

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 12, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

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

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

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

Excused: Tracy Karasinski

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. August 11, 2006

- i. **Motion** made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to approve the minutes of August 11, 2006. Seconded by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

- a. No comment.

V. Reports

a. Interim Director

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

- ii. Trustee Fifer Ferry informed the Board that Neighborhood Health Plan recently committed to donating \$3,000 to the School for the Deaf.
- iii. **Action:** It was recommended that a formal letter be sent to the “Neighborhood Helping Neighbors” program thanking them for their generous donation to the school.

b. Coordinators

- i. Helen Litterst highlighted items from her coordinator report.
- ii. Dinaz Adenwalla gave a brief update as to how the school year started in High School and Middle School.
- iii. Chairperson Gursky thanked the coordinators for taking on the added responsibility of assisting with departmental meetings and evaluations this year.

c. Sub-Committees

- i. Finance Committee
 - 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry gave an update regarding recent business from the Finance Committee.
 - 2. Assistant Director Jonathan Seamans gave a brief presentation regarding the state budget timeline.
 - 3. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to approve submission of the school budget to the Department of Education. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- ii. Personnel Committee
 - 1. It was suggested that the next agenda item for the Personnel Committee include: Review of the existing personnel policies.
- iii. National Search for a Director Committee
 - 1. Trustee LeComte stated that Boris Skurkovich volunteered as the parent nominee for this committee.
 - a. Trustee McEntee stated that there have been concerns in the past regarding committee members with any conflicts of interest.
 - b. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry that Boris Skurkovich be asked to serve in this role. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

- c. Trustee Fifer Ferry asked that Mr. Skurkovich also submit a letter of interest regarding serving on the committee to have on file.
- d. Trustee LeComte stated that the remaining necessary members of the committee are Student, Administrator and Non-Faculty Staff Member.

iv. Building Committee

- 1. Trustee Dorros gave an update regarding recent events having to do with the new school building.

v. Standards and Curriculum Committee

- 1. The posting for the curriculum coordinator is imminent. It must be posted for two weeks.
- 2. An interview committee will interview candidates and there could potentially be a candidate by the next meeting.
- 3. Discussion took place regarding what will be done if a teacher applies for the Curriculum Coordinator position.
- 4. Todd Murano asked if criteria for this position has been established
 - a. Chairperson Gursky stated that the committee in conjunction with administration has developed criteria for this position.

VI. New Business

- a. Appoint ad hoc committee investigate CEASD accreditation
 - i. Chairperson Gursky stated that Trustee Ellis will be chairperson of this ad-hoc committee. She will be looking into the lengthy process of being accredited by CEASD.
- b. Presentation discussing some terminology used in deaf education
 - i. Trustee McEntee gave a brief presentation regarding this terminology and distributed a detailed handout.
 - ii. Discussion took place regarding where the school is at today linguistically, where it has been historically and what the needs are for the Deaf community.
 - iii. Chairperson Gursky suggested that we take the issues that have been raised and take them to the Policy Committee to develop a facilitated discussion regarding these issues.
 - iv. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky asked that Trustee Ellis be the acting chairperson to the Policy Committee to further this discussion.
 - v. **Action:** Chairperson Gursky also asked that the letter from the alumni be also given to this committee.
 - vi. Discussion took place regarding confusion that may be caused by the committee to which this task has been given.
 - vii. It was decided to name this committee at the next meeting.
 - viii. **Action:** Jake will contact Gallaudet with Board members names and addresses to receive the quarterly publication called "Odyssey".
- c. 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 Fifer Ferry to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 8:15PM. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Motion was made by Trustee Dorros to return to open session at 9:00PM. Seconded by Trustee McEntee. Approved unanimously.
 - iii. Motion was made by Trustee Dorros to seal the Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.
 - iv. **Motions from Executive Session:**
 1. **Motion** was made by Trustee McEntee to approve faculty contract as presented. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

VII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a. Election of Board Secretary

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:01PM.