



MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 12, 2008

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes approved on: March 11, 2008

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry, and Christine West

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Marc Gursky called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:16PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- a. The trustees introduced themselves to the public.
- b. **In Attendance:** Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Jennifer Milone, Travis Zellner, Mary Wambach
- c. **Excused:** Kathleen Ellis, Neil Leahey

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. January 8, 2008

<p>Motion: Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2008.</p>

- i. **MOVED** (Trustee Fifer Ferry) **AND SECONDED** (Trustee Wambach): That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of January 8, 2008 as amended. Approved unanimously.
- ii. **Amendments:**
 1. Trustee Dorros requested that on page 3, “Betsy” be changed to “Betsy Grenier.”
 2. Trustee Zellner stated that he was not present and asked that his name be removed from the Roll Call.

IV. Public Comment

- a. Parents expressed their concern regarding their daughter's education at the school.
- b. John Carty, president of the Teachers' Association, thanked Lori Dunsmore and the trustees for resolving the issue with a teacher's assistant at the school since the last board meeting.

V. Reports

a. Director

- i. Director Lori Dunsmore assured the public that the administration is working to improve communication with parents.
- ii. Ms. Dunsmore explained the upcoming Commissioner's visit on March 11th and 12th.
- iii. Ms. Dunsmore talked about her research into strategic planning consultants and suggested setting up a videophone meeting with a consultant from Oregon.
 - 1. Discussion took place regarding the different options for strategic planning consultants and next steps.

b. Coordinators

- i. John Carty spoke about the plans for the upcoming ESDAA Girls' Basketball tournament.
 - 1. Discussion took place regarding communicating information with the public.
- ii. Helen Litterst highlighted items from her Elementary report.
- iii. Dinaz Adenwalla highlighted items from her Middle / High School report.
 - 1. Discussion took place regarding the High School reform and graduation requirement process.
 - 2. Chairperson Gursky stated that the fact that the school is not able to meet the requirements to distribute diplomas signed by the commissioner is completely unacceptable.
- iv. Lena Greene highlighted items from her Family Guidance / Preschool report and gave an update on enrollment.
- v. John Carty discussed the reduction in school enrollment over the past 30 years and the increase in students supported by the Outreach/Mainstream programs at the school.

Future Agenda

Item: Report on lack of approval for High School Diplomas.

1. Trustee Fifer Ferry asked if the staff could provide the Board with a one page general overview of enrollment from the school's recent history.

VI. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2)

- a. **MOVED (Trustee Zellner) AND SECONDED (Trustee Dorros):** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 8:20PM. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED (Trustee Milone) AND SECONDED (Trustee Zellner):** That the Board would return to Open Session at 9:36PM. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED (Trustee Fifer Ferry) AND SECONDED (Trustee Zellner):** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.
- d. **Votes from Executive Session**

Motion: Nomination of Mary Bird as Board Member.

- i. **MOVED (Trustee Wambach) AND SECONDED (Trustee Zellner):** That the Board nominates Mary Bird as a Board member to the Board of Regents. Approved unanimously.
- ii. **MOVED (Trustee Wambach) AND SECONDED (Trustee Milone):** That the Board accepts Ms. Dunsmore's recommendations as requested. Approved unanimously.

Motion: Acceptance of Ms. Dunsmore's recommendations.

VII. Adjourned at 9:38PM.