

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 8, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: June 12, 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, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Tracy Karasinski, Neil Leahey, Jennifer Milone, Mary Wambach, Travis Zellner
Excused:

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. April 25, 2007

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to approve the minutes of April 25, 2007 as amended. Seconded by Trustee Karasinski. Approved unanimously.
 1. **Page 3, iii. 5:** Change Personnel Committee meeting from April 15th to May 15th.
 2. **Page 7, X. a:** Add meeting adjournment time of 9:15PM.

IV. Public Comment

- a. Chairperson Gursky read a letter from the RI School for the Deaf Alumni

Association expressing their desire that the next director of the RI School for the Deaf be deaf.

V. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
 1. John Carty gave a brief presentation regarding the recent trip with High School Juniors to Philadelphia and Washington, DC.
 2. Trustee Fifer Ferry asked how the trip was funded.
 - a. John Carty stated that there was some fundraising, students each pay \$100 and money is also donated to the school by the RI State Grange.

VI. Reports

a. Coordinators

- i. Discussion took place regarding Alternate Assessments currently taking place at the school.
- ii. John Carty gave the Board an update on the Outreach and Athletics programs.
- iii. Dinaz Adenwalla gave the Board an update on the Middle and High School classes.
 1. Discussion took place regarding graduation requirements, recent ACT testing and what the senior class population will look like next year.

b. Sub-Committees

- i. Policy
 1. Committee has not met.
- ii. Budget and Finance
 1. There are several funding options being looked into regarding completing some projects at the school.
 2. Trustee Fifer Ferry informed the Board that each time a Board meeting is posted in the Providence Journal it costs the school \$500. She stated that it is imperative that every Board member take attending these meetings seriously.

3. Chairperson Gursky asked if the Friends of RISD has been approached regarding several school projects during this financially difficult time.
 - a. Jonathan Seamans stated that at the January Friends of RISD meeting there was discussion regarding several of these issues, and they decided that this was not the type of expenditures that they would support.
4. Discussion took place regarding other funding sources and different ways to approach the Friends group.
5. Trustee Milone offered to join the discussion with the Friends group.

iii. Personnel

1. There is a meeting planned for next week. During the last meeting, the job description for the Assistant Director was discussed and at the next meeting the issue of the ASL requirement will be brought up.

iv. Director Search Committee

1. There was a meeting today and the candidates were reviewed.
2. Trustee Milone brought up the issue of checking background references.
 - a. Trustee Milone suggested Paula Rossi check the background references.
 - b. Discussion took place regarding the timeline for the Director Search process.
 - c. Discussion took place regarding whether or not there were qualified candidates that applied for the position.
 - i. Chairperson Gursky stated that applications were originally sent to the Department of Education. He and the consultant chose the candidates that met the minimum qualifications and forwarded those applicants on to the Director Search Committee. The candidates that were not

chosen will have letters sent to them by the consultant.

- ii. Trustee Dorros expressed her interest in knowing what questions were to be asked during the reference checks and the answers to those questions.

- d. The Board thanked Trustee Milone and the Committee for doing all of the hard work involved in this process.

v. Building Committee

- 1. Trustee Dorros told the Board that the contract between RGB and DOA has been signed. Site studies of both Davies and the current RISD location will take place the RGB will give their recommendation by June 4th.
- 2. Discussion took place regarding what exactly will be incorporated into the site study and the positives and negatives of the locations for the new school.
- 3. Discussion took place regarding opinions of Board members and of the community as to the location of the school and how this will affect timeline and commitment of funds.
- 4. Chairperson Gursky asked Trustee Dorros to add “Discussion of the Current RISD Site as an Alternate Building Site” to next week’s Building Committee agenda.

vi. Academic Standards and Curriculum

- 1. No report.

vii. CTBNL

- 1. No report.

VII. New Business

- a.** Approval of 2007-2008 School Calendar
 - i. John Plante stated that two versions of the calendar were distributed to the school teachers and the teachers overwhelmingly voted to start school after Labor Day.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Milone to approve the School Calendar as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.
- b.** Consideration of Application for Camp Fire USA Charter
 - i. John Plante distributed information to the Board about this organization, which is an alternative to the Boy Scouts.
- c.** Update on RI Department of Health Report
 - i. Discussion took place regarding communicating more effectively with the staff to help reduce any frustration regarding any health and safety issues in the school.
- d.** Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42.46-5(A)(1), (2).
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 8:42PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Karasinski to return to open session at 9:04PM. Seconded by Trustee Zellner. Approved unanimously.
 - iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Fifer Ferry. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

- a.** Motion was made to adjourn meeting at 9:05PM. Approved unanimously.