



MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting

Date: August 2, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: September 13, 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 6:13 p.m. in the Cafeteria of RISDeaf.

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

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

Public Comment:

- No one registered for public comment.
- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
 - An addition will be made to the July 12, 2017 meeting minutes and presented to the Board for approval at the September 13, 2017 meeting.

- **Report of the Chairperson**

- Chairperson Montgomery stated to the Board that there are three Board vacancies at this time, and there are still no identified candidates. She requests that Board members to recommend persons they feel would be a good fit. Director Maguire Heath stated that the school will need the support of a strong Board as it moves forward with the new ESSA goals and Strategic Plan, and as the school continues to become a leader in Deaf Education. She emphasized the importance of recruiting new members.
- Chairperson Montgomery informed members of the Finance Committee meeting coming up in September. A specific date will be determined once the Budget Office sets their dates. She also reminded the members that a Health and Wellness Committee needs to be set up.

- **Report of the Director**

- Director Maguire Heath reported that we had a very successful ESY program this year. There were a few students with problems with attendance, but overall a solid group of students attended and the content was more rigorous than we had provided in the past summers. ESY had a theme pertaining to Travel, and field trips were planned to align with the theme. The students went behind the scenes at TF Green Airport. Some students took a free train ride to Wickford, and some of the students took the ferry to Newport.
- The SIG grant was returned to all school districts that applied. An extension was given until August 4th. Nancy met with RIDE staff to get feedback on our submission and recommendations for revisions. The empowerment grant was written with a focus on hopes and dreams for needed resources to improve and expand programming for our students. This grant would allow us to do some new and important things.
- Three teachers attended Responsive Classroom Training for middle school. The teachers will be prepared to support middle school students' unique social emotional learning needs as we separate our Secondary Department into MS and HS this year.
- Personnel: Three of our newly hired (for September) teachers chose to work the ESY program. Three additional new teachers/staff will be joining us on August 21st for Summer Institute. The new staff includes a librarian and five teachers and a new Assistant Principal for Secondary. There is a posting for a Teacher Assistant due to the retirement in that department. We will be interviewing soon for an audiologist as well.
- The Annual Golf Tournament is quickly approaching, Aug 22. The money we raise from the golf tournament will fund our Athletics Program, and the ESDAA basketball tournament we are hosting in February. Nine schools for the Deaf will be attending.
- The one-day Transition Conference that we are co-sponsoring with several partners is scheduled for Friday, November 3rd. The conference will focus on transition issues for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Counselors, teachers, parents and principals throughout RI will be encouraged to attend.
- September 30th is our first Homecoming event. There will be a soccer game against Marie Phillips School and a cook out. There will be a ceremony to unveil new banners that will be hung in the gym. The banners will honor former student-athletes who earned a thousand points in basketball.
- The Parent Infant (0-3) Program has been redesigned to better meet Early Intervention parameters and to respond to parent feedback. It will be offered two mornings/week, starting Oct 1, 2017. There are two deaf and two hearing members on the new PIP team.

- **Report of the Assistant Director for Finance and Operations**

- Assistant Director Vincenzi reported that the general revenue account closed with a deficit of \$41,988. This was mainly due to unanticipated retirements that required sick and/or vacation time payouts.
- The FY 2018 budget is in the process of being passed, the final numbers have still not been shared. It is anticipated that RISDeaf will incur a decrease in overall budget funds, it is known that RISDeaf will enter the year with a started deficit due to several new positions, and not having any savings on turnover.
- The School's new Student Information System (SIS), PowerSchool, will go "live" in the next few weeks; training will occur for administrative staff August 16th and 17th. Many thanks to Todd Furlong and Barbara Cesana for their tireless work in transferring all the data manually.
- The new school lunch database (NutriKids) is in the process of being built so that it is ready to go live on the first day of school, August 30th.
- Two positions (Teacher Assistant and Educational Audiologist) remain open and are posted. An SLP is being sought and will be contracted to serve a large caseload.

- **Strategic Planning Update**

- The strategic plan presentations will include a basic introduction of the stakeholder process and a Power Point presentation will summarize findings. A meeting has been scheduled to present the strategic plan draft to staff September 29th. The goal is for it to be a team presentation. All Board members are requested to attend. The Community presentation has not yet been scheduled.
- 2nd Reading for School Wellness Policy
 - Nora Meah motioned to approve the School Wellness Policy. Danielle Loughlin seconded the motion. All members voted yes to approve the policy.
- 2nd Reading for Cafeteria Meal Charges Procedure
 - Director Maguire Heath stated that this is not a policy but a standard practice. Nora Meah motioned to approve the Cafeteria Meal Charge Practice. Joseph Fischgrund and Jodi Merryman seconded the motion. All members voted yes to approve the policy.
- **Adjournment: 7:52 pm**