



## **WORKING MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** December 7, 2010

**Time:** 6:00PM

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:**

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

**Cart:** Nicole Reis

**RIDE:** Andrea Castaneda, Sally Arsenault

### **Call to Order**

- a. Vice Chairperson Mary Wambach called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:13 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

### **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- b. **In Attendance:** Mary Wambach, Marie Lynch, Harvey Corson, Westley Resendes, Amy D Roche, Iraida Williams (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Jodi Merryman, Angelo Garcia
- c. **Excused:** Travis Zeller (sick)

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2010 – minutes were accepted without changes, by consensus

**RISD Administration Updates:** Corsino Delgado noted that there were no new updates to report. Vice-Chair thanked him and the administrative team for keeping the school running smoothly in the absence of the Director. Dinaz Adenwalla reported that the Ribbon Cutting DVD was not ready and noted that great information is being shared on Rooster News. Mary Pendergast and Sharon Salisbury both indicated that they had nothing new to report.

**RI Dept. of Education:** Andrea Castenada

- Updated the Board re: continued short term support in absence of RISD Director, Andrea noted that authority was given back to the Board in August; board membership is complete; temporary administrator, Mary Caporelli, will be leaving at the end of December and RIDE will identify someone to come in to support and work with full administrative team. She spoke of the transition and challenges with the new building, RTTT, new educational regulations, and graduation requirements. She assured that RIDE will work with BOT to recruit a seasoned administrator to see us through till the end of summer; noted that RIDE supports the success of the school; asked the Board to come back at the next meeting with suggestions on what the needs are to serve stewardship and leadership at the school. Member asked what would happen when the current Director returns from leave. Andrea noted that this will be an additional person joining the leadership team; reflects strategic plan and the many demands by RIDE. She reiterated that the person they choose must have knowledge and experience in operating a K-12 school, administrative certificate, will set criteria.
- **Vice-Chair** requested for a meeting with Andrea, with Executive Team (Chair, Secretary and Vice-Chair) – to follow-up with this recommendation, and noted that the Board is most appreciative of the support received from RIDE.

**Board Development** – Sally Arsenault

- **Work Session Schedules** – Discussion ensued re alternating work sessions with regular meetings or with regular meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month and work session/committee meetings being held on the third Tuesday of the month (no decisions are made in work sessions). Policy, finance and personnel committees need to be formed, with an orderly flow of committee recommendations to be reviewed and adopted at a regular meeting. Member suggested that an academic excellence committee be formed to make sure we have appropriate measurements of achievement expectations RIDE has for all schools. After much discussion it was decided to bring this back to the next meeting as a tentative decision – Sally noted that what just happened was consensus decision-making – no motion, no second, no vote – just an agreement.

- Process: making consensus decisions – (moved to Strategic Planning discussion)
- Term limits – Officers/Members – Members asked what their role and function is over time; explore what the time commitment is. Much discussion ensued about term limits; Board would like to see three-year staggered terms so that there will always be a quorum – RIDE will ultimately make final decision to set term limits. New members seek orientation session; all want training review. Sally noted that a one-page chart defining board’s roles, levels of responsibility, is in their Orientation packet.

**BREAK @ 7:10 p.m.**

RISD Strategic Plan – Sally Arsenault reported that 24 people attended the Saturday planning session; she was impressed with the diverse group and the very different views that were expressed.

- Receipt of recommendations – Sally handed out hard copies of recommendations from the planning session – some about consensus; justify, check and get consensus; highlighted statements that could not reach consensus. Members noted that it was an inspiring, exciting day and would like to officially thank Sally and Heather for doing a wonderful job. Participants broke into groups; ideas were presented, reviewed, justified; people were willing to be flexible. Sally noted the most important Mission Statement, (describes our identity) especially that we are:  
*A CRITICAL, STRATEGIC AND RESPONSIVE EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND AGENCY; with a COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR THIS LOW INCIDENCE POPULATION.*
- It was noted that the new building makes space for other functions as well; and the community needs to decide what market it serves.
- Board Work Plan—further discussion was indicated re: the Board response to the Strategic Plan’s recommendations.

Old Business

- Director Evaluation Tool/Data Collection - **Tabled**

- Receipt and review of Policies - **Tabled** – it was noted that policies for Family Engagement, Bullying and Visitors need to be addressed.

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

- d. **MOVED Iraida Williams AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 8:10 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- e. **MOVED Westley Resendes AND SECONDED Angelo Garcia:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

**Motions from Executive Session: None**

**Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date:**

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**II. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.