



---

## **MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting**

**Date:** May 3, 2016

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

**Minutes recorded by:** Helen Edwards

**Minutes approved on:** June 7, 2016

**Interpreters:** Heather Anderson

**CART:** Tammy 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, Jonathan Henner, Octavian Robinson, Danielle Loughlin, Nora Meah and Joseph Fischgrund
  - c. **Excused:** Jane Newkirk
  - d. **Administration in Attendance:** Amy Vincenzi, Mary Pendergast and Nancy Maguire Heath
  - e. **Excused:**
- **Public Comment:**
    - No one registered for public comment.
  - **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
    - Jonathan Henner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 5, 2016 with edits; seconded by Danielle Loughlin. Motion approved with all in favor.
  - **Reports / Action Items:**
    - Report of the Chairperson:
      - Chairperson Montgomery introduced Octavian Robinson our newest Board member.
      - Chairperson Montgomery stated that everyone who worked on the Gala did a great job with planning and set up to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Everything was beautiful and a good night was enjoyed by all.
      - Chairperson Montgomery and Amy Vincenzi have sat down and discussed what the board envisioned for the strategic plan. Amy Vincenzi wrote a draft RFP and it needs to be modified and reviewed by the Board. The draft is a baseline of what we want to go out to bid. Anyone who might want to help with the review and word choices please let Chairperson Montgomery know. Director Maguire Heath informed the Board that the legislature is planning on us starting in September and finishing in June with the strategic plan.

- **Report of the Director**
  - Director Maguire Heath informed the Board that we have one new student in Middle School. We now have a total of 68 students. The PIP program currently has nine families attending weekly and the Outreach Program has 9 districts participating at this time.
  - Margaret Denton who is our Occupational Therapist will be leaving us at the end of this school year. Ms. Denton has been with us for a long time and will be missed. We are posting for her position. We are also posting for a Library Media Specialist which is a part time position as our librarian will also be leaving.
  - The SAT10, PARCC, MCAS testing is moving along smoothly. Our IT manager did a great job on the technical side.
  - Our ESY program is adequately staffed without having to go to the union rotation process.
  - Our Track season is well under way. Lego robotics was offered to our students. The Academic Bowl and Math Competition are complete. The Battle of the Books will be hosted at the State House on May 11<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Wagner congratulated the team in his weekly newsletter. Our Close Up students are presently in Washington, DC.
  - Director Maguire Heath stated that we had 185 paid guests for the Gala. Citations were received from Governor Raimondo, Congressman Jim Langevin and Representative David Cicilline.
  - The Teacher Assistant negotiations are now under way.
  - Director Maguire Heath went into detail about the bill that Senate President Theresa Paiva Weed is sponsoring that will help the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. It is a complicated bill which has two parts. In the first part it states that if a child has significant speech impairment and would really benefit from ASL as a language, but are not deaf they could attend our school. The current language does not allow that. The second part refers to brothers and sisters of Deaf Students and the potential of them coming to the school so that they could be educated with their siblings.
  
- **Report of Assistant Director**
  - Assistant Director Vincenzi informed the Board that the third quarter report was submitted on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Spending is on track.
  - Our new Ford transit vehicle has arrived. It will be delivered next week. The bids have closed on the school bus with wheelchair access. It will hopefully arrive by September or October.
  - The playground renovation is ongoing.
  - We are going forward with the Convo system for the school.
  - We are also going wireless in the cafeteria and gym. These are the two areas that were not done in the original project.
  
- **Action Item: Policies**
  - Board of Trustees Handbook Communication Protocols – Third Reading- A motion was made by Joseph Fischgrund to approve the third reading with formatting changes. Jonathan Henner second the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.