

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 10, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: February 14, 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 6:06PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cafeteria.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Bonnie Abols, Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Tracy Karasinski, Jennifer LeComte, Maureen McEntee

Excused: Neil Leahey

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. December 13, 2005

i. Motion made by Trustee McEntee to approve the minutes of December 13, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

1. Page 2, VII, a, ii: Change "Tim Duffy at RI College" to "Tim Duffy from Association of School Committees at RI College"
2. Page 3, VII, c: Remove evacuation plans changes being sent to Carol Dorros.

IV. Public Comment

a. No public comment.

V. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his report.
- ii. Chairperson Gursky thanked the staff and faculty for their generosity during this season.

b. Finance Director

- i. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky asked that the Finance Director be given contact information for Trustee Fifer Ferry so that they can be in touch. He also requested that he submit a report before the next meeting.

c. Building Committee

- i. Trustee Dorros informed the board of recent events in the building process.

d. Policy

- i. Approval of recommendation to RIDE regarding ASL competency for new teachers
 1. Mr. Plante explained that this audit item indicated that all teachers hired after July 3, 1995 should be competent in American Sign Language.
 2. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky asked Mr. Plante to provide copies of the 2003 audit to the Board of Trustees.
 3. Discussion took place regarding the statute.
 4. Chairperson Gursky tabled this item until the break when Mr. Plante can find the audit item to share with the board.

e. Personnel

- i. Trustee Abols updated the board that there was a Personnel Committee meeting. She and Chairperson Gursky discussed creating evaluation forms for three positions at the school:
 1. Interim Director
 2. Assistant Director
 3. Personnel Specialist

f. Finance

- i. Chairperson Gursky informed the board that Trustee Fifer Ferry agreed to be involved in the Finance Committee.

g. Policy

- i. Approval of recommendation to RIDE regarding ASL competency

for new teachers

1. After reading the audit item, the board has been notified of the recommendation regarding ASL competency and there is no objection to sending this on to RIDE.

VI. Old Business

a. Board Retreat Dates

- i. Sundays will be researched as possible dates. It was agreed that 9:00AM to 3:00PM would be the time.
- ii. **Action:** Trustee McEntee and Trustee Dorros agreed to gather agenda items for the retreat.

1. Organize food

2. Securing interpreters

3. Gathering materials

b. Update on RISD Security

- i. A police lieutenant has been assigned to the school. He will do a walk through at the building to give ideas on how to improve security.

c. Approval of National Search for Director Process

- i. Trustee McEntee voiced concern in regards to the makeup of the Search Committee.
- ii. Discussion took place regarding a balance of the makeup of the Search Committee and the role of a consultant.
- iii. Chairperson Gursky stated his opinion that whether the outcome of this process is that a director is hired or no director is hired, there is a sincere need to go through the process for the sake of the school.
- iv. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee that the Board of Trustees accept the process as amended and forward this information to the Department of Education. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski.
Approved unanimously.
- v. Trustee Dorros thanked the chair for his continued work in moving this process forward.

VII. New Business

a. Ratification of Contract for RISD 2012 Members

- i. Chairperson Gursky refrained from participating in this item of discussion. Trustee McEntee volunteered to chair.
- ii. Mr. Plante informed the Board that the 2012 Union negotiated a contract at RI Department of Education. There are 4 members of this union at RISD. Four years ago RISD accepted the contract from RIDE. Mr. Plante asked the Board if they would like to accept the contract or pursue further negotiations with 2012.
- iii. The Board agreed that they did not want to pursue further negotiations with 2012.

VIII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. The remaining agenda items will be tabled until the next meeting.

IX. Adjournment

- a. **Motion** to adjourn by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.