

LCEFC/RMDS Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 11, 2009
1921 Youngfield St.
Golden, CO 80401
APPROVED

Present: Eileen Kratzer (President)
David Wilcox (Vice President)
Stephanie Carson (Staff Representative)
Amy Novotny (Treasurer; Staff Representative)
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative)
Christine Pendley (Secretary; Parent Representative)

Absent: Michael Germano (Community Representative)
Steve Hoefer (Business Representative)

Guests: Janet Dickinson (RMDS Director)

Interpreters: Tricia Frank, Lynda Rimmel

Meeting called to order 6:12 pm

Changes to the agenda – none

Changes to the June 4, 2009 minutes – Approved as written with grammatical and spelling errors to be corrected.

Eileen has learned that the agenda and minutes are required to be posted on the website.

Building Corporation Board:

The Building Corp Board (BCB) has been established and there are sub committees under the larger committee. The BCB has been regularly meeting: however, the attendance has been poor on some member's parts. The BCB members presently are Melissa Nelson is President, Steve Hoefer and Shirley Gsell are representatives on the board. Kay Bohan, Troy Talbert, Bob Hughes and Myra Martinez have attended the meetings as well. Melissa has not been attending the meetings but feels she can be more committed once the school year starts. One concern is that the attendees so far each can benefit from the meetings (architectural, broker, etc). Bill Bethke recommends a neutral individual, such as Lisa Hann, accepting the position of President in order to facilitate the meetings. Discussion took place about the role of President. This individual should be a person who has expertise in the building industry with an understanding of codes and processes in order to correctly analyze everything. Eric Pendley was recommended to take over the president's position because of his expertise and because he would be able to guide from a neutral position. Adam Tapia is the new person to help with maintenance at RMDS and he might be able to help as well. To date, property has not yet been found for a new building. There will be a meeting with CDE the beginning of September and Janet would like to report to them at that time about property; however she does not want

to misrepresenting information that would not be conducive to RMDS. The next BCB meeting is August 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Admission Procedure for High School Charter Application:

RMDS would need to establish a have a separate Board because the High School is being applied for as a separate charter. Some schools have the same board members serving both schools. They have an agenda for one school then take a break before proceeding with the agenda for the second sector of the school.

The admission policy has not been strictly adhered to in the past because Janet wasn't aware that the current policy was stated in the way it was. Bill Bethke feels we should keep this current admission policy because it would help with enrollment possibilities. The admission policy is listed with prioritized levels with ASL as the number one priority. One concern is regarding staffing – staff would need cross-training for multiple/other disabilities. Fremont School for the Deaf actually has a team to observe the child in their home district before accepting them at the school. It would be wise for RMDS to establish possible classroom caps, clarification pertaining teachers having specialized training, funding, staff assistance, teacher time in classroom versus one-on-one time with special needs child; however, the integrity of the philosophy needs to remain intact.

David Wilcox motions we accept the current enrollment policy with the understanding that we will ask Bill Bethke to write in some modification with the details discussed at this meeting and give Eileen Kratzer permission to review and approve the modifications in order to submit it with the charter application.

Amy seconds

Discussion – the class cap could be a concern so be careful on the wording of the cap. Use phrasing such as: “the school reserves the right to...”

All in favor

Staff Member Roles and Responsibilities:

Bill Bethke suggested there not be a vote tonight to change the current Board set up but indicate in the proposal that the Board is discussing this issue and we will be willing to discuss and explore options if Jeffco feels it is necessary. If the Board isn't willing to make changes, justification will be required as to why it is important for staff to be on the RMDS Board.

Eileen moves that we include in the application that “RMDS is aware that there are potential issues with having staff on the board, therefore; we have been discussing and exploring the possibility of changing the makeup of staff on the board. We are willing to continue the discussion and explore options.”

Stephanie seconds

All in favor

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities:

In January, Steve Hoefer asked for clarification on the different roles for Board members. Eileen wrote out some specifics to be added to the Board Members handbook.

Under the Business Representative Role, the representative should also be responsible for helping make other business connections.

Under Board attendance, a phrase could be added “with the exception of extenuating circumstances”.

Discussion took place about possibly providing dinner for the Board members in order to make the board members feel appreciated and make it easier for them to attend even if it was just a fruit plate or a small appetizer because the meetings are long.

Review of documents recommended by the League of Charter Schools:

The deaf community is small so it is difficult to find persons who don't have a conflict serving on the Board. The Bylaws have a conflict of interest clause and it is required for the conflict to be noted in the minutes. That individual will not be excluded from discussion but will be excluded from Executive session and not permitted to vote on the issues related to the conflict.

Some issues:

- small deaf community
- highly qualified individuals who are not connected to RMDS are hard to find
- individuals educated in the field of education is limited because it becomes increasingly smaller
- one deaf individual may be able to fill various roles on the board and in addition have children at the school

Brainstorming ideas include:

- voting boundaries for positions (parent rep, staff rep)

The Board needs to evaluate itself based on the criteria and performance review. Greg Vanourek gave some feedback in the past. There was a recommendation for the Board to review themselves several times a year and it was suggested April would be a good timeframe. Some of the evaluation topics included; Communication, Issues, Respect of one another, and Length of Meetings. The survey information could be reviewed and used during the evaluation process in order to create an action plan and incorporate it into the organizational values. This year a new strategic plan needs to be developed so we can take a look at the goals. Ideas need to come from the Board all the way down to the staff so everyone is on the same page.

Questions/comments regarding Charter Application:

Thanks to Janet, Nancy, Alison and all involved in the Charter Application because it has been a long summer to complete the entire application. Janet will electronically send out a copy to the Board members to peruse. Janet clarified there is a section about online

learning that the League wanted Janet to expand upon so she had to include it in the application.

Bob Hughes is helping to coordinate four Open Houses from August to September. The first Open House is for the Board, Parents and the Deaf Community. The second is for the Media in order to get exposure for RMDS.

Janet will begin sending the Capital Campaign minutes to the Board members so they can be kept abreast on the progress.

Eileen Kratzer moves we approve the high school charter application as written with the exception that comments may be communicated by Board members via of electronic communication but must be received by August 14, 2009 at 8:00 am.

David Wilcox seconds

All in favor

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm

Next meeting August 27, 2009