

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 9, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: November 13, 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 6:04PM 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, Travis Zellner, Mary Wambach

Excused: Kathleen Ellis

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. September 11, 2007

- i. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Public Comment

- a. No comment.

V. Reports

a. Director

- i. Lori Dunsmore discussed the current state of the School Improvement Team and SALT.
- ii. Discussion took place regarding development of a strategic plan for the school.
 1. For the next meeting the Ms. Dunsmore will come up with a timeline for development of a strategic plan.
 2. Chairperson Gursky also requested that she think about whom she would want to facilitate this process.
- iii. Ms. Dunsmore informed the Board that there would be bi-weekly communication from administration to all staff members to keep everyone informed about important issues and decisions being made.

b. Coordinators

- i. Cheryl Hollingworth highlighted items from her Transition report.
- ii. Helen Litterst updated the Board on current NECAP testing in Elementary School and how statistics and test results are disseminated.
 1. Chairperson Gursky asked that Lori Dunsmore get the last three years of test results from Helen and Dinaz and bring them to the Board.
 2. Discussion took place regarding standardized testing and how it suits students at a school for the Deaf.
 3. Trustee Fifer Ferry asked if NECAP provides comparable data for other Deaf schools in New England.
 - a. Ms. Litterst will inquire as to whether or not this information is available.

c. Sub-Committees

- i. Building
 1. Trustee Dorros updated the Board as to the current status of the building process.
 2. RGB made a presentation of the current schematics for the new RISD school building.
 3. Discussion took place regarding planning for future programs to support children with behavioral issues,

restructuring of school programs and services and how this impacts the design and programming of the new school.

ii. Budget and Finance

1. Trustee Fifer Ferry reported on FTE vacancies, financial reporting, and new membership on the committee.
2. Trustee Fifer Ferry referred to Jonathan Seamans to present the In\$ite report for approval by the Board.
3. Jonathan Seamans presented the final In\$ite report for the Board.
 - a. **Motion** was made by Trustee Milone to approve the In\$ite Report. Seconded by Trustee Dorros.
Approved unanimously.
4. Trustee Fifer Ferry asked Chairperson Gursky to respond to RIDE's recommendation to conduct budget discussion in Executive Session.
 - a. Chairperson Gursky responded that RIDE is conducting its own budget deliberations in Executive Session, but there is no requirement in Open Meeting law to conduct these in Executive Session.
 - b. Discussion took place between the Board and the Director as to the concerns that need to be weighed when discussing certain budget issues in an open forum.
 - i. Ms. Dunsmore will make a recommendation to the Board regarding these discussions taking place in open or closed session.
5. Special Meeting
 - a. Discussion took place regarding scheduling the October special meeting of the Board to approve the budget.
 - b. It was decided to reschedule to October 16, 5:00 - 6:30PM.

VI. Future Agenda Items

- a. Report on Status of Testing

b. Acceptance of September 11, 2007 Minutes

VII. Adjournment

a. Motion was made by Trustee Zellner to adjourn meeting at 9:09PM.
Seconded by Trustee Milone. Approved unanimously.