



## RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

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### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** October 6, 2015

**Time:** Minutes recorded by Helen Edwards

**Minutes approved on: December 1, 2015**

**Interpreters:** Shauna Jehle

**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 6:13 pm in the Cafeteria at RISD.

- **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

b. In Attendance: Amanda Montgomery, Danielle Loughlin, Nora Meah, Jane Newkirk, Jonathan Henner, Heather Niedbala, Nancy Maguire Heath, Amy Vincenzi

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- Heather Niedbala made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 1, 2015; second by Danielle Loughlin. Motion approved with all in favor.

**Board of Trustees Training Session**

- Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees
  - Chairperson Montgomery informed the Board that Lindsey Medeiros will be leaving at the end of November. We will now have two more empty seats with Heather and Lindsey leaving-total of three vacancies.
  - There will be a Work Session Meeting on October 20, 2015 with Maureen Cotter. We will be working on continuing the work to create policies for the Board Handbook.
  - Chairperson Montgomery mentioned that a consultant might be needed who will lead and monitor the strategic planning process. We have had a suggestion and she will follow up.
- Report of the Finance Sub-Committee
  - Budget/Financial Report
    - Board members Jane Newkirk and Joe Fischgrund had previously met with Director Magure Heath and Finance Director, Amy Vincenzi to review and analyze the proposed budget. Ms. Newkirk thanked Assistant Director Vincenzi for her work explaining to the Finance Sub-Committee all the details involved in the Budget process. Ms. Newkirk motioned that the Board approve the budget for next year and Jonathon Henner seconded the motion. Chairperson Montgomery thanked Assistant Director Vincenzi for her hard work.

**Executive Session was convened at 7:03PM to discuss the Director's evaluation and contract renewal and ended at 7:30 PM**

- The Board approved the evaluation of Director Maguire Heath and announced a unanimous vote to offer her a new contract. The contract was signed at the meeting in the presence of Joseph Cooper, the attorney. Director Maguire Heath was awarded a 2-year contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> year option.
- Report of the Director
  - Director Maguire Heath reported that the morale is high in the school. The School has had a busy month and a smooth opening, and she stated that the faculty has been “climbing mountains for the last three years and are now enjoying the view.”
  - The new staff members are fitting in well and bring important and needed skills to the School.
  - Director Maguire Heath informed the Board that RISDeaf will not have a graduating class this year. There is no Senior Class. A large class of ten students graduated in June.
  - Our Transition Academy currently has three students in it and Outreach is serving 14 students in various districts and charter schools. .
  - Director Maguire Heath met with Commissioner Wagner, who recently toured our school. An interactive meeting with teachers, parents and staff followed his tour. Danielle Loughlin, from our Board also came in. Commissioner Wagner, has a Deaf family member himself, so he has some experience with the Deaf community.
  - The School is catching up with IT services. The new IT Manager is making great progress as he learns the RIDE systems, the DOA systems, and the Educational Technology and assessment tools .
  - Director Maguire Heath is hoping to get the new vehicles that were approved before the winter.
  - Our census is now growing daily, with several referrals pending.
  - Budget is on track as expected.
- Policy Item
  - *Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy and Guidelines – Second Reading with minor edits.*
- A motion was made by Chairperson Montgomery to adjourn at 7:53 pm.