. Adjourn

Chair DelGiudice called for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

On a motion duly made by Michael Mello and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: THAT The Council on Postsecondary Education adjourn the meeting of December 9, 2020.

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

YEAS: Timothy DelGiudice, Barbara Cottam, Dennis Duffy, Thomas Izzo, Rachelle Green, Michael Mello, and Marianne Monte.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education  
December 9, 2020 remote meeting minutes

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.