

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 26, 2009

Time: 6:00PM

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on:

Interpreters: Carol Fay, Jon Henry, and Jen Moore (CART)

Call to Order

Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:15 p.m. in the RI School for the Deaf Cohen Room.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

a. In Attendance: Richard Dickson, Suzanne Goldenberg, Neil Leahey (arrived late), Mary Wambach, Travis Zellner

b. Excused: Mary Bird, Kathleen Ellis

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

A draft of the minutes from the meeting on February 26, 2009 will be presented at next meeting.

Reports:

Chair: Travis Zellner welcomed Corsino Delgado, the temporary replacement for Assistant Director Wayne Hannon. Wayne will be serving in the governor's office to assist with the use of federal stimulus package funds. Wayne will remain part of the school and will continue to be very heavily involved.

Travis met with the Board of Regents to appoint new members to the Board of Trustees. Fern Risene has withdraw her application due to illness. Jim Hockhousen has been approved and will be joining the board. Kat Ellis and Neil Leahey will be resigning from the board. As of June, the board will need to fill two seats for deaf or hard of hearing board members to meet the requirement for a total of five deaf and hard of hearing board members.

Travis met with RIDE to review the Strategic Plan for Corrective Action for the school. RIDE will continue to work with the school on this plan.

Travis: Notice display case for BOT information. Administration will move beginning of June – others end of month. We will meet @DOA instead of here or Warwick – on Monday or Wednesday.

Director: Director Lori Dunsmore was unavailable for the meeting.

Chair Travis Zellner read a report from Lori.

1. Lori reported that she has been in contact with Sally Arsenault regarding the student support system. A report will be available May 22nd and posted on the website before that.

2. Mary Smith has met with RIDE concerning the identification of “highly qualified teachers”. The professional development day went well except for lack of interpreters. A task force is being set up to bring more interpreters to RI.

3, The Open House went well.

4. RGB gave a presentation on the new school construction.

5. Peter McWalters notified that PBGR preliminary approval has been granted. Lori and Mary thank everyone for the wonderful work on that.

6. Jake Camara is leaving RISD to take another job.

7. June 26th is the final day of school; graduation is June 19th.

8. Five students went to NE Academic Bowl.

9. The school musical review is scheduled for next weekend.

Assistant Director’s Report:

1. New Building-Wayne Hannon reported that he has continued to meet with the building committee. Foundations for the new building have been completed. There have been very few delays and the building is ahead of schedule.

2. Move to Rhodes: Containers are in lot for storage; we have tested internet wiring at Rhodes; shipped about 100 boxes there. The Warwick school is all mapped out; design for classrooms going on.

In June, July, and August there will be a tremendous amount of work to be done.

3. Art work restoration: removal expensive; we are considering options and looking for whatever is most cost-effective. The mosaic currently at the front entrance will be incorporated into the athletic section at the front of the new school.

4. Fee for service: update meeting with Dept. of Ed – hurdles in front of General Assembly-problems with school districts and budgets. A business plan will be developed, and a letter including estimates will go out to districts after the Board of Trustees reviews the plan. The General Assembly has approved the RISD budget with the FFS included. FFS is based outside of deaf core service program. Districts may be able to use some IDEA dollars to pay FFS costs. (Corsino D.)

Corsino D: If passes, districts can use IDEA money to pay FFS.

Travis: how about the stimulus money used for an auditorium for the new school?

Sub-Committees:

Policy Committee:

1. Communication Protocol – sent to Elliot Communications Specialists – waiting for recommendations.

Strategic Plan Committee: Really going well; have focus groups to formulate the big picture. Next meeting 4-2-09 – very pleased

w/progress, especially One-Stop Center plans.

Personnel Committee – Travis reported:

BOT Applicants: appointments up in the air. June is Kat's last meeting. New member Jim Hockhausen wants an orientation and we will address that.

Budget and Finance Committee – Richard Dickson will be temporary chairperson of the committee. He reports that expenditures seem to be allocated to categories correctly.

Building Committee: Wayne Hannon summarized: will post pictures on website of progress. Bacon is taking them and sending us a disc to post on web.

Evaluation Committee – consists of Richard Dickson, Lori Dunsmore and Travis Zellner – in the first two meetings reached a consensus on evaluation process, instrument of evaluation, calendar – draft shared with board. Dept of Ed will provide assistance to us-moving along very well-will have something to share by May's board meeting.

Break: 7:30 p.m. Need a quorum to go into Executive Session – wait for Neil to arrive.

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

MOVED R. Dickson AND SECONDED Suzanne G: That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 7:44 p.m. Approved unanimously.

MOVED R. Dickson AND SECONDED Suzanne G: That the Board would return to Open Session at 8:35 p.m.. Approved unanimously.

MOVED R. Dickson AND SECONDED Suzanne G: That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Motions from Executive Session:

None

Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday April 26th.

Adjournment MOVED: R. Dickson, SECONDED Neil Leahey to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.