



**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

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**Minutes: General Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Date:** February 4, 2013

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

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:** March 4, 2014

**Interpreters:**

**Cart:** Shelley Deming

**RIDE:** not present

**Attorney:** not present

**Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Marie Lynch called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:09 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

**Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- b. **In Attendance:** Jodi Merryman, Joseph Fischgrund, Lindsey Medeiros, Amanda Montgomery, Heather Niedbala
- c. **Excused:**
- d. **Visitor:** Danielle Loughlin , a possible new Board member, met with Dr. Lynch and Ms. Merryman prior to the meeting and then stayed to observe the Board Meeting.

- **Public Comment:** None

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- December 3, 2013 - General Meeting  
**Approved by consensus (w/corrections)**

- **Reports / Action Items:** (6:25 - 7:45pm)

- Report of the Board of Trustees Chair:
  - Update on possible BOT nominees: The Board is making efforts to find new members. Currently needed are two Deaf or hard of hearing members and hearing member. The Board needs individuals that are interested in policy, budget and personnel.

- Review of meeting schedule: The Board discussed other possible meeting times. After discussion, it was determined that Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. would remain as the meeting time.
  - Selection of Officers:  
Jodi Merryman was selected Vice-Chair of the Board. **Accepted by consensus**  
Joseph Fischgrund was selected Secretary of the Board. **Accepted by consensus**
  - Action Item:  
Report of the Gala Ad Hoc Committee: Next step is to arrange a meeting between Committee Chair Lindsey Medeiros and Gala volunteer Ann Marie Clarkson, a former RISD teacher.
  - Presentation: As part of a new Board orientation program, whereby a portion of each Board Meeting is set aside for an informational presentation, Ms. Lena Greene, a pre-school and parent infant program teacher, and a graduate of RISD, described the newly re-established Parent Infant Program. A copy of her presentation is attached to the minutes.
- Report of the Director:
- Ms. Maguire-Heath reported that a transition team was created and attended PEPNET meetings designed to support the development of a statewide transition plan for deaf and hard of students in all educational settings; as part of this discussion, the Board re-emphasized that the School should become a state center for services, such as transition, outreach, et., but that funding for these activities is not currently available.
  - A School Newsletter was distributed. This is part of the School's effort to present itself to the Rhode Island community.
  - The school received its Race to the Top letter from Commissioner Gist; Director Maguire-Heath reported that it was a fair assessment of the School's progress.
  - The community workshop, Reading to Deaf Children, went well and three more community workshops are planned.
  - The School continues to collaborate with Rhode Island School of Design to further art education RIDeaf. Thanks to former teacher Peter Geisser who wrote a Special Arts grant to support the art program.
  - NECAP scores were disappointing; the school did not see the hoped for progress, although it is still very early to see the results of the changes brought about by the School's transformation. Two seniors will take the NECAP in order to receive their diplomas.
  - Ms. Maguire Heath passed out an enrollment summary from the past 5 years. The data on outreach programs is weak due to the fact that the program was abruptly terminated several years ago. In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Maguire-Heath clarified that out of state students pay full tuition and that in-state students pay only for specific services in the IEP which are above and beyond core services. Board members also commented on the need for the school to publicize the positive changes happening at the School/

- Report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Operations)
  - Ms. Wu passed out funding schedules for FY14 and FY15, showing the different funding sources. In response to a Board question, Ms. Wu clarified that fee for service dollars are restricted. There may be a need for a special meeting of the Board to approve the budget submission.
  - Ms. Wu reported that the garage renovations were on track; Work will begin in late March and materials have been ordered and are expected to arrive in April.
  
- Report of the Board of Trustees Policy Committee: Jodi Merryman, Chair
  - Research Policy; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The language from the previous version was modified so that the Director approves research projects, with Board being informed of projects and providing oversight if necessary
  - Action Item: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: NECAP Waiver Policy: This Policy is new and directly related to high-stakes testing; it gives the student the right to request a waiver of some graduation requirements if students are accepted to NIT or Gallaudet. Even with the Director's support, it is not an automatic waiver I can waive the requirements; it is an appeal process – not an automatic waiver; advocacy going on. There will be a second reading at the March meeting.
  
- Report of the Board of Trustees Personnel Committee: Tabled to next meeting.
  - Action Item: Director mid-year goals
  
- Report of the Board of Trustees By-Laws Committee: A final document was submitted to the Board for approval. All changes submitted to Chairperson Lynch have been included. The By-Laws were **APPROVED BY CONSENSUS**
  
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.