



MEETING MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

Date: June 5, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on: August 7, 2012

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 6:05 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 (arrived 6:30 p.m.) Jodi Merryman, Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson, Angelo Garcia (arrived 6:30 p.m.)
- c. **Excused:**

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- o **May 1, 2012 – General – approved by consensus**
- o **May 8, 2012 – Special – tabled to next meeting**
- o **May 15, 2012 – Work – approved by consensus**
- o **May 15, 2012 – Special – tabled to next meeting**

Reports:

- **Chairperson:** working on letter w/Sara to Board of Regents' Chair (Jennifer Smith and RIDE) to appoint the two recommended trustees; they (BOR) are also to approve Nancy Heath's appointment as Director – just a formality; the appointments of the new trustees is of great concern; a meeting is scheduled for the 18th with Nancy Heath and the commissioner to press on with our reform plan.
- **Director – Nancy Maguire Heath:** first official (unofficial) report; have been spending time getting to know the school; met with Jennifer Smith and Joe Fischgrund to get familiar with the lay of the land; very excited to come on board.
- **Interim Administration Report – Mary Pendergast:** went over her report (in folder for members) – re update on CRP fund application (showed breakdown of funds); ESY = 32 students; 5 graduates, 68 students total; reform plan revision deadline is end of July. Revisions to plan are primarily clarifications – want more specific info, setting smaller targets, but there are no major changes, e.g. special development activities; need benchmarks by quarter and year; planned strategic intervention; our plan is different from other districts because we are very different; we must clarify leadership and provide organizational charts; recognize highly effective staff; describe how PD will evolve, in detail; how to measure effectiveness, track and share data.

Members: had questions – re how many families use taxi service (15-20 families) – districts also use federal funds to bring parents in; PK/Family Guidance – what about EI? ESY program costs=teacher and T/A stipends, nurse and audiology; how did ASL interviews go? (all staff who work directly with students were interviewed or provided documentation – they're all done-ready for next round; met with staff re professional growth-will have results soon).

Nancy Maguire Heath: let's look at this as an exercise for us to be more specific about what we are doing; think more deeply, especially with Professional Development – to lead to a stronger outcome for our students – encourages us to grow.

Mary Pendergast: we have scheduled activities for reform plan; Corsino will overview the budget; Nancy Heath and I are attending a teacher evaluation academy week of July 11th; will participate in series of five web-based modules; looking for future leaders; RIDE, through RTTT will have three full-day workshops to develop a data leadership team – using data to inform instruction is significant to our plan; the Summer Institute will be week of 8/20 to 8/24...There will be five days of intensive PD.

Joe Fischgrund: activities for Summer Institute: preliminary plan is to focus on two tools – framing your thoughts and verbal planning; Martha French will be here for assessment proficiency levels. We are committed to follow-up on all PD. All staff is included, including

support staff-some are not under our contract. Webinars are good to help with face to face training; new people could catch-up with webinars.

Members: wise to have time to digest things – not “know it, fix it and forget it”. It’s very important to apply PD to class instruction; roll into contract a PD instructor for follow-up – not a one-shot deal.

Nancy Maguire Heath: dream is to have in-house full-time trainer; have in-house experts for each of our curriculum.

Member: in terms of PLA in summer – who are those people and how selected?

Mary Pendergast: Investigations is at the elementary level; six total – intend to have all attend eventually; have reached out to staff with opportunities; sent individual emails to staff; minimal response. Whoever does go will be required to be a facilitator, etc.; this is very language-rich training; ASL an important factor – spiral curriculum-pilot it – identify people willing to implement and identify challenges; not every classroom ready; chose grade levels of majority of the students.

Members: implementing is part of the plan – PILOT implies “maybe”; program is less important than common core – how to assure very clear expectation of common core – to assure that expectations/benchmarks are met. Would like a calendar to look at; there is a sense of urgency; appreciate the layered approach – slow unveiling, but issue with curricula is in the implementation – some people are unhappy with Investigations; math fluency is imperative – not just the language of it – curriculum must be implemented in every class; how does school access new students language and communication skills; how do we equip them with language?

Mary Pendergast: one of the Summer Institute days will have RIDE training on common core; details need to be ironed out – curriculum, standards, alignment and engaging in that work. ELA is in summer program only; every teacher must participate in ELA study; need to make a bridge from NECAP to common core. We are working on a plan to develop a comprehensive system of assessment.

Nancy Maguire Heath: I have had questions before on heavily language-based programs; it is smart to collect hard data on this program; not quite sure where it will go – lot depends on teacher ability to deliver it; common core cannot be done in workshops – all has to be put into a daily routine.

Break: 7:20 – 7:30 pm

Budget Report: Corsino Delgado: apologized for last month’s report – was incomplete; have good news and bad news; good=\$400,000 surplus; bad= bills for electricity not paid in 26 months; electric bills are paid through an internal state fund, therefore, we do not see the bills, but I do check the

allocations to our accounts and should have noticed that the amounts were not high enough; on the other hand, National Grid took over two years to contact us; we are still investigating how this could happen; contacted Capitol Projects – the construction account was not transferred to us – the bills were being sent to DOA with a service address on Hawkins Street – in the end, we will probably have to pay part of this bill, but will negotiate to make payments; will keep you apprised. On another note – Rep. Ferri came by on Friday to tour school and asked questions about the empty part of the building – he is also on the Fiscal Finance Committee -

Chair and Director: expect you to fight tooth and nail; if the State got the bill and had no idea where 314 Hawkins was, they should have investigated and paid it.

Old Business:

- **Reform/SIG Plan:**
 - Implementation of transformation model – see above
 - Update from Leadership Team – see above
 - Funding Allocation - see above

2nd Reading and Approval – **Policies - all approved by consensus, EXCEPT: *Pesticide Application at RISD** – new Director questioned if a plan was filed with the State; if we needed a licensed contractor to perform the work, etc. Will get answers for next meeting.

- **School Health Programs**
- **Policy on Aids – Infected Students and Employees**
- **Control of Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens**
- **Chemical Hygiene Plans**
- **First Aid and Health Emergencies**
- **Student and Staff Health and Wellness Committee**
- **Use of Latex Gloves**
- **Medication Policy**
- * **Pesticide Applications at the RI School for the Deaf**
- **Smoking Policy**
- **Drug Free Workplace Policy**
- **Use of Protective Eye Devices**

*Not Approved

**Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) – to discuss
RISD Director
Collective Bargaining-Teachers Contract
Litigation: Post-Termination Hearings**

- a. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 7:57 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Westley Resendes** That the Board would return to Open Session at 8:30 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

- **New Business: Chair, Director and Admin Team:** map out a summer meeting schedule; July meeting will be moved to the 10th. June Work Session=6/19/12.
Graduation: tomorrow – 6/6/12 – all invited to attend

Adjournment at 8:34 p.m.