

RISE PREP MAYORAL ACADEMY

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 29, 2015 6:00 P.M
303 CLINTON STREET, WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Paulette Hamilton. In addition to Ms. Hamilton, the directors present were Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, Chris Gruttadauria, and Donna Stone.

SECRETARY OF THE MEETING

Mr. Gruttadauria, seconded by Ms. Baldelli-Hunt, moved to appoint Daniel C. Waugh as secretary of the meeting. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

MINUTES

Ms. Stone, seconded by Mr. Gruttadauria, moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Ms. Stone, seconded by Mr. Gruttadauria, moved to adopt the financial policies as presented "with the understanding that they may be revisited." The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

CHAIR'S RERPORT

The Chair reported that she had become aware of certain myths regarding RISE Prep. These included: incorrect facts concerning per-pupil expenses of the sending districts versus the per-pupil expenses of the school; a belief that the RISE Prep would select only students who were "cream of the crop" (versus the realities that the number of students that may be enrolled is specified in the charter and that admissions are determined by lottery); a belief that RISE Prep will be open only to low-income students (rather than to any student who applies); and a false belief that RISE Prep pays a commission to recruiters for each student recruited. The Chair requested assistance in combating these myths.

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S REPORT

The Head of School reported on achievements toward opening. Sixty scholars have been enrolled. They will be divided between two kindergarten classes. In Woonsocket, a waiting list has been established. Family orientation went well.

The first day of school will be August 31. First year faculty and staff have been fully hired. Faculty will be trained at other schools during the period running from August 3 – August 23.

All Department of Education deadlines toward the opening of school have been met, and final Board of Education approval is on course and expected to be granted in June.

Mr. Gruttadauria, seconded by Ms. Stone, moved at approve the Head of School's Report. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the political situation underlying the School was continuing to develop.

Ms. Baldelli-Hunt lamented that RIMA seemed unable to provide stronger support.

Public Forum

A member of the public interrupted to express outrage that elected officials representing him were taking steps to prevent the school from opening and stated that he would contact those representatives to express that outrage.

FACILITIES

Ms. Stone, seconded by Mr. Gruttadauria, moved pursuant to R.I. General Laws § 42-46-5(5) to go into Executive Session to consider the acquisition or lease of real estate. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

* * * EXECUTIVE SESSION * * *

Ms. Stone, seconded by Ms Baldelli-Hunt, moved to leave executive session. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

Ms. Baldelli-Hunt, seconded by Ms. Stone, moved to seal the minutes of the executive session. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

Mr. Waugh announced that the board had adopted a resolution to authorize the execution of a real estate lease subject to certain conditions that could not be publicly announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gruttadauria, seconded by Ms. Stone, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried as follows: AYE: BALDELLI-HUNT, GRUTTADAURIA, STONE, HAMILTON. NAY: None.

Ms. Hamilton declared the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel C. Waugh,
Secretary to the meeting