



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: July 12, 2017

ASL Interpreters: Shauna Jehle and Heather Anderson

CART Reporter: Shelly Deming

- **Call to Order**
 - a. Chairperson Montgomery called the meeting of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf (RISDeaf) Board of Trustees to order a 6:06 p.m. in the Cafeteria of RISDeaf.

- **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**
 - b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Amanda Montgomery, Jane Canulla, Danielle Loughlin, Joseph Fischgrund and Nora Meah
 - c. **Excused:** Jodi Merryman and Octavian Robinson
 - d. **Administration in Attendance:** Amy Vincenzi, Assistant Director for Finance & Operations, Director Nancy Maguire Heath and Barbara Cesana, Aspiring Principal
 - e. **Excused:**

- **Public Comment:**
 - No one registered for public comment.

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
 - Joseph Fischgrund made a motion to approve the May 10, 2017 meeting minutes; seconded by Nora Meah.

Guest Speaker: Robin Henderson and Valerie Houser

- Invited guests were Valerie Houser, Curriculum & Instruction Specialist and Robin Henderson, Elementary Teacher at Reseda. They are the trainers of teachers for Thinking Maps which was added to the school curriculum for all staff and students at the start of the school year. It has been implemented school-wide to encourage students in developing more skillful and deeper thinking. A presentation was done showing the progress over the school year and the various maps that can be applied with the reasons for each type.

- **Report of the Chairperson**
 - Chairperson Montgomery stated that committee meetings for the strategic plan have been taking place.
 - Graduation is being held on June 16th in the school gym. All Board members are encouraged to attend. The Board currently still has two vacancies and at this time there are still no potential new

members. Octavian will be putting together a recruitment video (VLOG) encouraging people to apply. Director Maguire Heath stated that it is really important to recruit new members. The ESSA presentation will show what is ahead of us as we jump into executing the strategic plan and we need the support of a strong Board.

- Discussion took place regarding the new lunch program that will be in place for the new school year. Aramark Corporation will still provide all of the meals and lunch worker, contracted through North Providence High School.

- **Report of the Director**

- Director Maguire Heath reported that RISDeaf currently has 77 students enrolled from 29 districts. Currently the school has 60% of students eligible to receive free lunches and 6% at the reduced cost. This falls within the perimeter of Title I funds that the school does receive.
- Currently seven families are enrolled in the PIP program.
- There are two Assistant Principal Positions posted for the Reseda. One is for Preschool/Elementary and one for Middle/HighSchool.
- The Librarian position is hopefully going to be filled before the next Board meeting. A candidate, who would be a wonderful asset to the staff has been offered the position.
- The Senior Audiologist position is posted. Albert Lake, the former Senior Audiologist retired and vacated the position in May
- Katherine Kay from the RISDeaf teaching staff and a Teacher Leader received the Susan B Wilson award from the league of women voters from South County. She was nominated by a colleague from the school.
- A lot of activities have been on-going at the school. Some of the activities have included weekly softball, soccer clinic, rock climbing and a basketball clinic sponsored by Providence College who donated their basketball team's services. These activities have been very popular with many students.

- **Report of the Assistant Director**

- Assistant Director Amy Vincenzi reported that fiscal close has begun; the plan is to end the year with \$0.00, no surplus and no deficit.
- The first process in the capital budget submission has occurred; RISDeaf has submitted the narrative with an outlined budget. If approved RISDeaf would have capital funds starting July 1, 2018, which covers the 2019-2024 fiscal years.
- RISDeaf will plan to have an architectural feasibility study completed in the upcoming fiscal year prior to having any capital work being done. This can cost anywhere from \$5,000-\$20,000. It is hoped that the previous educational adequacy walk through report will help to lower the cost of the study.
- Since funds approved through the capital budget will not be available until FY19 this means that any system improvements such as the message system will not be able to be completed for another year.
- The gym rental price has increased to \$65.00/per hour. It was increased to \$55.00 per hour for two local community groups.
- The volleyball poles will be installed in the gym next week, this was done both for safety and to keep the gym floor from being damaged by the moveable nets.
- The preliminary school improvement grant (SIG) is due on June 15th. This will include all the transformation needs for the school.

- **Discussion Items:**

- Director Maguire Heath explained ESSA. It stands for Every Child Succeeds Act. This has replaced no child left behind. It emphasizes equal access for all students. Director Maguire gave

a very detailed slide presentation covering the importance of ESSA and dates in which certain benchmarks or changes need to be made by.

- **Action Items**

- **The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:35 PM in accordance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a) (1) to discuss the Director's contract. A motion was made by Danielle Loughlin to seal the Executive Minutes and seconded by Joseph Fischgrund . Motion passed with all in favor.**
- **The Board left Executive Session at **what is the time??** PM. No votes were taken**

- **Adjournment: **What time did the meeting adjourn?****