

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 8, 2008

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: February 12, 2008

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry and 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 6:02PM 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, Neil Leahey, Jennifer Milone, Mary Wambach

Excused: Travis Zellner

III. Executive Session

- a. Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1), (2) at 6:02PM. Seconded by Trustee Milone. Approved unanimously.
- b. Motion** was made by Trustee Ellis to return to open session at 6:39PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
- c. Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Ellis. Approved unanimously.
- d.** There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

IV. Public Comment

- a. The RISD Trustees introduced themselves to the public.
- b. A teacher read a letter from the RISD Teachers' Union.
- c. A son of a teacher's assistant expressed his concern regarding his mother's disciplinary action.
- d. A member of the community encouraged the Board to solve the problems in this community as soon as possible.
- e. Chairperson Gursky stated that the Board respects the public comment and they will try to do their best to move the school forward.

V. Reports

a. Director

- i. Director Lori Dunsmore updated the Board on recent personnel postings and expansion of current programs.
- ii. Ms. Dunsmore spoke about vision, current programs, and the building process and announced recent retirees.

b. Coordinators

- i. Ms. Dunsmore summarized the preschool report from Lena Greene.
- ii. Helen Litterst briefly updated the Board on recent events involving Elementary School.
- iii. Dinaz Adenwalla updated the Board on High School Reform, Honor Roll and High School Diplomas.
- iv. Discussion took place regarding student assessments.

VI. Public Comment

- a. A teacher, Marsha Stonefield, invited the Board to come into the classrooms and see the teachers and the students work.
- b. A parent expressed her deep concern and discussion took place regarding the way the recent situation with heat in the school building was handled.
- c. Teachers, parents and community members shared their concerns regarding communication within the school with the Board.

VII. Reports

a. Sub-Committees

- i. Budget and Finance
 - 1. Trustee Fifer Ferry reviewed lines of authority and distributed a chart that was developed by the committee.

2. The Board agreed unanimously to approve this chart as a working document.
 3. The next committee meeting is February 7th @ 7:30am.
- ii. Building
1. Trustee Dorros gave an update regarding the architects' progress on systems and building design.
 2. Discussion took place regarding seeking a RI Foundation Grant.
 3. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros that the Board support Betsy Grenier going forward to obtaining grant from RI Foundation. Approved unanimously.
 4. Trustee Dorros also reviewed community organization progress.

VIII. New Business

- a. Strategic Planning
- i. Chairperson Gursky stated that he would plan a meeting in the next several weeks to devote to Strategic Planning.
- b. Review of Standing Committee Assignments
- i. Chairperson Gursky reviewed all of the standing committee assignments.
 1. Finance
 - a. Committee is active and meeting.
 2. Policy
 - a. Trustee Fifer Ferry nominated Trustee Milone for Chair of Policy Committee.
 - b. Trustee Ellis volunteered to serve as well.
 3. Personnel
 - a. Trustee Fifer Ferry nominated Trustee Wambach for Chair of Personnel committee.
 - ii. Trustee Wambach suggested forming a committee on teamwork.
 1. A teacher, Marsha Stonefield, volunteered to serve on that committee.
 2. Trustee Wambach volunteered to co-chair the committee with Trustee Ellis.
 3. Chairperson Gursky asked to hold that decision for further

discussion.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM.