



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: November 4, 2014

Time: Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: December 2, 2014

ASL Interpreters: Maureen McEntee, Carol Fay

- **Call to Order:**
 - a. Board Chairperson Marie Lynch called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:16 pm in the Cafeteria of the School for the Deaf.

- **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**
 - b. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, , Joe Fischgrund, Danielle Loughlin, Amanda Montgomery, Lindsey Medeiros

 - c. **Excused:** Jodi Merryman, Heather Niedbala

- **Public Comment: None**

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:** (6:15 – 6:25 pm)
 - October 7, 2014: General Meeting Approved by consensus with minor changes.

- **Reports:** (7:45 - 8:30pm)
 - Report of the Board of Trustees Chair:
 - Chairperson Lynch introduced Cheryl Hollingsworth who made a presentation to the Board concerning Transition Services at RISDeaf. Her presentation is attached.

 - Update re: Board training: Chairperson Lynch announced that she had been in discussions with two possible trainers and was awaiting their response.

 - Update re: Board member recruitment: Chairperson Lynch stated that two new people were interviewed for the Board. They were Jonathan Henner and Jane Newkirk. The interviews were conducted by Chairperson Lynch and Amanda Montgomery. The Board approved, by consensus, to submit the names of these two individuals to RIDE for Commissioner Gist’s approval.

 - Strategic planning: The current Strategic Plan is nearing its end and it is time to begin a new long-range planning process. This will involve the Board and all stakeholder groups. It is hoped that the upcoming CEASD viability study will

serve as a basis for the new Strategic Plan. The Board requested that copies of the current Plan be emailed to all members of the Board before the next meeting.

- Handling school visit requests: there have been several inquiries about bringing visitors to the school, especially legislators. Chairperson Lynch suggested that Board members participate in the visits and perhaps learn to serve as guides. If interested they should notify the Director.
- Letters of Recognition (Dr. Parrillo)
Chairperson Lynch stated to the Board that the letter of recognition was mailed out to Dr. Parrillo.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- Budget & Finance: no report. See the report of the Assistant Director below.
- Personnel: no report
- Policy: Feedback regarding Staff and Student Handbooks was requested. None at this time.

○ Reports of the Director and Assistant Director of Finance:

- Director Maguire Heath presented her monthly report to the Board. She also announced that the CEASD School Viability Study would begin on November 16. Once again, Director Maguire Heath expressed her concern about the school's enrollment. A copy of the Director's report is attached.
- ASL Proficiency: Director Maguire Heath noted that the re-assessment of sign language skills was coming up later this year and there were concerns about the progress some faculty member were making and whether or not they would reach their required proficiency level by the target date. Board members expressed their concern that teachers who could not sign proficiently may not be providing adequate access to the full curriculum. This could be a problem by the target date of August 15, 2015 that was set during the Transformation Plan for the School.
- Update re: Budget/Finance
 - Budget for FY 2015 and FY 2016
Assistant Director Wu was absent from this meeting but did send in her report. (See Attached Report). There have been no recent communications concerning the budget submissions.
 - Safety for Bus Transportation (See attached Report)

○ Report of the Board of Trustees Policy Committee:

- Action Item: *Med Delegation on Field Trips* 1st Reading.
Request made that it be re-titled to include the two primary contents of this policy: both med delegation when student is off-campus and self-delegation for those students who are old enough to do so..

• **Adjournment by consensus at 8:12pm.**

