



## RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

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### MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

**Date:** September 9, 2014

**Time: Minutes recorded by:** Helen Edwards

**Minutes approved on: October 9, 2014 with Corrections**

**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 6:11 pm in the Cafeteria of the School for the Deaf.
  
- **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**
  - In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Heather Niedbala, Lindsey Medeiros, Joseph Fischgrund, Jodi Merryman
  - Excused:** Amanda Montgomery, Danielle Loughlin
  
- **Public Comment: None**
  
- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:** (6:15 – 6:25 pm)
  - August 5, 2014 - General Meeting Approved by consensus with minor changes.
  
- **Reports:** (7:45 - 8:30pm)
  - Report of the Board of Trustees Chair:
    - Review of consensus decision making
    - Athletics Fundraiser: Recognition of RICOH
      - Director Maguire Heath gave a report on the Golf Tournament which was held on 26, 2014 at the Agawam Golf Course. She stated that we had 80 golfers of which 23 were deaf. We raised about \$7700. Our goal was \$8,000. Mr. Fischgrund suggested we recognize RICOH and Chairperson Lynch stated she would write a letter of thanks to them. Director Maguire Heath stated our goal for next year is 100 golfers. Chairperson Lynch is also drafting up a letter of recognition to Agawam Golf Course.

#### Sub-Committees Update:

- **Budget & Finance**

Mr. Fischgrund stated that there have been no formal meetings, but he did meet with Maureen and Director Maguire Heath to learn what the budget is all about and to review the overall process.

Chairperson Lynch stated that the budget would first be reviewed by the Board and then hopefully approved by consensus. If a consensus is not reached, then a vote will be taken.

- Personnel:  
The Personnel Committee has not met since the last meeting. At the next monthly meeting, the Director's evaluation will be discussed.
- Policy: Final Reading of School Handbook  
Director Maguire Heath stated that the Student Handbook was mailed out to the parents. The staff has been guiding the students by taking 30 minutes a day to cover the Handbook in class, answering any questions. The students will also sign a sheet stating they have read the Handbook. Director Maguire Heath mentioned that next month we would review and get feedback from the board.  
The Elementary Handbook will be mailed out next month.
- Health/Wellness Committee: per RIGL§16-2-9(25); §16-21-28: Amended By –Laws (to be inclusive of: Health/Wellness) will be discussed at the October meeting.
- Reports of the Director and Assistant Director of Finance:
  - Report re: Opening of School  
Director Maguire Heath stated that we are trying to attract younger students. She handed out a printout showing how many students were in pre-school, elementary, middle school and high school.  
She also stated that Highlander institute would be providing technology training for the School staff.  
Deaf Awareness Month was kicked off at RISD on Friday, September 5, 2014. The students were able to recount their experiences at camp during the summer.
  - Consideration of CEASD School Viability Study:  
Director Maguire Heath stated that the viability assessment would determine how 'healthy' our school is. The interview process takes 4 days and includes teachers, students and parents. If we get permission for the team to come, they can be here on November 15, 2014. They will also be able to do Board training at RI School for the Deaf.  
Chairperson Lynch stated that it is free and would be beneficial to the school in terms of transformation and strategic planning.  
Ms. Medeiros asked how long it would be before we received a report.  
Ms Niedbala asked about CEASD, which Director Maguire Heath stated that it is an organization of school administrators and is an important source of networking for schools for the deaf and their administrators.  
Announcement of New Hires: Director Maguire Heath will be giving out this information at the next meeting.
  - Renewal of School Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Vitterito II, MD  
Director Maguire Heath spoke highly of Dr. Vitterito. He lives in Maine and is on call for the school any time of day. When the school nurse needs has a question, he gets back to her immediately. The Board was asked to renew his working agreement with the school again this year. Director Maguire Heath requested that a letter be sent by the Board thanking him for his service. Chairperson Lynch will send a letter.
  - Report re: Budget/Finance  
Asst. Director Wu handed out sheet with general overview. One is for fiscal year 2015 and one for 2016 budget. She also explained how the fiscal year runs. Assistant Director Wu also explained that the Race to the Top money would no longer be available. Most of this money was used for consultants and professional development.

Assistant Director Wu also stated that we are asking for our allowed number of positions FTEs), 56.5, which includes Audiology Center personnel.

Ms Niedbala asked for more information about the Audiology Center. Ms Wu responded that the Audiology Center does hearing screenings here at the school and also sends out audiometrists (ATTs) to every single school in the state. The ATTs see at least 58,000 students a year. She also suggested that if we had four ATTs this Center would operate more efficiently. It was pointed out that it is a very important service for school districts and is provided for the incredibly low cost of approximately \$10.00 per student. The Audiology Center will present next month to the board. The new budget proposal contains positions for outreach and community services, in order to implement the long-range strategic plan that calls for the School to become a statewide center for the education of deaf and hard of hearing individuals of all ages. As a result of shifting some positions into outreach, there are fewer teacher positions, but this is part of an initial restructuring in order to broaden and advance the school in the areas of outreach services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals of all ages, statewide.

- Review /Approval of Proposed Budget for FY 2015 and FY 2016  
Finance Committee member Joseph Fischgrund moved to accept the budget as proposed by the Administration; Board Chair Lynch seconded. The proposed Budget was approved by consensus.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm and so that the Board could move to Executive Session

- **Executive Session:** The Board will seek to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:  
**Collective Bargaining:** Teachers' Contract Negotiations (RIGL§42-46-5(a)(2)); (7:55-8:25pm)  
**The Executive Session ended at 8:20 and returned to the Regular Meeting at 8:21 pm.**

A motion was made to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session by Ms. Medeiros and seconded by Ms. Niedbala. Motion passed by consensus.

- **Adjournment, 8:22 pm by consensus**