



## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** April 8, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Minutes recorded by:** Jake Camara

**Minutes approved on:** May 13, 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 6:05PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

### II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- a. **In Attendance:** Mary Bird, Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Jennifer Milone, Travis Zellner
- b. **Excused:** Neil Leahey

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

- a. **MOVED (Trustee Fifer Ferry) AND SECONDED (Trustee Dorros):**  
That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:05PM. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED (Trustee Zellner) AND SECONDED (Trustee Fifer Ferry):**  
That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:26PM. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED (Trustee Fifer Ferry) AND SECONDED (Trustee Dorros):**  
That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.
- d. **Votes from Executive Session**
  - i. **MOVED (Trustee Zellner) AND SECONDED (Trustee Milone):** That the Board of Trustees deny the grievance and allow

Attorney Robinson and Director Dunsmore to negotiate a resolution.

1. **In Favor:** Trustee Bird, Trustee Gursky, Trustee Milone, Trustee Zellner
  2. **Opposed:** Trustee Dorros
  3. **Abstained:** Trustee Fifer Ferry, Trustee Ellis
- ii. **Motion passed.**

#### **IV. NECAP Presentation**

- a. Mary Ann Snyder from RI Department of Education gave a presentation on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP).

#### **V. Commissioner's Visit Presentation**

- a. Rick Richards from RI Department of Education gave a presentation on the upcoming Commissioner's visit.

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

- a. **March 11, 2008**
  - i. **MOVED** (Trustee Zellner) **AND SECONDED** (Trustee Ellis):  
That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of March 11, 2008 as amended. Approved unanimously.
  - ii. **Amendments:**
    1. Change Trustee name spelling from "Byrd" to "Bird."

#### **VII. Building Use**

- a. Jonathan Seamans explained to the Board the history of the Friends of RISD American Sign Language program utilizing the building and informed the Board that the program is seeking to use the building on additional evenings.
- b. Discussion took place regarding the potential security issues of the school being open during the evenings and past practices of groups using the building.
  - i. Ms. Dunsmore stated that she would like to see an agreement in writing and that it would also very clearly include all variables such as the independent study program.

- ii. Ms. Dunsmore will make recommendations to the Board at a future meeting.

### **VIII. Strategic Planning Update**

- a. Ms. Dunsmore updated the Board on the Strategic Planning process.
- b. For the next Board meeting Ms. Dunsmore will have more details in place and a possible timeline.
- c. Trustee Dorros informed the Board that recently a name was brought up of a Deaf professional with experience in this area.
  - i. Chairperson Gursky encouraged anyone who has suggestions to refer them to Ms. Dunsmore and ultimately the Board will decide who will be the best consultant for the job.

### **IX. Reports**

#### **a. Director**

- i. Ms. Dunsmore stated that the coordinators' reports are in the Board members' packets.
- ii. Ms. Dunsmore discussed the Commissioner's visit and the recent School Support System meetings.
- iii. Ms. Dunsmore discussed the Performance Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR).
  - 1. Dinaz Adenwalla stated that staff are working hard and the report will be submitted by April 29<sup>th</sup>.
    - a. She commended High School Teachers for having done a wonderful job.
    - b. Ms. Adenwalla recognized John Reed, Sheila Resseger, Dana Janik, Joyce Doblmeier, Earnest Okwara, Maria Okwara, Sarah Wheeler and all of the support staff for their hard work.

#### **b. Committees**

##### **i. Budget and Finance**

- 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry distributed reports generated for recent Finance Committee meetings and discussed implications on the school's budget for the year.

2. Chairperson Gursky encouraged everyone who has interest in the current budget happenings to come and participate in the open Finance Committee meetings.

ii. **Building**

1. Trustee Dorros distributed her report and briefly highlighted recent events.
2. She thanked Meg Denton and the committee members for all of their hard work.

**X. Public Comment**

- a. The RI Association of the Deaf read a letter regarding communication to the Board of Trustees.
- b. Mary Lomastro of the RISD Alumni Association read a letter regarding communication to the Board of Trustees.

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

- a. **MOVED (Trustee Zellner) AND SECONDED (Trustee Fifer Ferry):** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 9:00PM. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED (Trustee Zellner) AND SECONDED (Trustee Dorros):** That the Board would return to Open Session at 9:10PM. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED (Trustee Zellner) AND SECONDED (Trustee Ellis):** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.
- d. **No votes were taken in Executive Session.**

**XII. Adjourned at 9:10pm.**