

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 10, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: August 20, 2007

Interpreters: Jon Henry, Maureen McEntee

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 6:08PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer Milone, Travis Zellner

Excused: Kathleen Ellis, Tracy Karasinski, Mary Wambach

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. June 12, 2007

- i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to approve the minutes of June 12, 2007 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Zellner.
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.
 1. Discussion took place regarding the Family Guidance Teacher position.
 2. The Personnel Committee decided to meet Tuesday, July 17th at 5:30pm to discuss the Family Guidance Teacher and School Linguist job descriptions.
 3. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros that the Board give the Personnel Committee the authority to revise and approve changes to the job descriptions for Family Guidance Teacher and School Linguist if needed. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.

b. Sub-Committees

- i. Policy
 1. No report.
- ii. Budget and Finance
 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry reported that July 11th is the end of fiscal year 2006/2007.
 2. Discussion took regarding the current state of the budget and issues the school is facing regarding the age of the building.
- iii. Personnel
 1. No report.
- iv. Director Search
 1. Chairperson Gursky reported that there was a community interview two weeks ago and there will be another this coming Monday. There is a third candidate in the works and it is still being decided whether or not this candidate will have a community interview.
 2. Discussion took place regarding who would be able to do reference checks.
 3. Trustee Fifer Ferry volunteered to do the reference checks.
 - a. Discussion took place regarding what is involved in checking references.
 4. Trustee Fifer Ferry will contact Trustee Milone regarding coordinating reference checks.

v. Academic Standards and Curriculum

1. No report.

vi. Board Development

1. Chairperson Gursky reported that Trustee Karasinski will be submitting her resignation after the new Director is hired.
2. Discussion took place regarding the number of Board members required to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing and planning for future Board members.
 - a. Trustee Zellner will contact Trustee Ellis regarding her availability.
3. Chairperson Gursky reported that he had an excellent meeting with Gerry Dandeneau of Friends of RISD. There will be another meeting to discuss how the Friends board and the RISD Board can cooperate to help each other work better.
4. Trustee Zellner stated for the record that the Academic Standards and CEASD Committees are on hold until the Director and Assistant Director have been hired.

vii. CTBNL

1. No report.

viii. Building

1. Discussion took place regarding the current process of site studies and program development and how the Board will be involved in finalizing the program.
2. Chairperson Gursky asked that "Review and Approval of Program Plan for the New School" be added to the August Agenda.

VI. New Business

- a.** Approval of Assistant Director Nomination
 - i. Deferred to August Board meeting.
- b.** Review of Family Guidance Teacher Job Description
 - i. Referred to Personnel Committee.
- c.** State's Policy for Using Consultants
 - i. Discussion took place as to whether or not there will be an increased FTE count due to converting consultants to FTEs.
 - ii. This item will be added to the next Finance Committee meeting.
- d.** Campfire USA Update
 - i. John Plante met with a representative from Campfire USA. The cost is minimal and the program is school based and community center based.
 - ii. John Plante recommended that the Board visit the website, but everything he has seen has shown them to be very inclusive.
 - iii. Trustee Fifer Ferry suggested John Plante contact any other schools that have been involved with this organization.
 - iv. Chairperson Gursky suggested Friends of RISD be approached for funding regarding this program.
 - v. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to approve the start of a Campfire USA program at the School for the Deaf subject to John Plante's further investigation into other schools that have used this program. Seconded by Trustee Zellner. Approved unanimously.

VII. Executive Session

- a.** **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 7:55PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- b.** **Motion** was made by Trustee Zellner to return to open session at 8:41PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- c.** **Motion** was made by Trustee Zellner to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- d.** **Announcement of Motions**
 - i. No motions.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a.** Consideration of Board Meeting Dates

- b.** Review and Approval of Program Plan for the New School
- c.** Presentation Regarding Oral Program at Orchard Farms
- d.** Approval of Assistant Director Nomination

IX. Adjournment

- a.** Motion was made by Trustee Dorros to adjourn meeting at 8:42pm.
Seconded by Trustee Zellner. Approved unanimously.