



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: August 4, 2015

Time: Minutes recorded by Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: September 1, 2015

Interpreters: Jessica Morgan, Sharon Clipstein

CART: Shelly Deming

Call to Order:

a. Board Chairperson Amanda Montgomery called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:16pm in the Cafeteria of the School for the Deaf.

• **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

b. In Attendance: Amanda Montgomery, Jane Newkirk, Heather Niedbala, Nora Meah, Jonathan Henner

c. **Excused:** Lindsey Medeiros, Joseph Fischgrund, Danielle Loughlin

Public Comment:

- None offered

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

- July 7, 2015 – Heather Neidbala motioned to approve the minutes; Jonathan Henner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Reports:

- Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees
 - Board Handbook development activities: Chairperson Montgomery reported that we do have volunteers for writing all parts of the handbook. If any member is unsure or needs clarification about their section, Maureen Cotter is available for consult.
 - Chairperson Montgomery also mentioned the Board is still looking for a 9th member to serve on the Board of Trustees. It was also announced that Heather Niedbala will be resigning from the Board in October and her position will need to be filled at that time.
 - Chairperson Montgomery addressed the continuing accessibility issues with the Board. There are some financial considerations that are a challenge regarding interpreters. Very few ASL interpreters are available for Board meetings. The search will continue to identify a permanent team of interpreters for these meetings to provide full access to the public and to Board members.
 - Chairperson Montgomery mentioned to the Board that the third Tuesday of every month should be retained by each member. These Tuesdays are an opportunity to work as sub-committees.

- **Report of the Director**

- Director Maguire stated the ESY (Extended School Year) Program ended on July 31st. We had 42 students enrolled and had an average daily attendance of 35 students. We had a successful ESY Program and staffs were publicly acknowledged for their dedication this year.
- Director Maguire Heath reported three new high school referrals, one middle school referral, and four elementary referrals.
- There was a hand out distributed by Director Maguire Heath listing the new Personnel hires for 2015 – 2015 school year.
- The next policy that Director Maguire Heath will be proposing is the Social Media Policy. This policy will be given to the Policy Committee at their next meeting to review and edit as needed.
- Director Maguire Heath also mentioned that there is a suggestion from the community to name the soccer field after Kelly Butterworth, a dedicated teacher and athletic coach who lost her battle to cancer last year. Kelly's friends, family and RISD alumni are all supportive of naming the field after her and would cover the costs. Item will be discussed in future meetings after researching public responsibilities when making this kind of suggestion.
- The required Faculty Summer Institute will be August 26, 27, 28th. Nancy Cloud from Rhode Island College will be here on August 26th to speak on Bilingualism to all RISD staff. The Board is also welcome to attend if they are available.
- The Preschool at The Rhode Island School for the Deaf received a four star rating from Bright Stars. Director Maguire Heath mentioned that this does not happen very often that the first time out a school gets four stars rating. We were .3 of a point from five star rating and it is believed we are the first Deaf preschool to receive this rating. We received \$5,000 grant for a four star rating which will be used to improve the preschool playground area.
- Joseph Fischgrund will be drafting letters to send to Marion Meadows and Joyce Doblmeier, two teachers who retired this past June after many years of service at the school. He will also send an acknowledgement to the pre-school staff for their hard work in the four stars Bright Stars rating.
- Joseph Fischgrund will be representing the Board at the Golf Tournament which is being held on August 25, 2015. The money raised goes to fund all of RISD's Athletic programs.

- **Report of the Assistant Director**

- Assistant Director Amy Vincenzi explained the Budget handout that was in everyone's packet. This was presented in draft format due to FY2015 fiscal close still being completed. It is expected that RISD will end FY15 with a slight surplus
- There was no new information on the vehicle purchase.

Action Items:

- Report of the Policy Committee:
 - Latex Policy – 2nd Reading –
The 2nd Reading was approved with suggested edits.

Adjournment 7:32 pm