

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING – COHEN ROOM

Date: November 6, 2008

Time: 6:00PM

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on:

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry, Maureen McEntee, and Yvette Johnson

I. Call to Order

a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:16 PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cohen Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

a. In Attendance: Mary Bird, Richard Dickson, Kathleen Ellis, Mary Wambach, Travis Zellner

b. Excused: Suzanne Goldenberg, Neil Leahey

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. July 15, 2008 (4PM) app. in Sept.
- b. July 15, 2008 (6PM) app in Sept.
- c. August 28, 2008 app in Sept.
- d. September 9, 2008
- e. October 9, 2008,- remove Jennifer Milone's name from minutes and revise 1a) no longer protemp – he is chairperson
- f. October 14, 2008

Motion made: Travis, 9-9, 10-9, Seconded: Richard Dickson to accept the minutes of the previous meetings. Table 10-14 minutes – more precise – Travis – agreed.

IV. Reports

- **Chairperson: Turned it over to:**
- **Policy Committee Mary Wambach: Discussed Emergency Protocol and .**
internal/external communication protocol - review and finalize
- **Chairman: clarified that the policy will fit the school needs**
- **Assistant Director Wayne Hannon – re: Investigation report of break-in: – described the incident as per the police report. Promised to do restricted access and evacuation drills before the 20th.**
Questions were asked & answered regarding the protocol and where/what/who/why.

Wayne: noted teachers concerned about safety issues, esp. using the playgrounds during the day – we will put up No Trespassing signs. Prov. Police will enforce that if signs are up - pro-active approach.

V. Public Comment

Earnest Akwara: teacher at school – gives interpreter paper to read: re: rights of teachers under written contract & constitution.

Dinaz: as President of teachers union - discussed response to letter and clarified misunderstanding – has additional amendments to present.

Peter Geisser: Art Teacher and past President of RI Bd Edu. etc. Discussed: major cuts in art programs –Deaf school without art? No child left behind requires proficiency in the arts. Our art program was a model that helped establish state standards in art education. Questioned whether school intends to hire an art teacher and commence an art program. Noted – the children we teach – art is their ears, their music. They don't need to be blind as well as deaf.

VI. New Business

• Report from Chairperson

Took a five-minute break and then explained how Board responded to charges brought against director. Board will continue to work with

RIDE and board of regents to develop a process to address the charges. No talk about money –move forward with school issues.

- **Report from Director - Responded to issues: e.g. Parent's Night, and Commissioner's Report. Noted that projo came to observe 3 classes. Meeting with teacher's union went OK — has reached out to clarify the issues. - has documentation to show intent to communicate with staff. Wants Administration to have quarterly meetings with the union to go over the issues and the outcomes of meetings – which issues are resolved or not. Director noted that Administration team has been very helpful –looking forward to strategic plan.**

- **Strategic Planning Committee - Rick Richards:**

Handling these issues very well, state wants the new building to be used well – the best possible school – house services for deaf and families and community agencies can work together to give a foundation – create a goal for school and all around the school – plan very specifically to reach those goals – very public set of agreements about what the new school for the deaf would be like. Suggested that Board create a sub-committee and invite RIDE to give their expectations and their support to help RISD succeed with strategic plan.

Board: we are going to create something that has never been created

before. We want nothing but success for this school.

Director: re: eight ad-hoc committees - wants to renew them.

MOVED: Motion: create sub-committee for Strategic Planning :

Motion: Mary Bird – Second Kat. – Kat agreed also to be a member of the committee w/her expertise.

Chairman noted that with the new school, need to parallel – administration, the community, school improvement team-work together...our goal is end of spring.

Richards: you will need facilitators – happy to advise, write, but you will need someone to really take this on.

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

a) Motion: Dickson – seconded - Mary Bird to move to closed session– 10 minutes. Approved unanimously.

b) Moved and Seconded that the Board would return to Open Session at 7:50 p.m. Approved unanimously.

c) Moved (Dickson) and Seconded (Wambach) that the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Meeting reopened at 7:51 p.m.

VIII. Motions from Executive Session

No motions/votes taken

IX. Board moved to vote re: Directors Employment Contract

a) Motion made (Travis) and Seconded (Wambach) that a vote be taken on Director's (revised) Employment Contract. Vote taken, four (4) yes, one (1) opposed. Revised Director's Employment Contract approved.

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

a) Moved: (Mary Wambach) and seconded: back in to closed session.

b) Motion to re-open meeting Kat, second – Mary Wambach

c) Moved (Dickson) and Seconded (Wambach) that the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously

XI. More New Business.

Meeting reopened at 8:45

Board discussed Commissioner's Report - non-compliance issues. Asked for financial statements on quarterly basis. Chairman suggested: need a person to come on board with a financial background.

Discussion was made to have Director's report in December, with the non-compliance report.

XII. Adjournment:

a) Motion: Kat – Second: Mary Bird. Meeting of the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:55 p.m.