



## RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

---

### MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

**Date:** March 1, 2016

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Amy Vincenzi

**Minutes approved on:** April 5, 2016

**Interpreters:** Shauna Jehle, Heather Anderson

**CART:** Tammi Burnham

#### Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Montgomery called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:06 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

#### Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Amanda Montgomery, Joseph Fischgrund, Danielle Loughlin, Nora Meah, and Jane Newkirk
- c. **Administration in Attendance:** Amy Vincenzi, Nancy Maguire Heath, Mary Pendergast and Todd Furlong
- d. **Excused:** Jonathon Henner

- **Public Comment:**

- No one registered for public comment.

- **Guest: Todd Furlong, IT Manager**

- Todd presented on his transition to RISD that began in August 2015; unfortunately the previous IT Manager had already left so an actual transition period did not occur. The goal was for Todd to begin at RISD and have basic information on the existing systems in place, including passwords, instructional charts and detailed operation systems information. When the outgoing IT Manager left RISD it was requested that this information be left and it was not. This has caused additional work over the past several months, but Todd has managed to get a handle on all passwords and existing systems.
- Todd reported that he has been working with RIDE on data reporting; the existing Rediker system is lacking and does not function in the way we need it to. Other systems are being reviewed and compared.
- Current IT projects have included working with CONVO which is a deaf-owned company that greatly meets the needs of a deaf and hard of hearing school. This will also include the VRS phone system. The current X-Panel signage system in place does not meet the needs of our School, only providing a way to transmit morning announcement's and lock down/fire drill messages. The system does not transmit a light or a flashing screen to trigger someone to look at the screen in case of an emergency. The CONVO system can do this and much more.

- Todd reported that he is working on developing a Technology Plan that will meet the needs in 1 year, 5 years and 10 years. This also includes developing an IT Budget to cover software, licenses and ongoing equipment updating. This also includes a Chromebook rollout to occur in the Fall of 2016 based on available funding and grants; this will also determine if it needs to be rolled out in phases as well.
- Future IT projects will include an update to the Wireless Classroom Initiative (WCI). This has allowed all classrooms to have wireless connectivity and a hot spot. Since RISD was one of the first schools to apply for this funding, Cafeteria's and Gyms were not included in the wiring set up. The plan is to apply for phase II to include these locations which are now covered in WCI projects.
- The current security camera system is outdated and the captured footage is not clear. The planning has begun to start upgrading the camera system.

Following the completion of the IT presentation a brief discussion occurred relating to the above.

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
  - Jane Newkirk made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 2, 2016 with minor edits. Seconded by Chairperson Montgomery. Motion approved with all in favor.
- **Reports / Action Items:**
  - Report of the Chairperson:
    - The new Board Member nomination is scheduled on the RIDE Agenda for March 15<sup>th</sup> and if approved, the second approval will occur on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board is still looking for another member to fill the existing vacancy, the current members have experience with Legal and Education, the hope is to continue to have members with diverse knowledge.
    - If anyone is interested in working on the by-law review with Jane and Amanda please let them know.
    - The Gala is on April 29<sup>th</sup>, please RSVP if you plan to attend. If you know of anyone that you would like invited that has not yet received an invitation please provide the contact information to Marie in the School Office so a formal invite can be sent.
- **Report of the Director**
  - Director Maguire Heath reported that the Gala Committee is still in need of items for the silent auction with a larger value and smaller value items for the hourly birthday raffle which will occur every hour. Three RISD Alumni are scheduled to speak about their time at the school and also a parent of a current student. Several people have asked about a DJ/dancing, we do have a RISD alumni who may DJ for 2 hours at the Gala depending on available funds.
  - The current newsletter (included in packet) was formatted by Jane Newkirk, which was sent home on 3/1/16 with students. Director Maguire Heath thanked Jane for the great work on the newsletter.
  - RISD has had 16 new student referrals this year, which is a lot for our school and its exciting to see a high number of referrals after graduating 10 Seniors last year.
  - March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Advocacy Day in Washington, DC and we have a staff member, Todd Murano and parent, Betsy Shealy representing RISD.
  - Upcoming events at RISD are the Academic Bowl 3/10-3/13, Battle of the Books 4/2-4/5, Math Competition 4/8-4/10 and Close-Up in May. It's very exciting to have students competing at all of these events from RISD. Ed Camp will be occurring on 3/19 which is a collaboration of 66 Educators from all over coming to this one day event. RI principals are encouraged to develop these workshops and this is a first for Deaf Ed.

- RISD does not have a Graduating class this year, although we will still have the Athletic Banquet and end of year celebrations.
  - Director Maguire Heath reviewed the RIDE data recently submitted (included in packet), the graph shows K through 5 attendance data that has seen steadily improvement and this area is one of the slowest areas to improve. The attendance committee meets every week to monitor attendance per student, calls are made daily to the family, letters are sent if necessary and a home visit will occur. The leadership team also reviews the STAR math data four times per year and these scores have shown improvement as well. As a whole we have three areas that we graph, Deaf, Deaf+ and Deaf++. The initial reporting did not appear encouraging, however once the leadership team delved deeper it was realized that group growth will not be seen but rather individual growth. The leadership team is focused on individualized learning and developing the curriculum based on academic need.
- **The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:17 PM in accordance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss collective bargaining with the NEA/Teachers' Union. A motion was made by Joseph Fischgrund to seal the Executive Minutes and second by Danielle Loughlin. Motion passed with all in favor.**
- **The Board returned to open session at 7:35 PM for final announcements.**
  - **Chairperson Montgomery reported no votes were taken during the Executive Session.**
  - The Communications Policy (included in packet) was presented for a first read. A motion was made by Joe Fischgrund to accept the policy with edits and second by Jane Newkirk. Motion passed with all in favor.
  - Chairperson Montgomery distributed the draft of the Board Handbook for everyone to review and make edits as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.