



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

GENERAL MEETING

Date: March 1, 2011

Time: 6:00PM

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on:

Interpreters: Jon Henry, Maureen McAntee, Carol Fay

Call to Order

Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- a. **In Attendance:** Travis Zellner, Mary Wambach, Marie Lynch, , Amy D Roche, Iraida Williams (must leave at 7:30 p.m.), Jodi Merryman,
- b. **Excused:** Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson, Angelo Garcia

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

- c. **MOVED Amy Roche AND SECONDED Jodi Merryman:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:06 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- d. **MOVED Mary Wambach AND SECONDED Iraida Williams:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 6:47 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- e. **MOVED Jodi Merryman AND SECONDED Iraida Williams:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2011 - tabled
February 15, 2011 - tabled

- Public Comment - None

Member noted that she went to cochlear conference and learned about a one-week Summer camp in Maine for children with Cochlear Implants that will be free to those children. She will forward information to Director Dunsmore about this program.

REPORTS:

Chair: Nothing new to report – looking forward to approving Strategic Plan and mission statement, and finding a new director. Member noted that she would like to discuss the job descriptions that were provided to board.

Director Dunsmore: Report is condensed – reported that Wayne Hannon has accepted a position of Deputy Budget Director at DOA; want to let board know that Assistant Director Corsino Delgado has done a lot of work for us, stepping in and doing a good job; at April meeting will discuss the steps to fill that position; Board of Regents will vote on graduation requirements; 2012 changes may move to 2014; will let all know what impact that will make here; working on summer program and camp for students; Parents' night is 3/21-for students and families only; one on one with parents and teachers.

Chair: asked question re: last month's meeting-recommendation was based on 60 students; students currently enrolled or possible enrollment. He noted that RISD has active role with other students outside of our school. Director confirmed that we can only count our students for budget purposes. Chair replied that he understood, but even if we are not responsible for the students' IEP, we should consider the services we provide to outside students in some way to show we go to different districts.

Director Dunsmore: indicated that base line data is needed – our need is to focus on our students here; we would have to become an LEA to do otherwise. Member noted that RIDE uses all of the data to allocate funds – missing data is reported by RIDE.

Assistant Director Delgado: Willing to answer any questions Board may have on report that was included in package. Since last met, Race to the Top budget was due today at RIDE, updated on FFS. Member asked if we could benefit from including those students outside of the school that we provide services to. Discussion ensued re: cost per student and the budget; it was noted that families are fighting to get their kids here because districts are trying to provide the same services so they won't have to pay FFS; need to educate parents that they have the right to send their kids here. Member asked Mr. Delgado to explain the budget difference across the 5 domains/support system areas; Ms. Castenada can talk more about the school transformation area; we will have opportunity to adjust budget when RIDE provides more information.

Special Education Coordinator Pendergast: students with IEPs identified in State ages 3 – 21=16 students and hard of hearing students 3 – 21 = 102 – all of these not included as our students. Noted that those 118 students include deaf plus additional disabilities.

Assistant Director Adenwalla: Brief report – Read Across America 3/2/11 will be an all day event-encourages their love of reading to improve their educational level-all are welcome; the library is all decorated and we will try to get everything on our website.

Assistant Director Adenwalla then made presentation of the NECAP results; She noted that there were 12 elementary, 14 middle school and 5 high school students that were tested; results were substantially below proficiency levels - keep in mind that we will explain what we're going to do about the scores; our students have challenges with NECAP; proficiency and scheduling. Member asked if there was data about the proficiency levels as compared to ASL proficient-there is no such comparison with the NECAP. We have added more English and Math classes to help students achieve; they don't understand the vocabulary, etc. We will have to go back into previous data to compare scores; we will provide data in June/July once we get NWEA report.

Special Education Coordinator Pendergast: NECAP report cards are on RIDE website but our numbers are too low to report out to make public comparison; there has to be at least 10 students in a cell; there are confidentiality issues here because we have so few students in a grade; working on a more comprehensive report for us.

Member requested additional, cohort data; Board needs to focus on that; what are we doing here if students are not proficient, it's terrifying. How and for whom has schedule changed? Can't wait until June, we have 60 students here; link NWEA data w/NECAP.

Assistant Director Adenwalla: we will be sharing this information with teachers during PD meetings to determine a plan of action.

Old Business:

- RISD Strategic Plan – lengthy discussion re the four functions and formatting; members will work together and contact Sally at RIDE to change the format.

Functions 1 through 4 approved by Consensus.

- Finalize RISD Mission Statement –
Mission Statement approved by Consensus.
- Director Search Committee – Much discussion ensued re establishing a search committee. Director suggested Director's Evaluation as good place to start. Chair suggested that a small committee of 5 or 6 people would be best – with 2 BOT members, others with experience in deaf education and culture; 1 person from RIDE; noted that a recruiter was used last time who helped narrow the choices. Member noted that the Board should address the difficulties at the

school, with students' scores, faculty, list of pros and cons. Another member noted that they should also have a parent who gets outreach support; job description is good start, but need to emphasize the importance of our students being proficient; our role in this hiring?

Andrea Castenada from RIDE: RIDE's role is to help you craft a job description; administrative standards; it is Board's responsibility to hire the Director, not RIDE; we don't want to get tangled up in administrative details; most important is to be really clear about short and long term goals; mission and vision.

Members noted that they needed to move quickly on the job description and posting; don't want to wait till summer; people are looking now for jobs for June; all of this has to be ready to go after the 3/15 meeting. Director noted that she can only help with the transition until June 30th, when she will leave. Members decided that information should be circulated to members before 3/15 meeting so that they can come to the table on 3/15 with the ability to finalize job description for posting right after meeting. Member asked for administrative team input and would like also to see input from the public.

Ms. Castenada noted that the Board has powers that cannot be deferred to others; don't defer your authority to make up the job description; can get input from public, if you like, but should not be included in your compiling the job description. Members agreed-that the Board should post the job description and ask people to comment. Can ask public to submit their comments in writing before the meeting; to screen and retain control. Director noted that a nationwide search can be expensive and budget should be considered. Many applicants may ask for travel/hotel expenses to come here for an interview; need to take these costs into consideration.

New Business:

- **NECAP 2010 results – see above**
- **FRIENDS of RISD Fundraising:** Members raised questions re: the relationship with RISD and Friends, who is contact, how is money given out? Director noted that the last meeting they had to clarify the role of Friends was

two years ago – they are a non-profit group, get donations and decide how to spend money for our kids. All requests go through Assistant Director Delgado; the contact is Jerry Dandeneau; we have no control over their budget. Chair noted that the Friends were very active in the past, but don't seem to be very visible now: how can we increase their enthusiasm and fundraising? Director suggested that Board communicate with Friends that they would like to have a meeting regarding fundraising; Chair will initiate that communication.

Motions from Executive Session: None

Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: 3/15/11 Work Session

II. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.