

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 11, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: December 11, 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 6:15PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cohen Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer Milone

Excused: Kathleen Ellis, Tracy Karasinski, Travis Zellner, Mary Wambach

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. August 20, 2007

i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Leahey to approve the minutes of August 20, 2007 as amended. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry.

Approved unanimously.

1. Trustee Leahey request the following amendments:

- a. Change motion to seal minutes to Trustee Zellner.
- b. Change motion to close to Trustee Fifer Ferry.

IV. Public Comment

- a. A parent of a student expressed concern that the parents of students are not receiving communication from the school.

V. Reports

a. Director

- i. Lori Dunsmore introduced herself and expressed her excitement about being a part of the school. She also informed the Board and the public that she is looking forward to getting to know everyone, and welcomed contact from parents, staff and Board members.

b. Coordinators

- i. Cheryl Hollingworth briefly described the Transition Program at the school and how it has begun this year.
- ii. Helen Litterst briefly updated the Board on the beginning of the school year for both Elementary School and Preschool.
 1. Discussion took place regarding the current state of staff members in Preschool and the need for Personal Care Attendants.
- iii. Dinaz Adenwalla updated the Board on how the Middle and High School programs began this year.
- iv. Discussion took place regarding the student population.
 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry requested that Jonathan Seamans get an accurate number of enrolled students from the start of school during the last academic year.
- v. John Carty gave an update to the Board on the Outreach, Mainstream and Athletics programs.
 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry suggested John Carty spend some time at a future meeting discussing with the Board what the Outreach program looks like.

c. Sub-Committees

- i. Policy
 1. Chairperson Gursky stated that the Policy Committee would start meeting in October and the purpose would be to review existing policies other than personnel policies.
- ii. Building

1. Trustee Dorros updated the Board as to recent progress with the Building project.
2. Discussion took place regarding the positive results of the environmental testing.
3. Trustee Dorros showed the designs to the Board and Chairperson Gursky requested that the architects present at the next meeting for approval.
4. Trustee Dorros updated the board about the upcoming web site.
5. Trustee Dorros thanked Chairperson Gursky for his amazing work on the building project.

iii. Budget and Finance

1. Trustee Fifer Ferry updated the Board regarding recent meetings and new membership on the Finance Committee.
2. Discussion took place regarding the current budget process and the changes in the budget that the school faces this year.
3. Due to the budget being unlike any other budget in the past 15 years of the school, there will be open Finance Committee meetings held throughout the month of September and involvement is encouraged.
4. The Finance Committee will be overlaid during the whole budget process to be kept apprised and approve pieces along the way.
5. A final committee meeting will take place on September 27th at 8:45am followed by a full Board meeting at 7:30pm to approve the budget for submission.
6. The next regularly scheduled Finance Committee meeting will take place Thursday before next Board meeting. Oct 4, 8:45am.
7. Update on Leadership RI
 - a. Trustee Fifer Ferry informed the Board that she will put together a payment schedule for Jonathan Seamans for reimbursing the school for tuition to Leadership RI should he leave the school at any time in the next 18 months.

- b.** Discussion and Approval of Proposed Professional Development for Student Behavior Issues
 - i. Tabled until a future meeting.
- c.** Planning for Special Education visits by RIDE
 - i. Tabled until a future meeting.

VII. Executive Session

- a. Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 8:26PM. Seconded by Trustee Milone. Approved unanimously.
- b. Motion** was made by Trustee Milone to return to open session at 9:07PM. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.
- c. Motion** was made by Trustee Milone to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

- a.** Motion was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to adjourn meeting at 9:08PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.