



MEETING MINUTES – WORK SESSION

Date: January 24, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on: 2-28-12

Interpreters: Jon Henry and Maureen McEntee

Cart: Shelley Deming

RIDE: Jennifer Smith

Attorney:

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:37 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, Westley Resendes, Angelo Garcia.
- c. **Excused:** Jodi Merryman, Harvey Corson

Reports:

- Chairperson – not much to report; will contact Commissioner’s office again about the two new appointment to the Board.
- **Discussion Items:**
 - **Leadership Team – Update – Joe Fischgrund:**
Presented a Power-Point presentation (copy in packet) of the Transformation Plan (used a general School Reform lay-out); noted that Corsino Delgado and Mary Pendergast went to a SIG writing workshop and came back with more format options; also noted that, in our case, the School Transformation Officer = PLA Leadership Team. There were several questions from members re communication, measuring achievement, parent and community involvement and the budget to do it all. PLA

status came from 3 years of state test scores; we need better assessments for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Mr. Fischgrund answered that achievement is assessed by tests that are written in English – a factor in bad performance for deaf students; also, that we need to look at creative solutions, e.g. academic after-school program or extended school day. Gallaudet has a Change Leadership Institute that we should consider.

○ **RISD Director Search – Update – Chair:**

Team met today; very productive; reviewed applicants; have two more interested; will meet again on 2/7/12; the process is still open – not closing at the time.

Break 8:00 – 8:05 p.m.

Members commented that the Transformation process is amazing with the transfer of knowledge, but concerned about sustainability.

Mr. Fischgrund acknowledged that we do have to show how we are to sustain programs after grant money is gone. He noted that they took Outreach out of 1st year of plan (and birth to 3 year EI) to focus on student achievement; must achieve these goals in plan.

Members: agree with focusing on student achievement, get our house in order first before Outreach; but – note that kids who are deaf and hard of hearing who do not go to school here are our kids, too; we should and could impact those students outside of this building.

Chair: The PLA plan is very specific to improve our current school; we can move ahead with strategic plan when we have a new Director – good job Joe.

Mr. Fischgrund: will have more details at next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS PUT ON HOLD

Adjournment at 8:15 p.m.