



MEETING MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

Date: February 28, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on: May 1, 2012 (as amended)

Interpreters: Jon Henry and Carol Fay

Cart:

RIDE:

Attorney:

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:15 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, Angelo Garcia.
- c. **Excused:** Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson.

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; Personnel: 2 individuals to be provided notice of non-renewal under Title 16, pursuant to R.I. Gen.Laws §42-46-5 (a)(1) –

Both opted for Closed Session.

- a. **MOVED Amy Donnelly-Roche AND SECONDED Marie Lynch:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:17 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Jodi Merryman AND SECONDED Amy Donnelly-Roche:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:08 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Amy Donnelly-Roche AND SECONDED Angelo Garcia:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously (5/1/12)

Motions from Executive Session: Two – voted in Open Session.

Motion made by Angelo Garcia and Seconded by Amy Donnelly-Roche to reduce the schedule of certain teacher from full schedule to 3/5 schedule for SY12-13. Approved unanimously.

Motion made by Jodi Merryman and Seconded by Angelo Garcia to not renew the contract of a teacher for lack of appropriate certification. Approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **January 24, 2012 – approved – (W. Resendes may submit minor changes)**
- **February 7, 2012 – approved – (W. Resendes may submit minor changes)**

Public Comment – Retired teacher, Sheila Ressler: noted that she had written a comment on website in regard to assessment of students (did not receive a response)...re: Standard Achievement Assessment of students – what about IEP goals? She feels that staff works hard to develop these goals; 0 – 3 program should not fall by the wayside; also noted that the approved minutes are not on website after 9/13/11.

- **Discussion Items:**

- **Review of NECAP & NWEA Data – Mary Pendergast** – presented a Power Point presentation – noting that it is a difficult information process; these are very different tests and information; we are looking at the results to develop student goals. Twenty students were tested from grades 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11; 100% of IEPs; all ELL. She explained the results to members.
- **Reform/SIG Plan: Joseph Fischgrund** – gave a summary of the draft plan. Noted that modifying schedule will not extend school day, even with double blocks of math and language arts; heavy focus on PD. There will be a one-week summer institute and early language assessment; will be asking faculty to assist in training sessions to become teacher/leaders; want to develop teacher leadership in all areas of reform; exploring bringing LeClerc Center (Gallaudet) here to address ASL language approach; will train here; implementation of RI model evaluation system; each faculty and staff member will have as part of evaluation system. Will work on the budget with Corsino Delgado (from 4/1 thru 9/30) adoption of new curricula to provide PD in way that is lasting. Plans on having the draft plan to BOT for next meeting; do not have a prediction on dollars asked for.
- **Mary Pendergast** – noted that they would be looking at federal funds and grants – other sources – so to not rely solely on SIG funds.

Members expressed concerned about wanting to make sure they have a stamped, deep impact on this plan – really want to see the plan in writing; being a competitive grant, some of these things should already be set in place with RTTT; want to make sure we are supporting the application with weight and merit; impress with tight and narrow document; be specific and impressive.

Chair: not sure realistic that it can be finalized by 3/6 – may have to schedule another meeting for 3/13 only for Reform Plan review and approval – to submit to RIDE by 3/16. Must also contact Harvey and Westley to give them explanations of the draft and ask for comments.

Members: commented on all the good work Mary P and Joe Fischgrund have done, but more people need to look at this and provide timely feedback; people with expertise on BOT can provide feedback – send comments after critical reading – respond via email to Mary Pendergast and Joe Fischgrund only. Send comments even if you are in agreement....

Mary Pendergast: will send out draft without the budget; we are working around the clock; will send RIDE’s rubric for review; all support is welcome.

- **School Policies (1st Reading) – discussed:**

- **Bullying – based on RIDE’s model policy**
- **Food Allergy – also based on RIDE’s model policy – change school physician to school nurse.**

Post policies on school website so that people can comment at next meeting.

- Future Agenda Items – 2nd reading of policies on 3/6/12

Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.