



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: May 10, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Mary Pendergast and prepared by Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: June 7, 2017

ASL Interpreters: Shauna Jehle and Heather Anderson

CART Reporter: Shelly Deming

Call to Order

- a. Assistant Chairperson Loughlin called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:12 p.m. in the Cafeteria of RISDeaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Danielle Loughlin, Joseph Fischgrund, Jodi Merryman, Nora Meah and Jane Canulla.
- c. **Excused:** Chairperson Amanda Montgomery and Octavian Robinson
- d. **Administration in Attendance:** Amy Vincenzi, Assistant Director for Finance & Operations, Director Nancy Maguire Heath and Mary Pendergast, Special Ed. Administrator.
- e. **Excused:** Helen Edwards

Public Comment:

- No one registered for public comment.
- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
 - Joseph Fischgrund made a motion to approve the April 5, 2017 meeting minutes; seconded by Jane Canulla. Motion approved with all in favor.

• Report of the Chairperson

- Chairperson Montgomery was not present; therefore, this was omitted.

• Report of the Director

- Director Maguire Heath reported that RISDeaf has a total census of 77 on-site students which is two more than last month. One student currently also concurrently attends East Providence Career and Technical Center, studying Auto Engineering. Five families are involved in the Parent Infant Program, and seventeen are receiving support in their home districts through our Compass Outreach services. Approximately 57,000 students will have had hearing screenings by year's end through our Audiology Center team.
- The PARCC testing is completed and this year's administration was smooth under the supervision of our Aspiring Principal, Barbara Cesana; NECAP Science testing has also

- concluded for Grades 4, 8, and 11. MCAS administration for those MA students attending RISDeaf is also completed.
- June 16th is Graduation; it is from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. All Board members are encouraged to attend and walk in the processional.
 - The first draft of the strategic planning work to date is completed. The committee has participated in conference calls every other Wednesday. The survey data from parents is currently being compiled. Two Board members will lead the high school students through a stakeholder meeting next week.
 - The Annual Arts and Culture night will be held on June 1, 2017. This is a free annual event for the community that is always well-attended. Students display their work from various content areas including an art gallery, student performance of ASL poetry, and family fun.
 - There will be a family pasta dinner beforehand to benefit the senior class.
 - High School students made a short film that was shown in Westerly at a RI Film Fest sponsored by GiveMeFive. This was their first participating, and the students were excited that their film was well received.
 - The school is sponsoring two after school soccer clinics, led by a deaf soccer player; one for elementary and one for Varsity.

 - Personnel: Director Maguire Heath stated that there will be two unexpected vacancies next year in addition to the retirees previously announced. The Guidance Counselor and the Curriculum Coordinator will not be returning next year and have both submitted their letters of resignation. With these two employees leaving, Staff reorganization will be considered to provide more effective supervision and support to teachers.
- **Report of the Assistant Director**
 - Assistant Director Amy Vincenzi reported that current spending is on track. A capital budget will be submitted for RISDeaf for projects to include security upgrades and classroom changes. This is the first capital request in many years.
 - RISDeaf is in the process of becoming our own School Food Authority (SFA). We have met with Aramark, the current food service provider, and determined that the conservative, initial cost at this time for a POS system “Nutrikids” will be over \$5,000.00
 - Gym rental price increase is needed to help cover the installation of the volleyball pole system. These professional volleyball nets, which would be drilled into the floor will better protect the gym floor and meet League requirements. This cost for this is \$4,400.00. Ms. Vincenzi suggested that raising the fee from \$50 to \$75/hour would allow for regular maintenance of the gym floor and soccer field grounds and ensure better stewardship of the facilities.
 - We look forward to having Commissioner Ken Wagner present to hand out the diplomas to our graduating class on June 16th at 1PM. Director Maguire Heath reported that a graduation speaker has been chosen. Her name is Stacy Marie Lawrence. Ms. Lawrence was involved with the making of the professional RISD Student movie about this school and is a favorite with the high school students.

 - **Discussion Items:**
 - Rental Agreement – Assistant Director Vincenzi proposed that we raise the fee to \$75/hour for rental of the soccer field and the Gym. Board members raised the issue of not wanting the cost to deter the public from using the facilities and encouraged the Administration to consider and determine a somewhat lower rate. Motion was made by Joseph Fischgrund and seconded by Jane Canulla. Motion passed to have the Administration re-study the issue and determine a rate that is more modest.

- ESSA Presentation: Director Maguire Heath reported that the ESSA Presentation occur next month.
 - Policies and protocols approved by the Medical Director, Joseph A. Vitterito, II MD: The one remaining health policy to be approved was not fully ready for this meeting. It will be placed on next month's agenda.
 - The Board wishes to bid a fond farewell to Carol Baldwin Guidance Counselor, and Valerie Houser, Curriculum Coordinator, and wishes them well in their next adventures.
 - The Board also sends its congratulations and best wishes to:
Al Lake, Senior Educational Audiologist, Michele McLoughlin High School English Teacher, and Nancy Vinacco, Classroom Assistant, on their upcoming retirements after many years of service to RI students and expressed gratitude to these five employees for their commitment.
- **Adjournment: 7:40pm**