

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 11, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: August 11, 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 6:10PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer LeComte

Excused: Bonnie Abols, Tracy Karasinski, Maureen McEntee

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. June 13, 2006

- i. **Motion** made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to approve the minutes of June 13, 2006. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. Sub-Committees

i. Building

1. Trustee Dorros informed the Board that \$31.16 million was promised in the Governor's budget to build a new School for the Deaf. There will be another Building Committee meeting planned in the next couple of weeks.

2. Discussion took place regarding the next steps in the building process.
3. Chairperson Gursky proposed changing the name of the committee to the “Building Design and Construction Committee”.

V. Public Comment

- a. Manny Martin (Program Director for the American Sign Language Program) gave a brief presentation regarding his project working in Vietnam with the Deaf.
 - i. He described the state of Deaf education in Vietnam and the way he is currently working with Deaf in the country.

VI. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director’s report.

b. Coordinators

i. Preschool

1. Mary Jane Johnson gave an update on the Parent Guidance and Preschool summer programs.
2. Discussion took place regarding the impact information about a new school would have on prospective new families to the programs.
 - a. Trustee Dorros suggested that communication with the community be discussed at the next Building committee meeting.

ii. Transition

1. Cheryl Hollingworth gave a brief update on the summer Transition program.

iii. Outreach/Mainstream

1. John Carty gave a status report on the year’s activities. Discussion took place regarding the current mainstream program and how it would be affected by the move to a new school.

c. Finance Director

- i. Finance Director Jonathan Seamans highlighted items from his Finance Director's report.
- ii. Mr. Seamans explained the current state of the budget and what the surplus was in this past fiscal year.
 1. Discussion took place as to how to maximize the money in the school's budget during the next fiscal year.

d. Sub-Committees

i. Director Search

1. Chairperson Gursky stated that there are three nominees for this committee.
2. Discussion took place regarding contacting the groups that are supposed to be involved one more time before making a final decision.
3. Chairperson Gursky asked for a vote on the following candidates:
 - a. **Alumni:** Todd Murano (Physical Education Teacher)
 - i. Discussion took place regarding the fact that this candidate is both a staff member and an alumnus, and whether or not alumni have been sufficiently solicited.
 - b. **Faculty:** Lena Greene (Preschool Teacher)
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry that the Board respects the faculty's choice of a representative in Lena Greene. Seconded by Neil Leahey. Approved unanimously.
 - c. **Staff:** Claire Newell (President of Council 94 Union)
 - i. Discussion took place regarding this candidate's position at the school and whether further notification of staff, alumni and students is necessary to choose appropriate candidates.
4. **Action:** Trustee LeComte will send out an email and

arrange for postcards to be sent out to Alumni, Staff and Students by 5PM tomorrow and look for a response by next week. In case there is more than one candidate for each great, a letter of interest should be sent explaining what their interest is on the search committee. Once the Board has heard back from all interested parties, they will make an assessment.

VII. New Business

- a. Approval of Curriculum Facilitator position
 - i. Mr. Plante stated that he has a draft that the committee has not reviewed.
 - ii. **Action:** Mr. Plante will send it to the curriculum committee and by the August meeting it will be reviewed.
 - iii. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

VIII. New Business

- a. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42.46-5 (A)(1), (2) pending litigation, personnel and collective bargaining issues
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1), (2) at 8:41PM. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to return to open session at 9:06PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
 - iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to seal the Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

IX. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. Approval of Curriculum Facilitator position
- b. Election of Board Secretary

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:07PM.