

LDEFC/RMDS Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 5, 2009
(postponed from October 29,2009)
1921 Youngfield St.
Golden, CO 80401
APPROVED

Present: Christine Pendley (Board President)
David Wilcox (Board Vice President)
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative)
Stephanie Carson (Staff Representative)
Kelly Baldwin (Staff Representative)
Rob Gerk (Business Representative)

Absent: Lara Balczarek (Educational Representative)

Guests: Janet Dickinson (RMDS Director)
Alison Talbert (RMDS Business Manager)
Gwen Walton (RMDS Secretary)
Bob Hughes
Troy Talbert
John Dickinson

Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel
Tricia Frank

Meeting called to order at 6:11 pm.

Agenda – Approved as written.

Minutes - September 24, 2009 minutes approved as written.

Public Relations Policy: The purpose of a policy would be to gain control over promotions, advertisements, social networking, and media events for RMDS. It is now important to have a process and appropriate channel for outside persons to take on any PR responsibilities or actions and to ensure the students of RMDS are protected.

Stephanie moves that the Board accept the PR policy as written with Bill Bethke's suggested additions.

Kelly seconds the motion.

Discussion - Rob Gerk suggested specific request forms be created in order for individuals to request any PR activity.

Rob moves that the Board accept the PR policy as written with Bill Bethke's suggested additions and the requirement that documentation of PR activities be kept.

Kelly seconds

All in favor

Motion passes

Deaf Community Representative: Board discussed the addition of Anne Marie Baer to the RMDS Board.

David moves that the Board approve Anne Marie Baer as a Deaf Community Representative.

Lisa Hann seconds

No discussion.

All in favor.

Motion passes.

Public Comments: Christine Pendley suggested adding to the each agenda a Staff Representative Report as well as a Parent Representative Report.

Director's Report – Janet Dickinson:

Jeffco Finances: Jeffco is in the process of closing some schools due to financial stress. By next fall, the budget will be cut by \$20 million dollars. There is discussion of how the Special Education Stimulus money is being spent on Charter schools.

High School: The charter school application was approved. RMDS is now in the process of negotiating a charter contract. March 20, 2010, The next step is submitting a detailed report of the HS including parent commitment, curriculum, lease, and Board members.

Charter School Renewal: Much of the information for the High School information is similar to what is required for the renewal. The application is due on December 1, 2009.

Kelly moves that Janet Dickinson submit the Charter School Renewal application as written by December 1, 2009.

Rob seconds the motion

All in favor.

Motion passes.

Global Village: Janet will be meeting with Global Village Representatives on November 12 about possible collaboration, and members are invited to join. Global Village is applying for their Charter contract now, and would provide many languages to students.

Accreditation: RMDS submitted the accreditation report, and expects to be classified as High Performing.

Spoken English Update: There was recently a focus group discussion about Spoken English at RMDS in order to meet the needs of all the students. The RMDS facts are: 40% of RMDS students are fluent in spoken English, four other RMDS students are borderline fluent in spoken English, three families this year chose not to place their children at RMDS because there is not enough spoken English. There is a spectrum of options ranging from separating spoken English instruction from the ASL instruction to including both approaches in the same classroom.

David Wilcox reported on the focus group discussion. Most people felt it was important for students to learn ASL and Spoken Language simultaneously. The classroom is a natural environment in which to pick up language, as opposed to being pulled out of the classroom for speech. Suggestion from the group included bringing in more Audiologists and SLPs, getting more equipment and collaborating with hospitals. Some parents felt the education provided at RMDS was below standard and transportation was challenging.

Stephanie agreed that RMDS may need to make some adjustments for more oral deaf students, but warned that RMDS should not change the intent and purpose of the school.

The Board further discussed Spoken English at RMDS in the recent past and possible options for the future. Options could include doing nothing, adding a music class, or hiring a spoken English facilitator. Members suggested looking to other programs as models and for ideas.

