



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: May 6, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: June 3, 2014

Interpreters:

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Dr. Marie Lynch called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 5:10pm in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Joe Fischgrund, Jodi Merryman, Lindsey Medeiros, Amanda Montgomery, Danielle Loughlin, Heather Niedbala

- **Public Comment: None**

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- March 4, 2014 General Meeting: The acceptance of the Minutes of the March 4 meeting was deferred. A copy of those minutes are attached.

- **Reports / Action Items: (5:25 – 6:15pm)**

- Report of the Board of Trustees Chair:
 - Update on BOT nominees: one nominee was considered; however, because the person is a state house employee, there may have been a conflict of interest.
 - Consideration of BOT training session
 - The training is taking place tonight from 6:30-8:00 p.m. A question was raised as to whether or not the training met the requirements of the act that specifies a specific number of required Board member training hours. Dr. Lynch said that she could check on that.
 - Consideration of Advisory Board (of interested constituents): discussion deferred:
 - Committees Roles/Functions: discussion deferred

- Action Item:
 - Ad Hoc Committee – Celebration Gala: discussion deferred.

Reports of the Director and Assistant Director of Finance:

- Director Nancy Maguire Heath handed out information about several upcoming events:
 - The 5K Walk which is being held on May 10, 2014. 5K information was sent out via email and through the Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing website.
 - The August 26th Golf Tournament which is being held to benefit athletic programs.
 - A Reading to Deaf Children Workshop on Saturday, May 17, 2014. There will be both ASL interpreters and Spanish language interpreters.
 - The American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) Conference is being sponsored by The Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, MA. They will sponsor 2 families from RISD. There are activities for both children and their families.
 - A copy of the the new Early Childhood Center Family Handbook was distributed.
 - A document describing the American Sign Language Assessment Instrument (ASLAI) was distributed. This instrument is now being used to assess the ASL competence of the School's children.
- The Art show is on June 4 from 5:30-7:00pm.
- Graduation is on June 13 at 1:00pm. Director Maguire Heath noted that five students will be graduating, but only one will be receiving a diploma. Two students will be coming back (18-21 yrs) and two students will return to focus on the NECAP in ELA and mathematics. Mr. Fischgrund stated that he was dismayed that students would not be receiving their high school diploma due to their performance on a test that was written in a language they had never heard. He also stated that he was not opposed to deaf students taking the NECAP but was concerned that deaf students were being denied a high school diploma based on a single assessment. Dr. Lynch asked if the waiver process would help those students.
- The Annual School for the Deaf Math Bowl was a great experience for the team. This year's team did not perform quite as well as last year's but it was still a very positive experience.
- Director Maguire Heath attended the annual Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) conference in Indianapolis and stated she found it very helpful. The theme was increasing rigor in instruction and assessment.
- The Senior projects are upcoming – sponsors are needed.
- Thanks to the Alumni Association for sponsoring the May Breakfast.
- Quota Club: Joe Fischgrund represented the school; they made a donation of \$100.00.
- Director Maguire Heath discussed the Extended School Year (ESY) program, which is a required program. The School is having a very difficult time finding staff to work in the ESY Program.

- The Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) was discussed. Despite offering extensive professional development opportunities, the gains made by staff in sign language skills was not as hoped. Board members asked about what would be the consequences for staff who did not meet their required level by the required time.
- Dr. Lynch asked if there were any school policies up for review. Nancy stated we will have the Latex Glove Policy next month and possibly two or three other policies.
- Assistant Director Maureen Wu stated that there was no additional information on the budget. She stated that current spending was on track.
- The contract with the School's legal counsel expires on June 30, 2014. An extension to June 30 of 2015 has been approved.
- Assistant Director Wu stated that negotiations have begun with the teachers
- Kelly Butterworth, a long-time and well respected staff member retired as of April 29, 2014.
- Assistant Director Wu stated there have been postings for ESY positions, the Fiscal Clerk position and the position formerly held by Kelly Butterworth as a Communications and Education Technology Specialist
- Assistant Director Wu gave an update on the garage project; excavation is complete and there are some permitting problems.
- The school is hoping to meet with people in the state properties office to discuss leasing to organizations like Mariposa.
- Assistant Director Wu stated that the use of the 15 passenger van is an increasing concern. It also requires a chauffeur's license to drive a 15 passenger van. Included in the capital budget is a 10 passenger van, which would be fine for a field trip for one class and much safer.

Intro to Bright Stars Rating/Preschool Presentation: Presentation deferred

- **Adjournment:** 6:12 p.m., by consensus.