
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
WSBE/Rhode Island PBS

DATE: April 23, 2009
TIME: 4:10 P.M.
PLACE: WSBE Rhode Island PBS
50 Park Lane
Providence, RI 02907

PRESENT

Mr. Michael Isaacs (Chairperson)
Hon. Judge Robert Flanders
Mr. James Leach
Mr. Peter Wells
Mr. Charles Roberts

EXCUSED

Hon. Judge Frank Caprio
Ms. Lisa Pelosi
Ms. Karen Shuster

ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Fish (President & CEO, WSBE)
Mr. David Piccerelli (Vice President & CFO, WSBE)

Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority convened on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

With a quorum of members present, Chairperson Isaacs called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

With a motion by Mr. Roberts, a second by Mr. Wells and a unanimous vote, the minutes of the Board from a meeting on December 11, 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

- Analog transmitter is now turned off and all broadcasts are in digital only.
- FCC took part in the Rhode Island Broadcaster's Association digital test days.
- Channel line up for cable companies:
 - Cox HD 708, SD 8, and Learn 808
 - Verizon HD 508, SD 8, Learn 478
- We are in need of capital cash to remove the analog transmitter and transmission line from the WPRO tower sight.
- Operations are running smoothly.

Programming

- Program guides have been updated with the Tribune
- Several local programs in development stage; Biz-Kids: program to teach middle school students financial literacy; A show done in collaboration (name not yet determined) with the school principals regarding their roles in education; Collaboration w/Dave Bettencourt, topic TB.

Development

- Year to date fundraising down approximately \$123,000.
- Membership campaign with Boston Red Sox tickets; several packages for bid during the baseball season
- We received a wine donation of in excess of 200 bottles facilitated by Jim Leach. Estimated value to be \$12,000 - \$15,000.
- Art Auction final tally was \$38,000.
- RIPBS Kids Club has 46 members and is going well. There are several events planned for the Club over the coming months.
- Spring Auction going well despite the sluggish economy, Estimated to bring in \$140,000 versus the \$135,000 from last year.
- Wine Auction is planned for February 2010 over 2 nights; Saturday night high end auction w/dinner followed by Sunday night auction. Location to be determined.
- Annual Fund drive off to a slow start with just \$1,800 raised although we sent out over 400 letters.
- Membership "Refer a Friend" program started where a member will receive a \$25 AMEX Gift Card for every paid new member they refer.
- Meeting with Speaker Murphy on the PEG Management Fee.

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 w/employee on loan to the Department of Ed as well.
- Deborah Gist, new head of DOE more in tune w/technology.
- DOE applying for Stimulus Funds to produce 3-5 minute spots on teaching with video and new technologies.

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 Judge Flanders, a second by Mr. Wells, 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 30, 2009
Date