



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 23, 2014

Time: 5:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: August 5, 2014 by Consensus w/Corrections

Interpreters:

Call to Order

- a. Board Chairperson Marie Lynch called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 5:31 pm in the Cafeteria of the School for the Deaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Jodi Merryman, Danielle Loughlin, Heather Niedbala, Lindsey Medeiros, Joseph Fischgrund, Amanda Montgomery
 - c. **Excused:** Amanda Montgomery
- Consideration of:
- Rental of Space to Mariposa:
 - Nancy Maguire Heath introduced Zoe McGrath from Mariposa who spoke about her program.
 - Several Board members expressed concern about the lease. Those concerns were not about the technical aspects of the lease, but about the impact of having a large hearing program based in a school for the deaf. The concern was that the program would change the culture of the school and that deaf students might not be as comfortable in the School as they should be. Ms. McGrath responded that her school was known for its adaptability to diverse cultures and that she did not foresee any problems. Some Board members also felt that the presence of a hearing program in the

school might attract more students and thus help the School's enrollment.

- Given the significant concerns expressed about having the Mariposa program in the school, Chairperson Lynch stated that the Board would definitely review the lease prior to its expiration to determine if the School would continue the arrangement.
- Director Nancy Maguire Heath stated that the Board already approved the concept of the lease, and that this meeting was for the purpose of formal approval. She also stated that she recognized the nature and seriousness of the concerns and would be personally involved in monitoring the program to prevent any unintended negative consequences for the School's deaf students.
- After a discussion of whether or not there should be a vote on the lease, it was approved by consensus.

Adjournment: 6:24 pm.

