

**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**One Corliss Park**

**Providence, RI 02908**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: OCTOBER 14, 2008**

**Time: 6:00PM**

**Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa**

**Minutes approved on:**

**Interpreters: Carol Fay, and Maureen McEntee**

**I. Call to Order**

**a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:00PM in the RI School for the Deaf in the Cohen Room.**

**II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

**a. In Attendance: Mary Bird, Richard Dickson, Carol Dorros, Kathleen Ellis, Suzanne Goldenberg, Neil Leahey, Mary Wambach, Travis Zellner**

**b. Excused:**

**CHAIRMAN: ABRIDGED AGENDA – ONLY TWO INTERPRETERS**

**BOARD IN RECEIPT OF LETTERS FROM UNION – WE WILL REVIEW**

**THE LETTERS & INVESTIGATE - COMMITTED TO SEE IT THRU –OUR INTENTION THIS EVENING - TO MOVE FORWARD AND WILL ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AT APPROPRIATE TIME.**

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT – 10 MINUTES ALLOWED**

**DANA JANIK – TEACHER & VP OF UNION**

**READ A SUMMARIZED LETTER: MEMBERS OF UNION VOTE - NO CONFIDENCE IN DIRECTOR.**

**Mother: Talked about incident that happened with her daughter when police were called in to the school.**

**Father:– Spoke that the director took it beyond the limit – very unprofessional. Questions about the break-in.**

**Mother and Father made a few more comments about the scheduling in the school.**

**Travis: That concludes the public speaking – I’m sorry the time is limited – we have to follow the rules – no way are we disrespecting your needs – you do have a voice, but we need to move on.**

#### **Reports**

##### **a) Chairperson’s report:**

**Emailing and in contact with Lori, administration and board of regents , re:– key issues - the by-laws -communication issues**

##### **b) Director’s Report**

**Lori: Basically – focusing on school as a whole –we now have complete administrative Team and can look forward to working**

together esp. in terms w/RIDE. We have formed emergency procedures. We need to establish an admissions policy – The Commissioner wants same context as Meeting Street School and wants to make those factors involved in our admission policy– special services, core program, mental health concerns – still a work in progress – changing our view for the future. We have certified instructors to provide staff training to de-escalate student behaviors that escalate and will expect that will help.

Wayne Hannon: – Budget info....report passed out – letter from Gallogly

– cuts statewide – fiscal 09 and 10 –Number you want to look at \$894,000 reduction to base – reduced for 2010, fee for service issue. We need to find creative ways to bring money in instead of cutting costs. See impact statements.

Dickson: where does it show the reduction?

Wayne: you won't see that here – I can get you those numbers.

Suzanne: – where are the cuts here ? Wayne explained.

Mary W: –are we working with IEPs – are we in state compliance with RIDE

Wayne: yes - we are meeting

Parents asked a question and got up to leave and shouted angrily : “this is a joke –he’s going on with a chart – it doesn’t mean anything to me “

Wayne: we are trying to be sure the students get what they need.

As to break – in – we developed a policy – need to get it approved by the policy comm. – asking for volunteers for emergency lock-down

program to ensure there are people available to assure the safety of the students.

**Assistant Director:**

**Mary Smith:** I'm here 6 wks., - (clapping)– discussed her background and training. Issues, e.g. parent/teacher communication and new IEP system– we are working with new form to be up-to-dated. Also an issue is an admissions policy.

**Dickson:** reg. NECAP assessments – what is hot and what's not?

**Mary Smith:** We are not at same standards. The challenge is to balance what state requires and make students able to live in the community, have fundamental living skills. Lori – Spoke about what's happened since last June – mission, vision report, school improvement plan –

**c) Sub-Committee Reports**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

**Wayne** –Continue to meet every other Thursday with DOA – bids due 10-22 – all contractors have to have bids in – two wks from that point – contract will be awarded. Still on schedule for groundbreaking before Thanksgiving. We are still looking at relocating for one year – not sure where – when finalized – you will know.

**ART ADVISORY COMM. –**

**Carol:** waiting for estimate to move mosaics.

**Wayne:** Will get quote to move art or develop new art – not yet requisitioned.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Travis:** 45 minutes left – new business – policy & procedures with

**board.**

**By-laws are clear – rules we are expected to follow...issues involved – board must go in right direction and the future of the school – and admin policy – goals, budget and planning – and strategic planning.**

**Board discussed next meeting date.**

**Travis: re: policy comm. bd of trustees. Any three can meet and vote on policy to recommend .**

**Lori: Suggest that committees meet on a regular day, e.g. building, art, policy, etc. Pick a day and stick to it.**

**Board and Lori discussed communication and policy making.**

**.**

**Dick Richards: Don't let your current issues, hold you back – you need the vision to develop into a new, much larger facility . You need to develop policy, vision, staffing for the new school – current – immediate future and the future.**

**RIDE: policy may already be in place in the by-laws – re-visit and see need for change/modification – establish a committee to work on a review of what you have and get full board familiarized with that.**

**Suzanne: I care what the future of the school is - and the students - what is the board of regent's position?**

**D Richards: we are responsible for the partnership, priority is to service the school to serve the community of the deaf in RI – we**

**support you and expect you to plan accordingly.**

**Travis: we have 20 min left..**

**VI. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-4 6-5 (a)(1)and (2)**

**a. MOVED (Mary Wambach) AND SECONDED (Mary Bird): That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 7:45 PM. Approved unanimously.**

**b. MOVED (Carol D) AND SECONDED (Suzanne): That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:59PM. Approved unanimously.**

**c. MOVED (Dickson) AND SECONDED (Neal): That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.**

**VII. Motions from Executive Session**

**No motions/votes taken**

**VIII. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date**

**a. Board will decide next meeting date**

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion: Travis – Second Mary W – adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**