



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: July 5, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: August 2, 2016 with corrections

Interpreters: Shauna Jehle, Christine West

CART: Shelly Deming

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Montgomery called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:09 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Amanda Montgomery, Jane Canulla, Octavian Robinson, Nora Meah, Joseph Fischgrund and Danielle Loughlin
- c. **Excused:** All in attendance
- d. **Administration in Attendance:** Nancy Maguire Heath and Amy Vincenzi

• Public Comment:

- No one registered for public comment.

• Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Octavian Robinson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 7, 2016; seconded by Danielle Loughlin. Motion approved with all in favor.

• Reports / Action Items:

- Report of the Chairperson
- Strategic Planning Update-Chairperson Montgomery reported the RFP seeking proposals for a strategic planning leader is finished and was sent to the State DOA on June 24, 2016. It has not yet been posted for bids.
- Discussion took place regarding when the next Finance subcommittee meetings would be held. The new proposed budget will be due to RIDE by August 29, 2016.
- Chairperson Montgomery mentioned that the final 125th Birthday Celebration would be a BBQ on school grounds specifically for alumni and current families and students. Director Maguire Heath, Board members Danielle Loughlin and Jane Canulla are going to do some research. There will be an update at the August meeting.
- The last edits of the Board of Trustees Handbook are being finalized by Danielle Loughlin. The goal is to expedite and finalize the handbook before the strategic planner starts.

- **Report of the Director**
 - Director Maguire Heath reported that we now have 67 students enrolled. (Two students have moved out of State) New families have been touring through the summer and three-four new students are expected before school opens.
 - The students had a successful Elementary Family Fun Day, Athletic Banquet, Field Day, and Academic Awards Ceremony to close out the year.
 - The final PD day was a full day of professional development focused on Strategic Planning. The five staff Performance and Quality Improvement Committees reported out ideas for future needs.
 - Moving Up Days were held for elementary students moving to Middle School and Middle School students moving to High School.
 - The RISDeaf championship Battle of the Books team, parents, and coaches were warmly hosted by Gov. Gina Raimondo in her office at the State House. The students were very excited to visit with Gov. Raimondo, and parents were appreciative of her kindness.
 - Rep. Matiello sent a commendation to the team and presented each student with beautiful 8”X10” photos of their time at the legislature last month. This visit to the Legislature was kindly recommended by Rep. McNamara.
 - Extended School Year (summer programming) has commenced with 48 students registered; this is the largest enrollment in 4 years. It will extend through July 29th.
 - Five students are participating in Summer Work Experiences in the Community under a School/ORS partnership.
 - A one-year pilot with ASL Academy to provide classes on-site has been a success. This partnership will be extended.
 - A new Physical Therapist has been contracted with to provide direct services 16 hours/week. Her name is Melanie Reppucci, and Linda Boden is our new full time Occupational Therapist.
 - RISDeaf hosted a visit with Senator Jack Reed to tour our school.
 - Teacher and Support Personnel evaluations will be submitted to RIDE on time. All RIDE reports are complete and closed out except for final budget summaries. Fiscal Close is due shortly.
 - Barbara Cesana, a current Math teacher with a 25-year history at RISDeaf, will be mentoring with Director Maguire Heath for one year as part of the RI Aspiring Principal’s program through PRN (Principal Residency Network). She will teach 25% of the time (two algebra classes) and will shadow and share principal duties for the remaining time. Her office will be housed in Central Office to permit maximum exposure and learning opportunities.
 - Preparing for the 2016-2017 School Year Professional Development Activities within our Transformation status. This includes entering into an agreement with Thinking Maps for yearlong training and support. A smaller contract with Boston University to administer ASLAI assessment and provide more ASL Training and Bedrock Curriculum support is also under agreement. Regional Pro-Act Training is scheduled here at the school; two of our staff will be attending. We have also entered into an agreement with MYON online reading resource
 - Our Golf Tournament planning progressing for August 23rd to raise funding for our athletics activities.
 - The new school website is now complete. (Its new web address is rideaf.ri.gov) Director Maguire Heath displayed the new website and walked the Board through the website’s new features.
 - Mariposa Preschool would like to renew their lease with us for one more year, if approved by the State Properties Committee at their next meeting. Mariposa rents one classroom in the Preschool wing.

- **Report of Assistant Director for Finance, Personnel, and Operations**
 - Assistant Director Vincenzi reported that the FY16 fiscal year ended on June 30th, however in State Accounting it will not be “closed” until July 23rd. This allows agencies to continue to pay for

items delivered or provided in FY16, charging the correct fiscal year instead of rolling it into the new fiscal year.

- The FY17 Budget shows us at level funding with a slight increase due to personnel costs. Final Budget instructions will be given in August and the Finance Committee will meet at that time to review the upcoming budget and propose any changes. The committee will meet again in September to finalize the budget for presentation to the Board and to RIDE.
 - Assistant Director Vincenzi also informed the Board that several positions are currently posted including a Teacher with a Special Ed Certification, a Librarian, Athletic Director/After School Coordinator, Audiology Tech. Interview for the Athletics and Afterschool Coordinator position has begun, and interviews will start soon for other key positions. We have all positions posted nationally and are interviewing to fill faculty slots. It is anticipated that we will apply for emergency RI certification for 3 teachers (due to lack of out-of-state reciprocity).
- **Discussion:**
 - Chairperson Montgomery stated the last item on the agenda was to get a replacement for a new vice chairperson for the Board of Trustees. This person would be responsible for holding the Board meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. They would also stay up-to-date with Director Maguire Heath and Chairperson Montgomery. Danielle Loughlin officially nominated herself, citing her contributions to the Board and broad knowledge of its proceedings. The remaining members of the Board approved the nomination unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.