

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

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** March 13, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Minutes recorded by:** Jake Camara

**Minutes Approved on:** April 10, 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 6:07PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

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

**In Attendance:** Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer LeComte

**Excused:** Karen Fifer Ferry, Tracy Karasinski

### **III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

#### **a. February 27, 2007**

- i. Motion** made by Trustee Dorros to approve the minutes of February 27, 2007 as written. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **a. Interim Director**

- i.** Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
- ii.** Chairperson Gursky informed the Board that a letter had been sent

to John Plante from unions at the school Chairperson Gursky stated that as Legal Counsel to 2012, he would have no involvement in the committee discussed in this letter. Each Board member received a copy of this letter.

- iii. Chairperson Gursky read a letter from Interim Director John Plante stating that he is planning to retire effective December 31, 2007. He thanked Mr. Plante for his years of dedicated service and wished him well in his retirement.

## **V. Reports**

### **a. Sub-Committees**

- i. Finance Committee
  1. Jonathan Seamans stated that since no minutes were readily available from the last Finance Committee meeting, this report would be delivered next month.
- ii. Building Committee
  1. Trustee Dorros highlighted items from her Building Committee report.
  2. Discussion took place regarding the land the school will be built on and the site study that will take place.
- iii. Communication Committee
  1. Trustee Ellis gave an update regarding recent events on the committee.
  2. Discussion took place regarding how complicated the development of a communication policy at the school will be and how helpful a forum to discuss this would be when hiring a new director.
  3. Chairperson Gursky asked that the following agenda items be added to future Board agendas:
    - a. Academic Standards Committee
    - b. CTBNL
    - c. Board Development Committee
- iv. Director Search
  1. Today the committee met to put together a set of standard interview questions for the Director candidates.
  2. Trustee LeComte gave a brief overview of the Director

Search process.

## **VI. Old Business**

- a. School Improvement Update**
  - i. Bruce Bucci gave a brief overview of the School Improvement Team, how it was developed, what has been accomplished and their future goals.

## **VII. New Business**

- a. Interview of BOT Candidate Travis Zellner**
  - i. Travis Zellner introduced himself to the Board of Trustees. He explained his work history, family history and his experience with the Board of Trustees in the past.
  - ii. Chairperson Gursky expressed his enthusiasm about Mr. Zellner possibly becoming a member of the Board.
  - iii. Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to recommend Mr. Zellner to the Board of Regents as a candidate for the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.
- b. Discuss Safety Issues**
  - i. John Plante updated the Board on recent meetings with the RI Department of Emergency Management and explained what steps the school now needs to take to develop their own comprehensive emergency preparedness plan.
- c. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42.46-5(A)(1), (2).**
  - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 7:38PM. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Leahey. Approved unanimously.
  - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee LeComte to return to open session at 8:05PM. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.
  - iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee LeComte to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.

## **VIII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date**

- a. Discuss Safety Issues
- b. Approval of Teaching Assistant Contracts
- c. **Executive Session:** Personnel Issues
- d. Boy Scouts

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:07PM.