



WORK SESSION MINUTES

Date: June 29, 2010

Time: 6:00PM

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on:

Interpreters: Christine West, Maureen McEntee

Cart: Shelly Deming

Attorney: Sara Rapport

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 p.m. at the Dept of Administration, Conference Room B

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **In Attendance:** Travis Zellner, Chairman, Harvey Corson, Marie Lynch, Jodi Merryman, Amy Donnelly Roche, Mary Wambach, Iraida Williams
- c. **Excused:** Two vacant

Chairman Zellner thanked Jodi Merryman for attending graduation ceremonies; since there is no one from the public attending – go first to Executive Session....

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

May 4, May 18, June 1 and June 15

Consensus to accept all minutes with the addition of Amy Roche as attending on June 15, 2010. All agreed.....Marie Lynch noted that the minutes are sometimes too

brief-that she wondered whether she could take advantage of Cart notes to add detail. Chairman Zellner agreed that he would prefer more detail; Scott Mueller noted that the briefest minutes format is “Action Only” minutes, where only what is acted upon is recorded, not a lot of detail; Director Dunsmore noted that in looking through past years’ minutes, she found they were vague, e.g. policies approved, motions made, etc.; we need to make a decision on what the minutes format will be. An additional format for offering Minutes will be explored.

Reports:

Chairperson: Travis noted that the Board is being returned to full authority via Commissioner Gist’s recommendation; it is a challenge for us – we need to have two more trustees; Board of Regents must create tool to support us; PSI will still be there – still under intervention plan.

Director: Lori Dunsmore previously handed out folders with her report and materials needed to discuss; she noted that the Integrated Plan and matrix would be ready for next work session. She announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new school is tentatively scheduled for September 15th; we are inviting all districts, special educators, also MA and CT. The Director noted that there is interest in renting part of the new building; trying to merge services, fill building, create situations to develop programs. Chairman Zellner asked – how this can be done when BOT has not approved statewide structure plan and questioned Lori about status on Fee for Service options. It was indicated that the law is unclear re: the school’s parameters about this.

Mary Pendergast noted that we are working with RIDE and attorney Rapport regarding two issues: 1. Charging for services beyond Core; 2. Article allowing the state to withhold Aid to districts if they do not pay FFS-went into effect 7/1/10. Fee for Service billing is supported by legislation that was passed last year – the state has the right to request funding for additional services beyond the Core program; RIDE has requested a hearing to sort things out.

Assistant Director(s): None

Although indicated on the agenda, there are currently no Sub-Committees to date:

- Policy Committee: None
- Building Committee: None

- Personnel Committee: None
- Budget and Finance Committee: None

Old Business:

- Language and Communication Guidelines: Status: 2 points – what we have and what we believe – as relates to instructional practice.
- Student Handbook
- Alignment of BOT Matrix/Calendar & Integrated Plan

- Evaluation of the Director Instrument: Scott Mueller noted that there is no reference to any occupant of the position; Ken Swanson’s report needs to take place in closed session. Attorney Rapport noted that there does not have to be a 48-hour notice – but noticed “in writing, in advance” of the meeting; Lori waived her rights to written notice; the general evaluation tool discussion should be open – closed only if discussing her contract and evaluation. Mr. Mueller also noted that the design of the evaluation instrument is aligned with RI Standards and Cumberland’s tool; the evaluation tool includes six standards and sub-elements/components; added two key elements: consistency and performance for impacting all students. After minor editorial changes suggested by various Trustees, Chairman Zellner asked for and received a consensus to approve policy, procedure and evaluation itself; and thanked Scott Mueller for his work.

New Business:

- Board Status – expects to return to full authority when BOR meets.
- Strategic Plan: Board Work Plan

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

- Collective Bargaining: Teachers' Contract (RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2))
- Personnel re: Director's Contract & Evaluation (RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(1))
- Litigation re: ULP #5983 & Level II grievance protocol (RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2))

- d. **MOVED Amy Roche AND SECONDED Iraida Williams:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:26 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- e. **MOVED Iraida Williams AND SECONDED Jodi Merryman:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:12 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- f. **MOVED Mary Wambach AND SECONDED Amy Roche:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Motions from Executive Session: There was consensus that the Level II grievance would be held in abeyance for 3 months; authorized attorney Rapport to communicate this decision to the union.

Next Work Session Meeting Date: July 20, 2010

II. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.