



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: January 4, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: February 1, 2017

ASL Interpreters: Shauna Jehle and Heather Anderson

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 6:04 p.m. in the Cafeteria of RISDeaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Amanda Montgomery, Jodi Merryman, Jane Canulla, Octavian Robinson, Danielle Loughlin and Nora Meah
- c. **Excused:** Joseph Fischgrund
- d. **Administration in Attendance:** Nancy Maguire Heath. Also in attendance: Barbara Cesana, Aspiring Principal

○ **Public Comment:**

- No one registered for public comment.

○ **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- Jane Canulla made a motion to approve the December 6, 2016 meeting minutes; seconded by Danielle Loughlin. Motion approved with all in favor.

○ **Guest Speaker:** Nathan Engel

- Director Maguire Heath introduced Nathan Engel who is the Athletic and After School Coordinator of RISDeaf. Nathan has been in this position since August 2016. Mr. Engel described the goals for the school. The importance of students participating in extracurricular activities was described. Research conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that participation in extracurricular activities have a positive correlation to the students' attendance, GPA, test scores, and expected educational goals.
- A Power Point presentation was provided to the Board highlighting recent offerings with regards to sports and afterschool activities programs.

● **Reports of the Chairperson**

- Chairperson Montgomery gave a brief report on the ongoing strategic planning process. The Board has had several phone conferences with the Wycliffe team to prepare for the stakeholder

meetings. The Stakeholder meetings are scheduled for January 13-educators, January 18th-parents, alumni and community members, and February 8-community partners and school districts.

- The Rhode Island Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be having an open community forum to discuss upcoming possible legislative bills. All are encouraged to attend.
- **Report of the Director**
 - Director Maguire Heath informed the Board that the school has received numerous preschool referrals and three more are anticipated in February, April and May.
 - National Theater of the Deaf is scheduled to perform at RISDeaf March 24th. RISDeaf has partnered with the ASL Academy to bring this bilingual performance to Rhode Island.
 - Contract with Boston University has been confirmed to conduct the ASLAI – formal ASL testing; every student in the building will be assessed.
 - January 13th will be the roll-out of our 1:1 Chromebook program to grades 9,10, and 11. Parents will be required to sign a contract before the Chromebook can be sent home.
 - Kristen DiPerri will be coming twice in the upcoming months to continue her ASL PD in Bedrock ASL Literacy. We have two more visits with Heidi Henderson, the Thinking Maps consultant. Carol Nelson, the Reggio Emilia consultant continues to come monthly to model and meet with preschool teachers.
 - Several teacher positions will be posted within the next week for HS English, Math and Science and Elementary Special Ed. with probable start dates of August 2017. . The librarian position is currently still vacant.
 - Octavian Robinson has volunteered to do a recruitment vlog that will promote the school and encourage potential teachers to apply. It will be uploaded to the web site and to FaceBook.
- **Report of the Assistant Director**
 - Assistant Director Amy Vincenzi was not able to attend the meeting; Director Maguire Heath gave the financial report.
 - Current spending is on track, Quarter 2 ended on 12/31/16. Based on historical information, RISD financials are in a similar position as FY2016.
 - The Finance Committee will be meeting at the end of January/early February to review the mid-year financial status.
 - The Purchase Order for the Wyckliffe Group has been issued and the Strategic Plan process is now underway.
- **Action Item**
 - Chairperson Montgomery discussed with the Board the alignment of the Board of Trustee By-Laws under “Absences/Removal” with the Board Meeting Attendance section of the Handbook. A proposal to change the by-laws was proposed by Danielle Loughlin. Jane Canulla seconded the proposal. Chairperson Montgomery will update the by-laws and send them out to everyone.
- Motion with a roll call vote to move to Executive Session at 7:44 PM in accordance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a) (1) to discuss and approve the Director’s evaluation.
- The Board left Executive Session at 8:05 PM. A vote was taken to approve the Director’s annual review and send it to be filed at RIDE.
- **Adjournment: 8:07 PM**