

EDUCATION COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 9, 2026 | 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Conf Rm 2B, Providence, RI 02906

With remote participation available via Zoom.



Members in Attendance: Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance: Georgia Cheney, Steven Chybowski, David Augustyn, Katie Critelli, Rachel Sholly, Brett Feldman, Carinel LeGrand, Kevin O’Neill (virtual), Craig Johnson (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), John Harrington (virtual), Kevin Drumm (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

2. Vote on Meeting Minutes

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the November 21, 2025 Education Committee Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

3. ACEEE Technical Assistance Application

Ms. Sholly of the Council’s consultant team presented a document summarizing the technical assistance opportunity for energy equity for renters. The pilot program proposal for energy navigator work would be in partnership with Central Falls and the Children’s Friend organization. The ACEEE application deadline had been extended until January 16, 2026. She explained that the nonprofit organization will be assisting in conjunction with other stakeholders such as the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (URI) and Rhode Island Energy (RIE), in reaching out to the community. ACEEE receives an average of 12 applications for its free technical assistance and sometimes can offer funds for participant stipends. Vice Chair Gill Case asked about how this technical assistance would impact URI’s scope of work. Ms. Sholly stated if the application is approved, the scope of work with URI could be adjusted. When Council Member Teichert asked about costs to the EEC, it was confirmed that it’s only Ms. Sholly’s billable time. Vice Chair Gill Case thanked Mr. Feldman for suggesting this technical assistance opportunity.

Vice Chair Gill Case then asked about how RIE ‘moves the dial’ in underperforming sectors. Mr. Feldman said they work with the CAPs to address pre-weatherization barriers where possible and Ms. LeGrand also shared that feedback from customers highlights issues to be addressed. Mr. Feldman shared that the Consortium for Energy Efficiency is creating an energy equity metrics inventory and using Rhode Island as a case study. Council Member Teichert moved to endorse the application; Vice Chair Gill seconded.

4. URI 2026 Education Proposal

Mr. Drumm of URI provided perspective on the URI programming proposal. He shared that URI is excited for potential support from ACEEE and that such support could

enhance data collection of their energy efficiency education programming. Ms. Sholly spoke about ways to best structure the program for maximum participation. Vice Chair Gill Case asked about how everyone was feeling about a partnership with Children's Friend. Ms. LeGrand shared additional information on Children's Friend and how they perform home assessments for other services and the possibility of incorporating energy topics as a part of the visit. Mr. Drumm highlighted the importance of incorporating the overarching organization of community-based workers to effect change. Mr. Chybowski emphasized how additional support and outreach would greatly assist as the CAPs oversee many programs with constrained resources. Mr. Drumm suggested additional training for the energy navigators and Vice Chair Gill Case asked about the cost to do so and the flexibility of URI's spending in their 2026 proposal.

5. Energy Efficiency and Energy Cost Educational Briefing Follow-Up

Ms. Koo provided an overview of the educational session provided to legislators about energy efficiency by the Acadia Center. Vice Chair Gill Case talked about sharing the priorities of the EEC and Ms. Sholly clarified that program priorities are tied to the annual plan, whereas policy recommendations are directed at policymakers. Mr. Feldman offered for RIE to be involved in such briefings going forward, and Mr. Chybowski asked that OER also be notified in advance of such sessions.

6. Upcoming Education Committee Meetings

The Committee discussed the meeting frequency and schedule. Going forward, meetings will be on the first Tuesday of each month at noon. Calendar holds will also be sent for the second Tuesday of each month as a back-up time and the Committee will seek to go to bi-monthly meetings whenever possible.

7. Public Comment

Steven Chybowski, Office of Energy Resources

Mr. Chybowski introduced OER's new legal counsel, David Augustyn to the Education Committee.

Emily Koo, Acadia Center

Ms. Koo commented that she thinks the Energy Efficiency Council can focus on its messaging and emphasize the value and impact of energy efficiency and the current drivers of energy costs.

Brett Feldman, Rhode Island Energy

Mr. Feldman shared that Rhode Island Energy will be at the legislative Whole Home Repairs Commission.

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 10:03 A.M.