



## **MEETING MINUTES – Work Session**

**Date:** November 15, 2011

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:** 12-13-11

**Interpreters:** Carol Fay and Maureen McEntee

**Cart:** Shelley Deming

**RIDE:** Jennifer Smith, Maura Kelly

**Attorney:** None

### **Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:11 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

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

- a. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Jodi Merryman, Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson, Angelo Garcia (arrived 6:55 p.m.)
- b. **Excused:** Amy Donnelly-Roche

### **Reports**

- **Chairperson:** Noted that it seemed that the Community Meeting was successful – it's good to hear from stakeholders; no formal report – introduced Joe Fischgrund to speak:
- **Mr. Fischgrund:** commented on the work that people had produced in the Community Meeting; much of the focus was on language, curriculum instruction and a commitment to excellence; the organization culture is open to new ideas; assessment a more difficult topic; there was lots of interaction about community involvement, especially parents engaging with students, deaf mentoring, and involving alumni more at RISD.
  - **Chair:** Parents wanting more involvement is very positive. We must start the reform plan, and consolidate the input from the community meeting into two or three goals for the plan.

- **Mr. Fischgrund:** Community involvement piece should be in place within 3 years; will require leadership and positions in the school that can make that happen; we need staff devoted to community involvement, such as a family/school liaison, as part of the infrastructure; we also need to commit resources to language and literacy specialists.
- **Chair** noted that Mr. Fischgrund would be here every two weeks and concern that the reform plan must be submitted by 1/1/12; asked that there be a third meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> to get more work done.

## Discussion Items

- Transformation Team Consultant – Update
  - **Jennifer Smith** noted that the Transformation Team will consist of:
    - 2 BOT members (1 and Chair)
    - 1 RIDE
    - 1 LEA
    - 1 RIAD or Alumni
    - 1 H.R. Director
    - 2 Instructional Staff
    - 1 Operations Staff
    - 1 Parent
  - Total: 10
  - Ms. Smith** noted that, even though we have an even number, we should be able to agree/disagree and worry about breaking any tie later.
- Reform/Sig – Update
  - **Ms. Smith:** noted that a draft plan would be complete by 11/28, with Mr. Fischgrund taking the information from today and drafting a plan by the 28<sup>th</sup>; on December 6<sup>th</sup> expect to have the revised draft done and after electronic conversations, the flushed-out version of reform plan should be ready for 12/20; it is a top priority and we have 4-6 weeks to get it done.
  - **Chair:** looking forward to that; will prepare to draft a letter to the community to share what’s going on.
- RISD Director search
  - Update (Harvey Corson rescued himself from discussing and voting on this agenda item – left room at 6:35)
    - Much discussion ensued about the posting and reaching out to people again; determining interview dates; developing a timeline to get the process started; we have received 6 applications thus far.
  - Search Committee
    - **Jennifer Smith:** need to come up with timeline and composition of committee; put a notice out to staff to obtain their interest in being on the committee; determine why and who is most qualified to work well together; members must be objective, able to listen, leave personal agendas out, to make a decision that is

right for the children; this will be on the top of our agenda for the next Leadership meeting.

**Ms. Smith** introduced **Maura Kelly** – Community Outreach Liaison for Transformation Office – she brings huge talent and skills; will help with RISD transformation.

- Board of Trustee Vacancy (Deaf and Hearing Seat) (Mr. Corson returned at 6:45)
  - One interviewee here tonight – prefers Closed Session.

**Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) – to discuss Board of Trustees vacancies, interviews, nominations:**

- a. **MOVED Marie Lynch AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:51 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Harvey Corson AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:41 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

**Motions from Executive Session: No vote taken**

**Open Session**

**Harvey Corson** MOVED and SECONDED by **Westley Resendes** to recommend Wayne T. Hannon to the Board of Regents for a seat on the RISD Board of Trustees. Motion carried – **Chair** will prepare letter to the Board of Regents.

- It was noted that Board of Trustees would seek advice from counsel, Sara Rapport, about any conflict of interest, and that Mr. Hannon would receive board trustee training.

**Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.