

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 27, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: March 13, 2007

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 6:13PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Tracy Karasinski, Marc Gursky, Jennifer LeComte

Excused: Kathleen Ellis, Neil Leahey

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. January 9, 2007

- i. **Motion** made by Trustee Fifer-Ferry to approve the minutes of January 9, 2007 as written. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
- ii. Chairperson Gursky suggested adding the Boy Scout discussion to the April agenda.

b. Coordinators

- i. Cheryl Hollingworth informed the Board that a local newspaper is interested in doing a story about the School for the Deaf.
- ii. Mary Jane Johnson updated the Board on current enrollment changes and the upcoming RIHAP conference.
- iii. Helen Litterst updated the Board on recent events and assessments happening at the school.

V. Reports

a. Sub-Committees

- i. Building Committee
 1. Trustee Dorros informed the Board that there still has not been a decision made regarding the choice of a design firm.
 2. There have been sub-committees established to discuss the needs of the upcoming school.
 3. Discussion took place regarding the purpose of the Building Committee. Chairperson Gursky asked Jake to find the original motion of the Board to establish the Building Committee.
- ii. Personnel Committee
 1. Chairperson Gursky informed the Board that the information has been gathered for the posting of the position of Director of the RI School for the Deaf.
 2. Discussion took place regarding how this position will be publicized and advertised.
 3. Trustee Dorros asked to see the qualifications for the Director position.
 - a. Trustee Fifer Ferry stated that all of the qualifications are posted on the web in the Personnel Committee minutes.
 4. Trustee Fifer Ferry thanked Trustee Leahey for leading the Personnel Committee meeting.
- iii. Finance Committee
 1. Discussion took place regarding recent dealings with FTEs and the Department of Education.
 2. Jonathan Seamans informed the Board that the following priorities have been set for the surplus in the school budget

for this year:

- a. Carpeting for the school
- b. Dividers for classrooms
- c. Security at the school
- iv. Policy Committee
 - 1. John Plante gave an update on the recent actions taken by the Policy Committee in regards to school handbooks.

VI. New Business

- a. Approval of teaching assistant contracts
 - i. This will be tabled until the next Board meeting.
- b. Committee scheduling procedures and notices
 - i. Chairperson Gursky informed Board members that they should try to schedule meetings primarily on a regular Tuesday.
 - ii. **Action:** Jake will develop a system for people to register to receive notices regarding committees.
 - iii. Ashley will need to receive agendas in enough time to post them in the 48-hour time frame.
- c. Approval of mission and vision statements
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry that the board adopt this as the mission and vision of the school. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. **Action:** Jake will post the mission and vision statements on the main page of the website.
- d. Discuss safety issues
 - i. Discussion took place regarding safety issues and practicing evacuations from the property.
 - ii. Trustee Dorros asked that for the next Board meeting Jonathan Seamans find out if there are organizations that help with rehearsing evacuations or if there are State regulations regarding evacuation procedures in schools.
 - 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry stated that she is uncomfortable with micro managing the administration to this degree. She asked that the Board charge administration with taking this project and doing what needs to be done with the vision of completing this task.

- e. Report on Meeting with Friends of RISDeaf
 - i. Chairperson Gursky informed the Board that a productive meeting took place with the Friends of RISDeaf organization.
 - ii. Discussion took place regarding the development of the Friends of RISDeaf and their relationship to the School for the Deaf.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.