



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: June 7, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: July 5, 2016

Interpreters: Shauna Jehle, Jessica Morgan

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 6:12p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Amanda Montgomery, Danielle Loughlin, Nora Meah and Jane Canulla
 - c. **Excused:** Jonathan Henner, Octavian Robinson and Joseph Fischgrund
 - d. **Administration in Attendance:** Amy Vincenzi, Mary Pendergast, Nancy Maguire Heath and Valerie Houser
 - e. **Excused:**
- **Public Comment:**
 - No one registered for public comment.
 - **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
 - Danielle Loughlin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 3, 2016; seconded by Nora Meah. Motion approved with all in favor.
 - **Reports / Action Items:**
 - Report of the Chairperson:
 - Chairperson Montgomery informed the Board that tonight was Jonathan Henner's last night as a Trustee. He did not attend this meeting. He has taken a new position in North Carolina. The Board thanks Jon for his dedicated service during his tenure as a Trustee and wishes him success at his University position.
 - Chairperson Montgomery stated a new Vice Chairperson will be needed now that Jonathan Henner has left. We will put that on the July agenda.
 - The Board of Trustees Handbook is nearing completion. It will need to be reviewed for its second and third reading before adoption. Chairperson Montgomery is hoping to have the first review by the end of this month. Hopefully it will be done by summer's end.

- We are working on the bid and design of the RFP for the upcoming Strategic Planning process. Thanks were given to Joseph Fischgrund, Director Maguire Heath and Assistant Director Vincenzi for their help preparing the RFP. We are almost ready for the final draft.
- **Report of the Director**
 - Director Maguire Heath stated that this is a very busy time of year. We have federal and state reports due, family and student recognition events planned. Our sports program has ended for the year, and the annual Sports Awards Banquet is scheduled at Lancelotta's Restaurant on Thursday, June 9, 2016. Director Maguire Heath asked any Board members if they could attend she would be grateful.
 - Our students came back from CLOSE UP in Washington, DC and had a very successful experience. These students raised almost all the money they needed this year for their trip. Special thanks to the Gail Sullivan Foundation for their generous contribution, funding one full CLOSE UP student's tuition.
 - Senator Reed and two staff members stopped in last Thursday for his first visit to this new school building. He had visited the old building numerous times. Our Close-Up students had met him in Washington, D.C. and invited him to come visit. The students were excited to see him again.
 - Our Championship Battle of the Books team was recently honored by the Legislators at the State House.
 - Our Fourth Annual Arts night was recently held at the school. Student artwork, ASL poetry, drama and ceramics/pottery were all on display. We had strong family attendance. Dana Janik and Dawn Anaya, two of our staff members worked with the students on a performance of the Munchkinland scene from the Wizard of Oz.
 - Negotiations are completed, and the teachers' contract has been mailed to Board members for your review. It will be voted on at the next Board of Trustees meeting on June 21, 2016.
 - The most recent school newsletter is also in everyone's packet. A special thanks to Jane Newkirk who formats this family newsletter each quarter.
 - The annual Golf Tournament is upcoming. The Athletics program is funded by the monies made at this tournament. It is the biggest fundraiser of the year. The school is looking for golfers, raffle items and businesses that may want to increase visibility by purchasing a tee sign to help us make this a success again this year.
 - The long-awaited elementary playground is finally complete. Director Maguire Heath showed slides of the new playground.
 - Director Maguire Heath also spoke about the new web site which will be rolled out July 5, 2016.
 - Director Maguire Heath presented the STAR math and ELA data from the end-of-year student testing. SAT-10 data was also reviewed and compared to the SAT-10 data from May 2015. Growth is evident at all grade levels with Math skills growing more quickly. PARCC results will be shared at the October meeting.

- **Report of Assistant Director**

- Assistant Director Vincenzi explained that the Final Fy'16 Budget Update is on track.
- The new Ford Transit that was delivered in April has been a great addition. A chauffeur license is not needed to drive this vehicle, thus allowing greater access to classroom staff for educational purposes. Pending legislation regarding seat belts in vehicles is being monitored to assess what necessary changes will be needed.
- Assistant Director Vincenzi listed the vacancies that are posted for next school year. These include a librarian, and elementary special needs Teacher of the Deaf, Athletics and After School Activities Coordinator, Audiology Assistant, and an Occupational Therapist.

- **Discussion:**

- Final 125th Birthday Celebration Event – Chairperson Montgomery and Director Maguire Heath presented plans for one more event this year specifically tailored for alumni. . Director Maguire Heath mentioned we could have something at the school in the fall that is less expensive. She suggested September during Deaf Awareness month. Some of the suggestions were a pig roast or barbecue. A tentative date of September 24, 2016 is being considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31PM.