

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 11, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: May 9, 2006

Interpreters: 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 6:11PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

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

Excused: Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, Tracy Karasinski, Maureen McEntee

III. Chairperson Gursky stated for the minutes that the agenda was amended due to a litigation issue that came to the Board's attention this week.

IV. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. March 14, 2006

- i. Motion** made by Trustee Leahey to approve the minutes of March 14, 2006. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

V. Public Comment

- a.** Steve Florio suggested changes to the minutes of December 13, 2005, which he distributed to the Board of Trustees.
- b.** Mary Jane Johnson announced the Cystic Fibrosis Walkathon that will take place on May 20th at Roger Williams Park. Participants will meet at

8:30AM at the Boathouse.

VI. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's Report.
- ii. Helen Litterst distributed the draft school newsletter to the Board.
 1. The Board thanked everyone for their hard work.
- iii. John Plante distributed an encouraging letter from a grandparent regarding the recent school play, "Oliver".

b. Coordinators

- i. Mary Jane Johnson highlighted items from her Preschool/Family Guidance report.
 1. Discussion took place regarding students with multiple needs and how these needs are addressed in the budget.
 2. Chairperson Gursky stressed the need for professional development and encouraged the school to spend all available funds in the budget.
 3. Discussion took place regarding the best methods of sharing information within the school.
- ii. Helen Litterst highlighted items from her Elementary School report. Discussion also took place regarding assessment reporting.
- iii. Dinaz Adenwalla updated the Board regarding assessments and the Peer Review Process that the High School has been working on in recent months.

c. Finance Director

- i. Jonathan Seamans distributed his report to the Board and highlighted several items.

d. Sub-Committees

i. Building

1. Trustee Dorros informed the Board that people would be going to the House Finance Committee meeting tomorrow to testify.
2. The Board and audience commended Trustee Dorros for all of her hard work on this committee.

ii. Personnel

1. There was a meeting scheduled for April 10th but it did not take place due to lack of interpreters. Another meeting will be planned and there will be a report for the next Board meeting.

iii. Academic Standards and Curriculum

1. Trustee Leahey informed the board that there has been one meeting so far and there is another meeting scheduled for April 25th at 3:00PM.
2. Discussion took place regarding the Board's role in curriculum at the school.

iv. Director Search

1. Trustee LeComte volunteered to be the representative from the Board.
2. The Board approved Trustee LeComte as the representative to the Director Search Committee.

VII. New Business

a. Election of Board Vice-Chairperson

- i. Trustee Dorros volunteered to serve as Vice-Chairperson.
- ii. The Board approved Trustee Dorros as Vice-Chairperson unanimously.

b. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2)

1. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to Adjourn to Executive Session under RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2) at 8:16PM. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.
2. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to return to open session at 9:06PM. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

3. Motions from Executive Session

- a. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to terminate services with Attorney Denise Myers on pending Open Meetings Act matter. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.
- b. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to have Chairperson Gursky ask Attorney Steve Robinson to become involved in assisting the Board with pending OMA litigation and to invite him to the next meeting to possibly be involved in other legal matters. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.
- c. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros that the Board accept Mr. Plante's recommendation to deny sabbatical leave to the faculty member for the reasons that there would be financial hardship and the need at this time is aligning English/Language Arts and Math curriculum with the standards. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. There will be a special meeting planned for April 24, 2006 at 6:00PM.
 - i. Agenda Items:
 1. Adjourn to Executive Session under RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2)
 - a. Collective Bargaining
 - b. Litigation
- b. Agenda Items for next monthly Board meeting:
 - i. Consideration of Evaluation Tools for Interim Director, Assistant Director and Personnel Specialist
 - ii. Re-Election of Board Secretary

IX. Adjournment

- a. **Motion** was made by Trustee Leahey to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.