Janet will hire a part time spoken English facilitator, and incorporate music in enrichment classes.

Capital Campaign Report - Bob Hughes: Work is continuing on the BEST application. John Dickinson has knowledge to contribute to the process, as well as information from trainings and BEST staff. The Start Up grant application for the High School is nearly completed. It will be submitted in January, 2010. The Boettcher Foundation has invited RMDS to submit an application for funding for the capital campaign. They will consider a request for at least \$100,000 and will assist us in contacting other area foundations. Various grant applications have been submitted in addition to the capital campaign for aid to the general budget. Colorado Senate President, Brandon Shaffer is scheduled to visit the school on November 16 at 10:00 am as part of the process of arranging appointments with potential major donors for the capital campaign.

Naming Rights: Board member reviewed changes that Bill Bethke suggested to the draft of the Naming Rights Policy. Bill suggested that RMDS refrain from including a partnership policy at this time. The policy stipulates that the Board has ultimate authority over naming rights.

Lisa moves to accept the Naming Rights Policy with the corrections as written by Bill Bethke with the understanding of postponing discussion of the partnership policy to a later date.

Kelly Seconds

All in favor

Motion passes.

Thanksgiving Feast: The Feast will be hosted by the Board on November 19, 2009. For two years there has been conflict with the RMDS volleyball games on the same night. This should be addressed for next year.

Budget – Alison Talbert: The projected budget increased from the original \$1,363,265 to \$1,408,169. The addition money came from ECE monies and increased PPR revenue. The current projection of salary expenditure increased because of increased sick and personal time, and an employee member requesting extended leave time. The current projected purchased services are lower than originally projected because the rent did not increase as the cost of living went down. But at the same time, interpreting services will be more expensive due to additional capital campaign meetings. The current projection for materials and supplies has increased as we are spending more on paper products. The Year End estimate is -\$5,233. Alison feels this is a manageable deficit because of the grants that have been submitted to help cover some of the deficit.

The vote to approve Teacher salary increase will be held until the next Board meeting because the FTE will not be approved until December.

Learning Center: Alison Talbert reported for the Learning Center Oversight Committee. She reported that it has been a difficult process, as RMDS values the services that the Learning

Center has been providing. If the Learning Center continues with no changes there will be an estimated deficit of \$22,430. The second option is to reduce one of the positions to part time, accept only students 2 ½ -5 years old, and close earlier; impacting only one student. With that option the estimated deficit would be \$7,465. The third option is to close the Learning Center and the estimated deficit would be \$4,254. A fourth option is for RMDS to assume one of the staff members as a preschool aid either part time or full time. If RMDS hire the person as a .5 position it would cost RMDS \$3,000, and if RMDS hires a full time position it would cost RMDS \$17,525.

Board members discussed proposed options. The Learning Center Committee will be continuing discussion and presenting further details on projected number of students, grant writing options, etc to the Board on the next meeting. All votes will be held until that time.

Director's Schedule/Time: Janet has been attending multiple evening events and meetings, as well as completing additional work on the High School application and renewal application. Janet often works over 60 hours a week. Board members reviewed Director's job description and responsibilities.

The Board opened discussion on possible flex hours and compensation time. The Board expressed that Janet does not need to be the only representative of RMDS for every community and educational event. They also felt some comp time is appropriate for the Director. This compensation time will be used with the discretion of the director, and the Board will be informed of any time taken. The Board expressed gratitude to Janet for all of the time and effort she has contributed to RMDS

Executive Session – Acquisition of Property C.R.S. § 24-6-402(40)(a)

Enter executive session beginning at 10:15 pm

End executive session at 10:55 pm

Kelly moves to allow John Dickinson and Troy Talbert to move forward with negotiations on property 1 and property 2 and to include them in the BEST Grant.

Stephanie seconds

All in favor.

Motion passes

Meeting Adjourned at 10:57 pm.