



MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2008

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes approved on: July 15, 2008

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry, and Christine West

I. Call to Order

- a. Pro Tempore Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:07PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cafeteria.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- a. **In Attendance:** Mary Bird, Carol Dorros, Neil Leahey, Jennifer Milone, Travis Zellner
- b. **Excused:** Kathleen Ellis, Mary Wambach

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

- a. **MOVED (Trustee Bird) AND SECONDED (Trustee Dorros):** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:07PM. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED (Trustee Leahey) AND SECONDED (Trustee Bird):** That the Board would return to Open Session at 6:25PM. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED (Trustee Milone) AND SECONDED (Trustee Bird):** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.
- d. **MOVED (Trustee Bird) AND SECONDED (Trustee Leahey):** To approve the director's nomination of Wayne Hannon for Assistant Director of Finance. Approved unanimously.

IV. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. April 8, 2008

- i. **MOVED** (Trustee Dorros) **AND SECONDED** (Trustee Milone):
That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of April 8, 2008 as submitted. Approved unanimously.

b. April 29, 2008

- i. **MOVED** (Trustee Leahey) **AND SECONDED** (Trustee Dorros):
That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of April 29, 2008 as amended. Approved unanimously.
- ii. **Amendments:**
 1. Change all instances of “Interim Chairperson” to “Pro Tempore Chairperson.”
 2. Change the instance of “Chairperson of CDHH” to “Chairperson of RI CDHH.”
 3. **Section III-b-3:** Change “a small orientation packet” to “no orientation packet.”
 4. **Section IV-b-ii-1:** Change “3 vacancies” to “2 vacancies.”
 5. **Section IV-h-2:** Change “Trustee” to “Trustee Bird.”

V. Reports

a. Director

- i. Director Lori Dunsmore discussed the ASL assessments that are taking place this week, the upcoming commissioner’s visit and strategic planning progress.
- ii. Discussion took place regarding the Board’s role in strategic planning.
- iii. Next month Ms. Dunsmore will discuss next steps of the Performance Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) and Strategic Planning.

b. Pro Tempore Chairperson

- i. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner informed the Board that a recent meeting took place with RIDE to discuss the communication plan that needs to be established at the school.
- ii. Discussion took place regarding what is and what is not allowed in regards to Board communication.

c. Sub-Committees

i. Building

1. Trustee Dorros covered the current state of the building process, working with Friends of RISD for donations and the pursuit of grant money.
2. Trustee Dorros asked the Board to support a conversation between the Department of Administration and the Friends of RISD.
3. The Board agreed that they support the efforts to obtain the Champlain Foundation grant by the Department of Administration working together with the Building Committee and the Director.
4. Trustee Dorros informed the Board about the upcoming park clean up. She also indicated that there would be ASL and Spanish interpreters present.

VI. New Business

a. Vacancies

- i. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner reviewed the current state of Board vacancies. He informed the Board that:
 1. Mary Wambach's resignation was never officially accepted and she has withdrawn it. Ms. Wambach is still a Board member.
 2. Currently there are 2 vacancies.
 3. RIDE has two well-qualified applicants.

b. Communication Plan

- i. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner reviewed the process of developing a communication plan and stated that they are working on setting up a committee under the Policy Committee. Concerns were raised at a prior meeting because there is no official policy or and no guidelines to follow regarding communication.
- ii. Discussion took place regarding fostering an environment of respect related to total access to communication at the school.
- iii. Ms. Dunsmore stated that she would be collecting Communication Policy information from other programs and talked about the implementation of such a plan.
 1. The process will need to take place in phases.

2. It would be culture shock for many people.
 3. To teach students to be empowered, change needs to begin with adults.
- iv. Trustee Bird, Preschool Coordinator Lena Greene and Transition Coordinator Cheryl Hollingworth discussed their experiences regarding communication at work and in school.
 - v. Meme Meadows, an Elementary teacher, suggested that in order for staff to support an idea, they need to be a part of the discussion.
 - vi. Discussion took place regarding the need for sensitivity training.
 - vii. Discussion took place regarding the appropriateness of sending a letter to parents regarding accessible communication at this point.
 - viii. Ms. Dunsmore will gather information and bring it to review at the June meeting at which time the Board will decide on next steps.

VII. Adjournment

- a. **MOVED** (Trustee Bird) **AND SECONDED** (Trustee Leahey): To adjourn the meeting at 8:51PM.