



## **MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting**

**Date:** January 10, 2012

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

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:**

**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**

- b. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Amy D Roche, Jodi Merryman, Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson
- c. **Excused:** 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 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 6:07 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Harvey Corson AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 6:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Jodi Merryman AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Motions from Executive Session: None

**Acceptance of previous meeting minutes:  
December 13, 2011 – approved by consensus**

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports:**

- **Chairperson:** Had leadership team meeting today; sent letter to Comm. Gist recommending the two trustees-want to appoint asap; Gist responded that Board of Regents are reviewing their by-laws re state-run schools ; they are having internal discussions and will communicate when decisions made.
- **Interim Administration Report: Mary Pendergast:** this is actually a mid-year report; school is busy; Corsino and Sharon will add to my comments. There is a need to work on Policies – annual health report, due at end of month; policies, regulations, state laws passed, new language..State is starting to work around Race to Top with districts, re CLO = Collective Learning Outcomes groups; framework to look at from RIDE; BEP regs that govern education in RI; other broad areas that need to be addressed- each district needs to respond; gap analysis; begin work of study to standards; much of this has to be built into the plan. Re Assessments – NECAP results should be here end of March; NWEA and MAP testing, too; there is a lot of info around setting goals and achievement in my report. Enrollment is stable; upcoming events: meeting for parents to have opportunity to get data (survey); school climate – qualitative device; must be complete by mid-February. The Student Handbook has generated great conversations; needs fine-tuning to be consistent; same message to students re behavior; accountable for interactions with each other, but also attitude toward school and learning; will meet with staff 1/19; CDHH will hold their meeting here; we are reaching out, trying to build relationships.
- **Corsino Delgado:** ESDAA Basketball Tournament will be held here in February; parents are looking for more auditory approach – should have discussion.
- **Members:** questions about enrollment and outreach; re PLA plan including Outreach.
- **Mary P:** we are reaching out and meeting with districts to get a better handle on that.
- **Sharon Salisbury:** re Westley’s questions about what good things are going on here: internships, practicums, observations, etc. with CCRI, RIC, PC students; PC wants to bring in 42 students; currently coordinating with teachers; Mary is working with RIDE to set up observations for students; in September Luz Adley worked with students to

provide some of what they need; we are also involved with the State Internship Program- which is different from the colleges; planning on having an intern here for April; Corsino has worked with RWU students from the Architecture Program at our school; high schools are calling us about partnerships; we ran a Blood Drive here to benefit our Kelly Butterworth which was very successful; RIBB asked to use our facility at other times – they were wonderful; would love to have them back; gives people a chance to be more aware of RISD; we had good feedback from it. Some of the high schools across the state are asking that students interested in deaf education be allowed to come here for a 10-hour observation and activity with students; participating students must be fully enrolled in a program.

- **Member:** thanks for providing this information, but as a RIC teacher, we have been a little hesitant to send too many students your way because of what is going on here; Carol Fay approached us to have BCC feeder to RIC, very excited about making that happen for ASL interpreters; would like to create three strands=health, education and liberal arts.
- **Sharon Salisbury:** this school is good even with all that is going on; re Staffing – vacancies are: Director, SLP and Certified Teacher of the Deaf/English; we are trying to meet IEP needs.
- **Corsino Delgado:** report brief – will have budget update at next meeting; filed quarterly projections for next year; expect us to be within budget; insurance coverage for member liability has been renewed.

### **Break – 7:30**

- **Old Business**  
(rearranged agenda to accommodate Harvey Corson – recuses himself from discussion)
  - **Leadership Team/RISD Director search – update: Sharon Salisbury:** Leadership Team met to review responses for interview team; reached agreement on 9 spots to be filled; will contact the 9 people and bring them in for 1/24/12. The initial screening is done. We will present six applicant packages and will discuss who we want to interview for the Director position. The interview team will consist of 1 parent, 1 deaf, 1 LEA, 2 trustees, 1 RIDE, 3 RISD staff. All will have to sign a confidentiality document.
  - **Chair:** before the holidays, we rebroadcast for the Director position; we did not get any new responses; Joe Fischgrund will also assist in the search.

**(Harvey Corson returned to the meeting)**

- **Reform/Sig – Update – Joe Fischgrund:** work continues on Transformation Plan; have 11-12 pages re developing a timeline, primary goals and implementation; beginning to develop costs; establishing NECAP and NWEA data to set goals; trying to identify root causes of PLA and how to reverse that pattern; our first priority is improving academic achievement; on 1/24 will have PowerPoint presentation that will set out requirements, goals, timelines, an idea of how much we should ask for school improvement; this is a working draft; be careful, do not throw out issues that might be controversial; will have full draft by 2/28 – signed and delivered 3/16; the process is complicated but Jennifer Smith is helpful with technical assistance; we are on the right path with all major elements – March 6 approval – submit by 3/16.
- **Chair:** there are 4 meetings to make sure plan is approved and ready to go.
- **Members:** inquired about any new comments from faculty and staff since stakeholder meeting – no – all comments from stakeholder meetings were collected and reviewed. Confirmed dates for next for meetings: 1/24, 2/7, 2/28 and 3/6.
- **Chair:** meeting dates will be posted on website; we will follow our regular schedule from March on – there may not be a meeting during April school vacation week.
  
- **New Business:** No
  
- **Future Agenda Items:** Policy Sub-Committee confused about dates to meet; when can divide into subcommittees; all policies need to be updated and reviewed; Mary Pendergast will communicate with RIDE and will send drafts to subcommittee to review; subcommittee meetings need to be more of a priority; dates and times will be worked out via email.

Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.