

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 10, 2005

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: March 10, 2005

Interpreters: Jonathan Henry, Jennifer Maloney, Rosa Norberg

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees was called to order by Trustee Abols at 6:10PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cafeteria.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Bonnie Abols, Carol Dorros, Tracy Karasinski, Neil Leahey, Phil Wheeler

Excused: Steve Florio, Maureen McEntee, Travis Zellner

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. January 13, 2005

- i. Motion** was made by Trustee Karasinski to accept the minutes of January 13, 2005 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i.** John Plante explained several points from his Interim Director's report.
- ii.** Mr. Plante informed the Board of Trustees that a student who graduated in 1999 passed away this past weekend.
 - 1.** Trustee Abols volunteered to send a sympathy card to the family.

b. Finance Director

- i.** Wayne Hannon explained several points from his financial and audit reports.

c. Sub-Committees

i. Building

- 1.** Trustee Dorros and Mr. Hannon gave several updates regarding the building process.

2. Trustee Dorros discussed the visit to Governor Baxter School for the Deaf on February 2, 2005.
3. There is no further meeting scheduled because there are several steps pending at the moment.
4. Trustee Wheeler asked if there is more that the committee can do to communicate with the school.
 - a. Mary Jane Johnson said that she and Meg Denton have a plan to update the Building Committee news in the sign-in area so people have access to more information.
 - b. Trustee Dorros suggested a presentation at the next school staff meeting to update the staff on the progress of the Building Committee.
- ii. Strategic Planning
 1. Mr. Hannon said that he spoke with Scott from RI College and has scheduled a meeting with him at the beginning of next week to explain what we are looking to do. The meeting is February 16th at 4:00PM.

V. New Business

- a. Approval of Letter of Interest
 - i. Mr. Hannon explained the purpose for the Letter of Interest and the process that was taken to develop it.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Wheeler to approve the Letter of Interest as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
- b. Follow-up on Board Member Nominee
 - i. The Board congratulated Neil Leahey on his appointment to the Board of Trustees.
 - ii. John Plante explained that there still exists one position on the Board for a hearing member because the person who was previously considered was not interested in a position at this time.
- c. Director's Request for Travel
 - i. Mr. Plante discussed several topics being covered at the CEASD conference in Atlanta.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros that John Plante's travel be approved. Seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Approved unanimously.

VI. Public Comment

- a. Earnest Okwara asked that the topic of curriculum be added to the Board's agenda in the future to get guidance from the Board as there is no formal curriculum at the School for the Deaf.
- b. Mr. Okwara asked about the mission statement that was approved at the last meeting.
 - i. Trustee Wheeler explained that the mission statement that was developed during the prior strategic planning session was presented to the Board and it was decided not to change anything.

- ii. Trustee Wheeler assured Mr. Okwara that there was no new mission statement.
- c. Mr. Okwara asked if the new oral program will be included in the new school or be separate from the school.
 - i. Trustee Wheeler said that this is a very good question but he cannot officially answer this question until they go through the formal process of strategic planning.
- d. Deborah Topol stated that the mission statement as it stands is “Rhode Island’s Mission” not specifically the mission of the School for the Deaf.
- e. Discussion took place regarding the process of development of the statewide strategic plan.
- f. Trustee Wheeler asked that copies of the statewide strategic planning documents be provided to the Board.

VII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. Trustee Wheeler suggested that it be discussed at the next Board meeting to send additional staff or others to the CEASD conference.
- b. Trustee Wheeler informed the Board that he will not be at the next meeting.
- c. Trustee Dorros suggested writing a letter to Maureen thanking her for her service as the chairperson.
 - i. Trustee Karasinski also suggested talking to the Board of Regents to see if they will do something similar.
- d. Trustee Dorros asked about the status of the current chairperson.
 - i. Trustee Karasinski said that she believed Trustee Florio was following up on this item.

VII. Adjournment

- i. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.