
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
WSBE/Rhode Island PBS

DATE: December 11, 2008
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
PLACE: WSBE Rhode Island PBS
50 Park Lane
Providence, RI 02907

PRESENT

Mr. Michael Isaacs (Chairperson)
Ms. Karen Shuster
Mr. Peter Wells
Mr. Charles Roberts

EXCUSED

Hon. Judge Frank Caprio
Hon. Judge Robert Flanders
Mr. James Leach
Ms. Lisa Pelosi

ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Fish (President & CEO, WSBE)
Mr. David Piccerelli (Vice President & CFO, WSBE)
Ms. Meredith Holderbaum (RI Senate Fiscal Agent)

Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority convened on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

With a quorum of members present, Chairperson Isaacs called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M.

With a motion by Mr. Wells, a second by Mr. Roberts and a unanimous vote, the minutes of the Board from a meeting on August 5, 2008 were approved.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Isaacs had nothing to report

President's Report

Mr. Fish reported to the Board the following:

Engineering Operations

- Learn Channel is operating over air broadcast at frequency 36-2; also being carried on Verizon's FiOS service; Cox NOT carrying Learn yet, however, they will have high definition over Christmas on Cox channel 708. Expect full HD carriage on February 17, 2009.

Programming

- Broadcast a program on water resources and healthcare, both national programs with local tie in.
- Philharmonic program in the works.
- Talking with people regarding the naming rights to the Learn Channel.

Development

- Annual Wine Auction netted \$23,000; discussions of changing the format for the future to be a dinner with high end auction of wine and then a larger tasting in partnership with Gasbarro's Wines.
- Ended our relationship with Rhode Island Monthly and started new with Yankee Magazine. The change will save us \$3.00 per subscription per year.
- Public Relations Manager reports to Development Director now.
- January 31, 2009 will launch the Kids Club w/inaugural pledge drive.
- Would like to add 1 or 2 additional contract employees to be paid 100% on commission basis to sell underwriting.
- Development Director working on an "annual fund" campaign.
- Looking at restructuring/rebuilding Rhode Island PBS Foundation Board.
- Art Auction numbers being finalized; discussion with merging into the RI Fine Furnishings show at the Convention Center.
- Spring Auction will be April 19th – April 23rd 2009.
- Development Director is establishing a relationship with the 12 Metre Class Golden Years Celebration as the media partner for the event.

Video Streaming

- Thanks to Judge Flanders for his assistance in forging our relationship with the Rhode Island Department of Education.
- Management of the daily operations of video streaming has moved to the Department of Ed.
- DOE will fund outstanding balance of \$40,000 for 2007 – 2008 contract with Discovery Education. DOE will fund balance of contract with Discovery Education that is not collected from the school districts.

Financial Report

- Mr. Piccerelli entertained questions on the written report that had previously been distributed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Communications

None

Future Agendas

None

Adjournment

With a motion by Mr. Wells, a second by Mr. Roberts, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of my notes taken at the time of said meeting.

David W. Piccerelli, Vice President & CFO

April 21, 2009
Date