

**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
One Corliss Park
Providence, Rhode Island 02908**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 9, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: June 13, 2006

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Marc Gursky at 6:15PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Bonnie Abols, Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Jennifer LeComte, Maureen McEntee

Excused: Neil Leahey, Tracy Karasinski

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. April 11, 2006

i. **Motion** made by Trustee Abols to approve the minutes of April 11, 2006. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

Abstaining: Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, and Maureen McEntee.

b. April 24, 2006

i. **Motion** made by Trustee Abols to approve the minutes of April 24, 2006. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

Abstaining: Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, Jennifer LeComte, and Maureen McEntee.

IV. Public Comment

- a. A teacher shared that the president of Gallaudet University has announced that he will be retiring. He also stated that the chairperson of the Board of Trustees at Gallaudet had resigned her post due to an overwhelming protest by the students as to the choice of a new president.

V. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
- ii. Mr. Plante recognized Dinaz Adenwalla, Debbie Topol, Joyce Doblmeier and Gail Sullivan for their hard work on the High School Peer Review.
- iii. Mr. Plante detailed the upcoming plans for the School Improvement Team.
 1. Discussion took place regarding the process that the School Improvement Team follows.
 2. Trustee Dorros asked that the Board be updated as to the progress of the School Improvement Team.

b. Coordinators

- i. Cheryl Hollingworth thanked the Board for their response to a recent request for professional contacts for the Transition Program.
- ii. Mary Jane Johnson highlighted several items from her Coordinator Report.
 1. Discussion took place regarding KIDSNet and methods of tracking students throughout the state.

c. Finance Director

- i. Finance Director Jonathan Seamans highlighted items from his Finance Director's Report.
- ii. Trustee Fifer Ferry thanked Mr. Seamans for his work in adapting his report to the format that the Board had requested and said that they will continue to work together to improve the reports to meet the Board's needs.
- iii. Chairperson Gursky asked Mr. Seamans if he would be willing to take a look at another report format with more detail.
 1. Mr. Seamans said that he would be happy to revise the

format to incorporate anything the Board needs.

d. Sub-Committees

i. Policy

1. Chairperson Gursky encouraged members of the Board to talk to Trustees McEntee and Karasinski about becoming involved with this committee.

ii. Budget and Finance

1. Trustee Abols showed interest in joining this committee.
2. Trustee Fifer Ferry encouraged others to contact her if they are interested in being involved.

iii. Personnel

1. Trustee Abols distributed a draft copy of evaluations for the Interim Director, Finance Director and Personnel Specialist.
2. Chairperson Gursky stated that if members are interested in commenting on the drafts, please attend the next meeting of the Personnel Committee.

iv. Building

1. Trustee Dorros described recent events that have taken place in regards to the Building process.
2. Mr. Plante explained the current status of finding the best parcel of land on the CCRI/Davies property in Lincoln, RI.
3. Discussion took place regarding lobbying and expressing support for this project.
4. There is no meeting scheduled at this time for the Building Committee.

v. Director Search

1. Chairperson Gursky stated that if there are people are interested in serving on this committee who are not Board members, there will be a formal solicitation coming out very soon.

vi. Board Development

1. Chairperson Gursky stated that he spoke with Christopher Haas from RIRID and encouraged him to discuss with his organization issues of mutual concern considering upcoming projects and events at the school.

- vii. Academic Standards and Curriculum
 1. Chairperson Gursky informed the Board that discussion took place at the meeting regarding the staff and Board's roles in developing curriculum.
 2. Chairperson Gursky said that the committee feels that there need to be clear academics standards and the faculty in best position to develop those standards. There are also curriculum requirements the faculty has already been working on. The Board has an obligation to review the standards and curriculum requirements and the committee's role is to make sure that the processes of development and review take place.
 3. The next meeting is on May 16th, 5:15pm - 6:30pm.

VI. New Business

a. Approval of 2006/2007 School Calendar

- i. Mr. Plante explained how the school calendar was developed and decided upon by faculty at the school.
- ii. There may be a change to the calendar in regards to the March Professional Day.
- iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to approve the 2006/2007 School Calendar subject to Mr. Plante returning to the Board regarding the March Professional Day. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

b. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2)

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2). Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.
- iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to seal the Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

iv. Motions from Executive Session

1. Chairperson Gursky excused himself from the discussion regarding whether or not there is a conflict of interest.
2. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry that the Board has judged that the disclosure Chairperson Gursky has made

does not present a conflict of interest in negotiations with NEARI in the upcoming collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the school. Seconded by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.

VII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. Consideration of Evaluation Tools for Interim Director, Assistant Director and Personnel Specialist
- b. Election of Board Secretary

VIII. Adjournment

- a. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.