

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

---

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** March 14, 2006

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Minutes recorded by:** Jake Camara

**Minutes Approved on:** April 11, 2006

**Interpreters:** Paul Giard, Rosa Norberg

**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 6:05PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

**II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

**In Attendance:** Bonnie Abols, Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Marc Gursky, Tracy Karasinski, Neil Leahey, Maureen McEntee

**Excused:** Karen Fifer Ferry, Jennifer LeComte

**III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**a. February 14, 2006**

**i. Motion** made by Trustee Dorros to approve the minutes of February 14, 2006 as amended. Approved unanimously.

**1.** On Page 1 change “as amended” to “as written”.

**IV. Public Comment**

**a.** No public comment.

**V. Reports**

**a.** Interim Director

**i.** John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director’s Report.

**b.** Coordinators

- i. Discussion took place regarding the state standards and how they have historically and currently apply to the RI School for the Deaf.
- ii. Mary Jane Johnson gave an update on her recent “Educational Consultant” coursework completed in Philadelphia.

## **VI. Executive Session**

- a. Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to enter Executive Session at 6:42PM under RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss collective bargaining and litigation. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
- b. Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros back to return to open session at 7:07PM. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.
- c. Motion from Executive Session**
  - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee that the negotiating committee be John Plante, Jonathan Seamans, Sharon Salisbury and Chairperson Gursky. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
  - ii. The board agreed that John Plante should schedule a meeting in late April to begin negotiations. Approved unanimously.

## **VII. Reports**

- a. Sub-Committees**
  - i. Budget and Finance
    1. Jonathan Seamans and Karen Fifer Ferry have worked to develop a new format for budget reporting that will be presented to the Board next month.
  - ii. Personnel
    1. Trustee Abols informed the Board that the Personnel committee met and discussed developing evaluations tools for the Interim Director, Assistant Director and Personnel Specialist.
    2. At the next meeting there should be a draft ready of the evaluation tools that have been developed.
    3. Discussion took place regarding whether or not the Board should be evaluating the Interim Director.
      - a. Chairperson Gursky explained that the Board has an obligation to evaluate the Interim Director and

encouraged the Interim Director to evaluate the Board.

iii. Finance Director

1. Discussion took place between the Assistant Director and Chairperson Gursky regarding the current state of ASL abilities at the school and individuals being hired at the school who are not bilingual (English/ASL).

iv. Building

1. Trustee Dorros gave an update on the Building Committee's recent activities.
2. There is a House Finance Committee hearing scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> between 2-7PM.
3. There is a Building Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> to go over testimony.
4. Chairperson Gursky thanked Trustee Dorros for the great job she is doing working with the committee in regards to the upcoming hearing.

v. Board Development

1. Chairperson Gursky said that he has met with RI Association of the Deaf members to spread the word about people getting involved with Board committees.
2. There was also some communication with Friends of RI School for the Deaf about scheduling a meeting to get them more involved in what the Board is doing.
  - a. Trustees Dorros and McEntee expressed interest in being involved with this.

vi. Academic Standards and Curriculum

1. Trustee McEntee informed the Board that they would be meeting before the next Board meeting.

## **VIII. New Business**

**a. Election of Board Vice-Chairperson**

- i. Trustee Leahey suggested waiting until the full Board was together to vote.
- ii. Chairperson Gursky stated that he would be away from March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup> and would not be available for a legislative hearing on

the new building if there were one scheduled. Trustee McEntee volunteered to be acting Vice-Chair until the next board meeting.

- b.** Re-Election of Board Secretary
  - i. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.
- c.** Consideration of Director's Travel Request (CEASD)
  - i. John Plante described the CEASD conference to the Board. He explained the format of the conference and that this year they are inviting others to accompany the director for the Monday and Tuesday sessions.
  - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Karasinski to approve John Plante's travel to CEASD and if others attend with him that he stay for the additional conference. Approved unanimously.
  - iii. **Action:** John Plante will download and forward the agenda on both conferences to the Board.
  - iv. **Action:** Jonathan Seamans will research available professional development funding and forward the information to the board.
- d.** Consideration of Monthly Newsletter
  - i. Trustee Dorros expressed interest in developing a newsletter to keep in touch with the public and shared ideas on how to develop it.
  - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee that the school be directed to develop a quarterly newsletter containing activities, recent developments, calendar of events, and other useful information and participation by students, faculty and parents should be encouraged. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
  - iii. **Action:** The Board requested a draft of a newsletter by the next meeting.
- e.** Consideration of BOT information on website
  - i. Chairperson Gursky explained that the website simply contains names of the Board members and asked what other information Board members would feel comfortable sharing
  - ii. **Action:** Each Board member should send a brief bio and a photo to Jake.
  - iii. **Action:** Jake Camara will create email addresses at rideaf.net for each Board member.

**IX. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date**

- a. Election of Board Vice-Chairperson
- b. Re-election of Board Secretary
- c. Consideration of recruitment process for Search Committee
- d. Selection of Board Representative on Director Search Committee
- e. Discussion of proposals for collective bargaining

**X. Adjournment**

- a. **Motion** to adjourn by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.