EDUCATION COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2026 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Conf Rm 2B, Providence, RI 02908
With remote participation available via Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Peter Gill Case, Joe Garlick, Chris Kearns, Kurt Teichert
Others in Attendance: David Augustyn, Steven Chybowski, Katie Critelli, Kevin Drumm, Timothy Lett, Rachel Sholly, Kate Hardesty (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Brett Feldman (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual)

1. **Call to Order**
   Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

2. **Vote on Meeting Minutes**
   Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the March 10, 2026 Education Committee Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

3. **Community-Based Energy Navigator Training**
   Ms. Hardesty of the University of Rhode Island (URI) presented on the RI Energy Navigator Pilot. She explained the development of the program, stating that the relationships were the most important part of the development. Through feedback, URI has shifted from a training program to an inclusive, equitable program that connects efforts and honors relationships. Now, the program is focused on the subjects of (1) technical assistance from ACEEE (2) absentee landlords in Central Falls (3) key informant interviews and (4) RFP for statewide energy navigator pilot. Ms. Hardesty stated that URI's proposal included a budget in an amount that was twice as much as the EEC had previously spent on programs with URI. Vice Chair Gill Case attributed rising costs to program success, but he stated that the EEC likely would not be able to put together that amount of funding. Ms. LeGrand stated that she was not aware that there were so many absentee landlords in Central Falls, which highlighted the need for more coordination on the issue. Mr. Lett asked about the new timeline for implementation in Central Falls. Mr. Drumm shared that instead of the January/February timeline, the current timeline was directed to late spring/early summer to incorporate findings into the training design. Mr. Lett asked about using feedback provided by the CAP agencies from people who have gone through energy efficiency programs. Mr. Drumm stated that URI is developing surveys for navigators to use with clients. Council Member Garlick asked where the navigators are based; Mr. Drumm answered that the focus is on community-based workers, working closely with Children's Friend on those efforts. Ms. Hardesty explained they had to choose a pilot area for the ACEEE funding. Council Member

All materials associated with the Energy Efficiency Council are the work of the "Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council" and any public meeting materials posted on the RI Secretary of State website should be searched using that title.

Garlick suggested targeting areas where low-income expenditures are not up to standard. Regarding landlord absenteeism, Vice Chair Gill Case stated that problem has been identified but strategy has not. Mr. Drumm elaborated that ¾ of landlords in Central Falls don't live in the town, with many out of state. Vice Chair asked about landlord navigator training. Discussion included plans for URI to present at a full EEC meeting on the budget allocation.

4. **Meeting Schedule**
    - Monday, October 19th @ 3 PM

5. **Public Comment**
   None.

6. **Adjournment**
   Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 3:57 PM.