



## **MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting**

**Date:** December 13, 2011

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

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:** 1-10-12

**Interpreters:** Jon Henry and Maureen McEntee

Cart: Shelley Deming

RIDE: Jennifer Smith

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 6:06 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

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

- a. **In Attendance:** Amy D Roche (arrived 6:10), Jodi Merryman, Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson.
- b. **Excused:** Marie Lynch, Angelo Garcia

### **Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) – to discuss Collective Bargaining-Teachers Contract and Local 2012**

#### **Litigation: Smithfield vs. RIDE/RISD; Okwara v RISD and RI Attorney General; Okwara v RISD, DOA:**

- a. **MOVED Harvey Corson AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:08 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Amy Donnelly Roche AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 6:50 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Jodi Merriman AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

**Motions from Executive Session: Board agreed on settlement matter.**

### **Acceptance of previous meeting minutes:**

September 20, 2011 Work Session – approved by consensus

November 1, 2011 General Meeting – approved by consensus

November 15, 2011 Work Session – approved as corrected by Secretary

November 29, 2011 Work Session– approved as corrected by Secretary

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Community member asked if the input from the stakeholders meeting would be posted on our website.

**Chair and Joe Fischgrund:** working on categories and will be posted on web very soon.

### **Reports:**

- **Chairperson:** Candidates for the Board identified – Wayne Hannon and Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez ; have not sent formal letter to Commissioner Gist – hoping to get on January agenda for Board of Regents meeting; (passed around copy of letter), for parents about what is going on at the school and the search committee. Letters will be on posted on the school website and sent home in backpacks.
- **Interim Administration Report:** (Mary Pendergast did not attend) **Corsino Delgado:** can report on finance and operations – next month 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget projection is due; met with construction committee – there is money left in the construction budget to build a simple metal garage for 5 school vehicles; we received a new 14-passenger van (red) and will return the old school bus; the van is more practical for us and there is no special license required to drive it; there was not enough money left to build an auditorium.

### **Old Business**

- Leadership Team and Reform/Sig– update
  - **Mr. Fischgrund:** (passed paperwork to members) – worked with Mary P, back to drawing board, page by page, to understand and develop outline for major part of school reform plan; narrative not quite ready; Jennifer Smith said we are moving in the right direction; application and school improvement grant combined; the grid is still a work in progress - looks at all things from various assessments; needs identified and we must address all requirements of Transformation Model. Major areas: curriculum and instruction; assessment and accountability; parent and community involvement; language and communication = over-arching and foundation to school for the deaf. Each will be expanded upon in narrative with timeline attached to each for implementation, budgeted dollars from SIG and reallocation of resources, plan design, measurable goals, timeline,

budget. We will have another draft in January; we are encouraged to know that we are moving in the right direction.

- **Chair:** How will these issues be presented to Board – can public have access? We would like to see it in February....What happens when SIG money runs out?
  - **Mr. Delgado:** we are looking into that; we have to demonstrate sustainability.
  - **Mr. Fischgrund:** Parent involvement requires funding, so after the 3 years of SIG money, we have to demonstrate that we can maintain; most deaf schools have the position of language and literacy specialist with specific training in that area; rubric is a measure of sustainability; we have put all in here that we want to see, many of these things have a price tag – can positions be reallocated? We are not sure how much SIG money we will get – it cannot be less than \$50,000 or more than \$2 million; \$2 million is available for six or seven schools – we are all competing for the same pot of money.
  - **Mr. Delgado:** we don't expect a lot of money from the SIG grant; we are a one-school district, competing against multiple schools. We may have to shift some resources.
  - **Chair:** regardless of the SIG money, we must comply with the requirements of Transformation.
  - **Mr. Fischgrund and Chair:** keep in mind that this is a confidential draft, a work in progress and not a public document; keep it close and do not share with anyone.
  - **Members:** would like to keep it – it helps to keep up with everything.
- RISD Director search – update – (Harvey Corson rescued himself from discussing and voting on this agenda item - left room at 7:40)
    - **Chair:** we had leadership team meeting; will send letter to community for applicants to be on the search team – looking for parents, organizations, etc.; will start interview process in January (7 applicants so far); will blast more advertising for applicants, develop timeline, procedures, transparency. In January, Sharon Salisbury, Personnel, will conduct the paper screening of candidates to be sure they meet minimum requirements; then will send qualified applicants to interview committee.  
(Harvey Corson returned at 7:45 p.m.)

### **New Business**

- Future meetings: scheduled for 1/3/12 – but first day back from break. Will have meetings on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; in February will resume regular schedule of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays.

### **Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.