

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 14, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: March 14, 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 Cafeteria.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

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

Excused: Maureen McEntee

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. January 10, 2006

- i. Motion** made by Trustee Karasinski to approve the minutes of January 10, 2006 as written. Seconded by Trustee Dorros.
Approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

- a.** No public comment.

V. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i.** John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
- ii.** John Plante recognized several teachers and coordinators for their recent efforts:

1. Dinaz Adenwalla for working with others in the High School on the Peer Review reports on February 14th and 15th.
 2. Joyce Doblmeier for her hard work coordinating a successful science fair.
- iii. Chairperson Gursky encouraged the school to inform the board and the public of events such as the science fair that people can be involved with. He also commended the school for all of the recent achievements and in particular John Carty at the recent Senior Basketball Game.
 - iv. Trustee Dorros thanked John Plante for his continued hard work and for updating the Board on what is happening at the school.
 - v. **Action:** John Plante will contact the Education reporter at the Providence Journal regarding the recent school science fair.

b. Finance Director

- i. Jonathan Seamans highlighted items from his Finance Director's report.
- ii. Discussion took place regarding the current RI Department of Education budget process is and how it impacts the School for the Deaf.
 1. **Action:** Mr. Seamans will contact Carolyn Dias and Andy Adrade to set up a meeting regarding lobbying efforts for the school and will notify the Board.
- iii. Discussion took place regarding the current state of staffing and providing ancillary services at the school.

c. Building Committee

- i. Trustee Dorros informed the Board that the Governor came out in favor of building a new school via the COPS mechanism.
- ii. She gave other highlights in regards to the recent events in the building process.
- iii. The next step is preparing to testify on behalf of the school at a series of hearings.
- iv. The next Building Committee meeting is Tuesday, February 28.

VI. New Business

- a. Review of Commissioner's proposed revisions to Director Search Process

- i. It was agreed to accept Commissioner McWalters' revisions to the Director Search Process.
- ii. At the next meeting the Board will designate a representative to be a temporary chair of the committee until the search committee is fully formed.

VII. Reports

a. Personnel

- i. Trustee Abols and Trustee Fifer Ferry will discuss a meeting date after tonight's meeting.

VIII. Old Business

a. Board Retreat

- i. Trustee Dorros proposed that John Plante and Jonathan Seamans attend the meeting.
 - 1. Chairperson Gursky suggested that the board table this item and come back and talk about it after other issues are discussed.
- ii. It was agreed that the retreat times would be from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

IX. New Business

a. Consideration of recommendation of Kathleen Ellis to BOT

- i. Kathleen Ellis introduced herself to the board, gave a brief description of her background in Deaf education and her personal history as a Deaf individual.
- ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Leahey that the Board of Trustees recommend Kathleen Ellis to the Board of Regents to become a member of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.
- iii. Keith Oliveira from the Department of Education informed the Board that the Commissioner does accept the recommendation for Kathleen Ellis. The recommendation will be given to the Board of Regents for approval at the next meeting on Thursday, February 23rd.

b. Establishment of Academic Standards/Curriculum Committee

- i. Chairperson Gursky stated that Trustee McEntee has expressed interest in chairing this committee.
 - ii. The Board agreed unanimously to establish the Academic Standards/Curriculum Committee.
- c. Establishment of Board Development Committee
 - i. Chairperson Gursky stated that the Board owes it to the community to pursue individuals who show interest in being members of the Board and that the board should be proactive in recruiting new people.
 - ii. Chairperson Gursky will chair the committee.
 - iii. The board agreed unanimously to establish the Board Development Committee.
- d. Recognition of Former Board of Trustees Members
 - i. Trustee Dorros explained that former trustees Florio, Wheeler, Zellner and Walker were never recognized for their contributions to the Board of Trustees over the years.
 - ii. She recommended establishing at a future board meeting a mechanism for official recognition of former board members.
 - iii. **Action:** Trustee Karasinski will write letters to the former board members.
- e. Review of Board Committee assignments
 - i. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky asked that board members email him with the committees that they are interested in being involved in.
 - ii. Chairperson Gursky said that it was his hope that everyone would be involved in at least 1 if not 2 committees.
 - iii. This will be discussed further at the Board Retreat.
- f. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to enter Executive Session under RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2) at 8:02PM. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

X. Motions from Executive Session

- a. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to authorize John Plante to send out the non-renewal letters. Seconded by Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
- b. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros moved to move to open session at 8:29PM. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.

XI. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. New Committees
 - i. Board Development Committee
 - ii. Academic Standards/Curriculum Committee

XII. Adjournment

- a. **Motion** to adjourn by Trustee Karasinski. Seconded by Trustee Dorros.
Approved unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:33PM.