

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 9, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: February 13, 2007

Interpreters: Meribeth Anderson, 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 6:07PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, Tracy Karasinski, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Maureen McEntee

Excused: Jennifer LeComte

III. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.

IV. Reports

a. Sub-Committees

- i. Finance Committee
 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry noted that committee met today and the minutes will be posted on the web and distributed to board members.
 2. Chairperson Gursky asked the committee to monitor all

legal and interpreter fees on a monthly basis going forward.

3. Jonathan Seamans is pursuing discussion with Friends of RISD regarding the carpeting.

ii. Building Committee

1. Trustee Dorros gave a brief update on the Building process.
2. There will be an all day meeting on January 24th with the companies that have bid on the project, and they will make a decision on January 25th.
3. Trustee Dorros will send out a posting as to the date of the next meeting.
4. Discussion took place regarding location of construction since there was confusion in the community as to where the school is going to be built.

iii. Policy Committee

1. Chairperson Gursky stated that during the last Policy Committee meeting there was discussion concerning the existing Faculty/Staff and Parent/Student handbooks. They have been given to the attorney and she will make recommendations regarding any policies that may be out of date.
2. The graduation policy will be on the agenda for next month.
3. Trustee Dorros mentioned that parents at the PTO meeting were concerned about policies regarding safety at the school.
4. Chairperson Gursky suggested raising these issues with school administration and if necessary they can be added to the agenda for the next meeting under "Parent Concerns".

iv. National Search for a Director Committee

1. Chairperson Gursky stated that the committee has a full complement of members and is awaiting a consultant from RIDE.
2. Discussion took place regarding a timeline for a consultant to come on board and for the committee to move ahead with the process.

V. New Business

- a. Recruitment of RISD Board Members
 - i. Interview of Mary Wambach as potential BOT member
 1. Mary Wambach briefly told the Board about herself and her work history.
 2. Trustee McEntee commented that this is a great opportunity for the School for the Deaf to collaborate with the Corliss Center.
 3. Discussion with Ms. Wambach took place regarding time commitments and how she heard about this position.
 4. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to recommend Ms. Wambach's name to the commissioner for consideration as a trustee. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
- b. Consideration of Boy Scout Program at RISD
 - i. Discussion took place regarding the how the program possibilities have been discussed over the past months.
 - ii. Chairperson Gursky asked if there is a comparable program to be offered to the girls at the school.
 1. John Plante informed the Board that he has a call into the Girl Scouts to inquire about a similar program.
 - iii. Chairperson Gursky thanked the representatives from the Boy Scouts for their interest in the school and shared his concerns regarding discrimination.
 - iv. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to accept the offer of the Narragansett Council of Boy Scouts of America to initiate a chapter at RI School for the Deaf with programming to include a tolerance component as approved by John Plante and contingent on having comparable programming for girls. Also, that the charter troop would have explicit non-discrimination language. Seconded by Trustee Leahey.
 - v. Discussion took place regarding each trustee's concerns of having this programming at the school.
 - vi. **Following discussion, motion was tabled.**
- c. Consideration of Revision regarding the job description for the Curriculum Coordinator

- i. Mr. Plante explained that the last time this was posted only one person applied and this person did not hold the certification necessary.
 - ii. This item will be referred back to the Curriculum Committee.
 - d. Discussion and consideration of adoption of the School Improvement Team Mission and Vision Statements as Board Policy
 - i. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.
 - ii. **Action:** A copy of the mission and vision statements will be sent to each Board member.
 - e. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42.46-5(A)(1), (2) pending litigation
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 8:29PM. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to return to open session at 8:39PM. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
 - iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to seal the Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

VI. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. December 12, 2006

- i. **Motion** made by Trustee Dorros to approve the minutes of December 12, 2006 as written. Seconded by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.

VII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a.** Consideration of Boy Scout Program at RISD
- b.** Authorization for Automated External Defibrillators
- c.** Consideration of Revision regarding the job description for the Curriculum Coordinator
- d.** Discussion about planning for faculty/staff or program leader attrition
- e.** Discussion and consideration of adoption of the School Improvement Team Mission and Vision Statements as Board Policy
- f.** Strategic Planning
- g.** Consideration of Boy Scout Program at RISD

VIII. Adjournment

- a.** Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.