

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR
JAMES C. SHEEHAN
District 36

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Senate Chamber

Chair
Committee on
Government Oversight

Secretary
Committee on
Health and Human Services

Committee on Education

July 3, 2014

Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner
Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Commissioner Gist,

You may recall that I read an article last year in the RIFuture.org news site entitled, "Public can't read Deborah Gist's dissertation on RI." I inquired to the accuracy of the story, specifically, that your dissertation, "An Ocean State Voyage: A Leadership Case Study of Creating an Evaluation System with, and for, Teachers," was "embargoed" until September, 2015. In your November 19, 2013 response to me and the leaders of the House and Senate and Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees, you clarified that this matter by stating that "...the embargo is lifted in June 2014." Given the fact that we are in July of 2014, I believe it is safe to assume that this embargo has expired. Accordingly, I respectfully request a copy of your dissertation at your next earliest convenience.

I look forward to reading about the foundation of your thoughts and ideas that led to the current teacher evaluation system as well as the inspiration and philosophies that undergird your leadership style and vision. I believe that policymakers such as me would benefit from the insight that your dissertation would richly provide.

I thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Sheehan".

James C. Sheehan
RI State Senator – District 36
Narragansett, North Kingstown

Enc: Letter from Commissioner Gist dated November 19, 2013

cc: The Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed, President of the Senate
The Honorable Nicholas Mattiello, Speaker of the House
Eva-Marie Mancuso, Chairwoman, Board of Education



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminister Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

November 19, 2013

Senator James C. Sheehan
Room 219, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Sheehan,

Thank you so much for your letter about my dissertation, *An Ocean State Voyage: A Leadership Case Study of Creating an Evaluation System with, and for, Teachers*. I hope you will read my work with interest with the embargo is lifted in June 2014.

As a point of clarification, my dissertation is a reflection on my leadership style, not a policy blueprint related to our educator evaluation system. As always, I am happy to share my vision for education in Rhode Island with members of the General Assembly and the broader community. I will gladly make myself available to speak with you and your colleagues about the progress we have made on educator evaluation.

You may also be interested in reviewing RIDE's year one report released in September 2013; *Rhode Island Educator Evaluations - Improving Teaching and Learning*. You can find the report on RIDE's website at www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation.

Thank you again for your interest, and for your advocacy of education in Rhode Island. Please let me know if you would like me or my team to share an update on our educator evaluation work.

Best,



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Gordon Fox, Speaker of the House
The Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed, President of the Senate
The Honorable Hanna Gallo
The Honorable Joseph McNamara