

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 12, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: July 10, 2007

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry, Christine West

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 6:10PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer Milone, Mary Wambach, Travis Zellner

Excused: Kathleen Ellis, Tracy Karasinski,

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. May 8, 2007

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to approve the minutes of May 8, 2007 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Zellner.
Approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

- a. No comment.

V. Reports

- a. **Interim Director**

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry asked Mr. Plante to communicate any upcoming events one month earlier to help with planning.

b. Sub-Committees

- i. Building
 1. Trustee Dorros welcomed Arn Lisnof from the Department of Administration.
 2. Mr. Lisnof gave the Board a brief update on the site study that was done by RGB and the benefits and drawbacks of each site.
 - a. The final recommended site for the School for the Deaf was the current site in Providence.
 3. Discussion took place regarding the process to come up with the cost estimate of the new building and how this relates to the square footage needed for the school.
 4. Discussion took place regarding what will be included at the new school campus and how the school should be designed with planning for future programs.
 5. Discussion took place regarding neighborhood security and being sure that all systems are operable by both Deaf and hearing staff.

VI. New Business

- a. Approval of RGB Report/Recommendation regarding building site
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Zellner to support the recommendation by RGB, Department of Administration and the Building Committee as stated in the site study report. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Discussion took place whether this decision should be posted on the website to inform the community.
 - iii. Trustee Dorros will discuss this with Jake.

VII. Reports

- a. **Coordinators**
 - i. Cheryl Hollingworth thanked the Board members for their help in providing leads for work experience placement.
 - ii. Discussion took place regarding programs and services that are

currently offered at the school.

1. It was suggested that the Policy Committee develop a policy regarding services offered and programs run on State property.
 2. Trustee Fifer Ferry suggested the policy should look at services and products when a policy is created.
 3. Jonathan Seamans said that he is frequently faced with these issues and part of the reality is that the School resources are limited. The Policy Committee should look at everything that would be needed including a nighttime presence in the building.
- iii. Dinaz Adenwalla gave an update on recent student performance on standardized testing.
1. Chairperson Gursky informed Ms. Adenwalla that he would be interested in seeing a comparison with scores from public schools as well as other Schools for the Deaf.

b. Sub-Committees

i. Personnel

1. Trustee Leahey informed the Board that the Assistant Director job has been posted subject to approval by the Board.

VIII. New Business

a. Final Approval Assistant Director for Academic Programs Job Description

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Zellner to approve the Assistant Director job description. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.

b. Final Approval for posting of Assistant Director for Academic Programs Position

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Zellner to re-post the Assistant Director position. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- ii. A staff member raised concern that the position being posted is limited to only members of the Teachers' Union.
 1. The board reviewed the posting of this position.
 2. Chairperson Gursky moved to re-open discussion regarding

the previous motion.

3. Chairperson Gursky recommended reposting the job description with a cover letter clarifying that this is not open only to the Teachers' Union.
4. Discussion took place regarding whether or not the Special Requirement in the posting should be required at the time of the appointment or prior to applying for the position.
 - a. It was decided to delete the terminology limiting the position to the members of the RISD Teachers' Association.
 - b. It was decided to change the wording under "Special Requirement" to:
 - i. "Eligibility for certification from..."
 - c. The anticipated appointment date would now be July 10th.
 - d. **Motion** was made by Trustee Wambach to formally accept the job description as amended for reposting. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.

IX. Reports

- a. Director Search Committee
 - i. Trustee Milone informed the Board that Committee interviews are currently happening and the Committee would like to schedule a candidate to fly in for week of June 25th – 28th.
 1. It was decided that the schedule would be as follows:
 - a. Community interview on June 26th
 - b. Board interview on June 27th
 2. Chairperson Gursky would email Board members to set up a Board meeting at earliest opportunity to develop interview questions.
 - ii. Finance Committee
 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry passed out minutes to Board members and requested that they review the information as soon as possible.
 2. Chairperson Gursky suggested adding this to as an agenda item to next week's meeting.

X. Adjournment

- a.** Motion was made to adjourn meeting at 9:05PM. Approved unanimously.