

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 13, 2005

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: January 10, 2006

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 6:07PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cafeteria.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Bonnie Abols, Carol Dorros, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer LeComte, Maureen McEntee

Excused: Karen Fifer Ferry, Tracy Karasinski

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. November 8, 2005

- i. Motion** made by Trustee McEntee to approve the minutes of November 8, 2005 as written. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

IV. Chairperson Gursky introduced Trustee LeComte.

V. Public Comment

- a.** No public comment.

VI. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i.** Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his interim

director's report.

- ii. Discussion took place regarding the security at the School for the Deaf and the impact it has on the students' sense of security.
- iii. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky indicated that he would like to see some follow-up with the police department to see if something more can be done to increase security in and around the School for the Deaf. Chairperson Gursky and Mr. Plante will meet regarding this issue.

b. Finance Director

- i. Jonathan Seamans highlighted items from the Board of Trustees budget report and the invoices over \$5,000.
- ii. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky asked Jonathan to touch base with Trustee Karen Fifer Ferry regarding finance reports and other finance issues before the next board meeting.

c. Building Committee

- i. Trustee Dorros highlighted items from her Building Committee report.
- ii. The next meeting of the Building Committee is Monday, January 9.

VII. Old Business

a. Board Retreat Dates

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to pursue having a retreat outside a formal meeting situation to discuss issues related to board issues, practices, history, etc. Second by Trustee Dorros. Discussion took place regarding the purpose of the retreat. Approved unanimously.
- ii. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky asked Trustee McEntee to try to coordinate a date that the trustees would be available. She will contact Tim Duffy from the Association of School Committees at Rhode Island College and contact the board with available dates.

b. Approval of National Search for Director Process

- i. Steven Florio gave a brief Powerpoint presentation detailing the history of the National Search for a Director Committee and the current state of the procedure.

- ii. Discussion took place regarding the involvement of different groups on the search committee and interview team.
 - iii. Chairperson Gursky asked Mr. Florio to explain reasoning behind the applications for the director not being delivered directly to the Personnel Specialist.
 - 1. Mr. Florio explained that it had been discussed in the search committee meetings that confidentiality is a key issue and the fact that the Personnel Specialist works directly with the current Interim Director was a concern.
 - 2. John Plante commented that this was a personal affront to himself and the Personnel Specialist at the school.
 - 3. Chairperson Gursky agreed with Mr. Plante that this discussion was out of line and asked Mr. Florio to refrain.
 - iv. Chairperson Gursky introduced Keith Oliviera and discussion took place regarding the search process for superintendents in other locations.
 - v. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to not do a national search for a director at this time. Motion failed.
 - vi. **Motion** was made by Trustee LeComte to undertake a national search for a director. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Discussion took place regarding the motion on the floor. Approved unanimously.
- c. Second Reading of Evacuation Plan**
- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to approve the Evacuation Plan. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

VIII. New Business

a. Collective Bargaining Agreement Update

- i. **Motion** was made by Chairperson Gursky to enter Executive Session under RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss collective bargaining and litigation. Seconded by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

- a. **Motion** to adjourn by Trustee Dorros. Seconded by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.

b. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.