

**LCEFC/RMDS Board Agenda
Special Board Meeting
Thursday, May13, 2010
6:00 PM
1921 Youngfield St.
Golden, CO 80401
APPROVED**

Present: Christine Pendley (Board President)
David Wilcox (Board Vice President)
Stephanie Carson (Staff Representative)
Kelly Baldwin (Staff Representative)
Laura Balczarck (Educational Representative)
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative)
Anne Marie Baer (Community Representative)
Rob Gerk (Community Representative)

Guests: Janet Dickinson (Director of RMDS)
Bill Bethke (Attorney for RMDS)
Approximately 30 Deaf Community Members and RMDS Staff

Interpreters: Kirk Neuroth and Bobbie Ostberg

Meeting called to order at 6:09 pm

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include a Spring Gala Benefit Report from one of the committee members.

Amy Novotny gave a report about the Spring Gala Benefit that was held last Friday. They collected \$9500 leaving a profit of \$5000.00. The committee is asking the Board to split the proceeds in half between the LC fund and the teachers. The teachers would like to use the money to purchase a large ticket item for the school.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include the RMDS lease renewal.

Alison summarized that the lease is a negotiated 2-year lease with a onetime option to notify the landlord by March 1, 2011 to opt out of the lease.

**Rob Gerk moves that the lease be signed as written.
Kelly Baldwin seconds. No further discussion. All in favor.
Motion passes.**

Discussion of Flyer and Correspondence: There was a brief review of the Public Comment Guidelines by the Board President. Due to the number of individuals who signed up to speak on the matter, public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person.

Janet opened the discussion by explaining that the e-mail that was sent out at the end of April was after a discussion regarding how to get money from those that do not know much about the deaf community. It was written from the perspective of a parent. There were good intentions behind the e-mail. This was sent to 3 groups; our volunteers, staff, and ASL class. A staff member approached Janet with concerns

about the e-mail so it was changed and resent. Later Janet received an e-mail stating that the e-mail was not appropriate. An apology letter was then sent out. Janet then decided to create a PR committee to proofread PR communications in the future before sending anything out. Chris Pendley would like individuals on the PR Committee to have a copy of the RMDS Mission statement and Credo and use it as guidance when proofreading.

Public comments:

Christine Dimicelli stated that she likes the vision that Janet has for the school and wishes she could see a copy of the letters.

Josh Wishart agrees with the previous person. He also emphasized that how one person reads and takes something may be different to another person. He commends the work of the principal.

Justin Buckhold expressed concern about how the e-mail was worded. He was upset and felt the e-mail was offensive itself. The school was founded by the culture of the deaf community. He is asking that the school keep its focus on an ASL only school. He suggests that the administration needs to take a workshop on cultural sensitivity.

David Anthony raised concern about postings of RMDS Board Meetings. He would like to be included in an e-mail list that gets notified of public meetings at RMDS.

James Raacke gives full support to Janet and feels that we should not overreact to this situation. He asks that because his son will always be a part of this culture, that the deaf community doesn't excluded the hearing parents from the culture.

Amy Novotny informed the board that she was one of the staff that felt the letter was offensive. The reaction to the e-mail was hurtful. Her trust is lost with the administration and is concerned that they are the ones who go out into the community representing RMDS. She feels that all the staff and board should have "attitude" training. And the administration should take a class on deafhood. She is hopeful that RMDS will have a deaf person on the administrative team.

Janet asked Justin to clarify a comment that he made about this being on ongoing issue. Justin stated that he did not feel comfortable saying specifically who has had issues with the school, but is hopeful that in the future that they will come forward.

Lisa Hann appreciated everyone's comments and particularly liked the attitude and cultural training suggestions. Anne Marie Baer informed attendees what had been suggested in previous discussions about possible workshop speakers. There are two skilled scholars who could be brought in for training. She let everyone know that we will consider everyone's thoughts and suggestions. The President is asking for suggestions and ideas on workshops and trainings to benefit us as a group and community.

Justin Buckhold asked the board the plan to address this topic of spoken English and ASL.

Janet Dickinson let Justin know that Spoken English is not the topic of discussion right now but would briefly touch on it. Recently a group from RMDS toured several different programs this last week. Two things Janet brought back from the trip was

that no other program had anything like what we have here. The other was that there we different groups of deaf and hearing within the schools.

Rob Loveless added that spoken English is a lively topic here. He suggested we hear experts from both sides with the community.

David Wilcox knows some schools have contracts with the parents. He would like to know if we could have parents sign contracts in order for them to come to classes and trainings. Bill Bethke replied by letting everyone know that this is an issue that charter schools have; some require volunteer hours within the contract but this can not be enforced. The most effective way to get parents involved is to think about how to make it easy and a high priority in their lives.

Amy Novotny thinks there are a lot of good ideas here. I think we have a strong supportive group. The staff wants to welcome parents to our school, not scare them away.

David Anthony stated that his parents taught him not to blame the hearing parents of deaf children. The staff and administration need to work with the deaf community. The deaf community needs RMDS.

Board Conduct/Code of Ethics: The board needs to read and internalize this code of ethics. Back in October, Jeffco hosted a Charter School Board Legal training session. Chris Pendley emphasized the importance of following the statues that are set for public meetings. She explained again the law that says any time three board members are together to discuss a matter and take action, an agenda must be posed 24 hours in advance. Bill Bethke explained that the posting of the agenda is required so we are not in violation of the Sunshine Act or Open Door Meeting Act.

Check for Golf Tournament Fundraiser: May 21st is the golf tournament fund raiser. The Golf Tournament Committee needs two checks; one check to pay for the golf, not to exceed \$3000.00. The second check for the food, not to exceed \$700.00. At this time, it looks like the golf tournament could bring in a profit of \$3000.00.

David Wilcox moves that the board issue two checks, one not to exceed \$700 and the second not to exceed \$3000.

Stephanie Carson seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adjournment – 7:49 pm