



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: November 1, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: December 6, 2016

ASL Interpreters: Christine West

CART Reporter: Shelly Deming

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Montgomery called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Cafeteria of RISD.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

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

Public Comment:

- No one registered for public comment.

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Joseph Fischgrund made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with minor edits from October 4, 2016; seconded by Danielle Loughlin. Motion approved with all in favor.

Reports of the Chairperson

- Chairperson Montgomery reported that Jodi Merryman was approved as a Board Member. She was not present for this first meeting due to a death in the family. The Board sends its condolences.
- Due to only one ASL interpreter available for this meeting it was necessary to shorten the meeting to one hour. Our planned guest speaker, Jeannie Valdez Desmarais will not be speaking tonight. She will instead present on Transition Services at our December meeting.
- The December meeting will be taking place at 6:30 pm on December 6th. Please note the time change.

Report of the Director

- Director Maguire Heath reported that the first eight weeks of school have been very busy.
- Recent exciting events have been the Convo films that will be premiering in Revere, Massachusetts on Saturday, November 5, 2016. Rhode Island School for the Deaf will be highlighted as well as other communities throughout New England. It is called *CONVO Presents the Deaf Community of New England*. Our students worked with CONVO on a second project, a

student made movie short about our school based on a poem written by Alize Pabon, A RISDeaf Senior.

- A new program called for parents *Mind in the Making* has started. It is an 8-week series that will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays and is conducted directly in Spanish for the school's Spanish speaking families. This award winning series of workshops will be offered again in the late winter in English and ASL.
- The November professional development is an ASL classifier workshop.
- It is proving to be difficult to hire a library/media specialist. The interim school librarian will be leaving at the end of December. RISD is again looking to bring in a temporary or permanent-librarian to continue to administer and organize the library programs.
- Our 5th annual Thanksgiving luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd for students and staff and all Board members are also welcome. The luncheon will start at 11:00 am in the Gym.
- STAR assessments have been completed for the first quarter, and data reveals that student regression was decreased the first quarter testing last year. One factor in this improvement may be the strong ESY program implemented this year in July.

Report of the Assistant Director

- Assistant Director Vincenzi reported that our finances are on track. The long-awaited, new wheelchair accessible van has arrived. It is a beautiful vehicle and welcome addition (with our mascot, the Roosters logo on it). It is in the process of being registered, so that it will be fully functional within the week.
- Four vendors responded to the RFP for a strategic planning leader. The Director, Assistant Director, Ms. Montgomery and Mr. Fischgrund reviewed the proposals. Three vendors passed the preliminary scoring process and the cost information was requested from DOA. Factoring in the cost information, the top vendor will be contacted by Purchasing Department to move forward with the Purchase Order Award.
- The draft Safety Plan for the School was distributed for the Board to review. A vote was taken to approve the initial safety plan. Director Maguire Heath explained that this is a rough draft right now, as we are making several major changes and additions to our emergency alert system this year to ensure full accessibility in an emergency for deaf and hearing community members alike. The regulations require that our plan be on file and we are preparing a written manual that will include our planned ALICE Training. Every year the Board is required to review the safety plan and make any changes needed.
- Assistant Director Vincenzi, Glenn Seaberg, Maintenance and Grounds Supervisor and Nathan Engel, Athletic and After School Coordinator will be attending ALICE training net week. Once these individuals are trained, they will be our school's trainers. A full staff training is planned for the winter. Safety is of paramount concern and this approach will enable staff to make decisions for the best safety of students depending on the situation. Many schools in Rhode Island and throughout the US are now implementing ALICE training.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm