

**LDEFRC/RMDS Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 3, 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 (Community Representative)  
Anne Marie Baer (Community Representative)  
Laura Balczarek (Educational Representative)

Guests: Nancy Bridenbaugh (RMDS ARC)  
Alison Talbert (RMDS Business Manager)  
Gwen Walton (RMDS Secretary)  
Bob Hughes  
Troy Talbert

Interpreters: Kelly Turer  
Tricia Frank

Meeting called to order at 6:09 pm.

Overview of Agenda - No Changes to the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes - Regarding the November 5, 2009, Stephanie suggested a grammatical change. Regarding the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 minutes, there were no changes. Minutes approved with suggested changes.

Learning Center - Alison Talbert reported on the Learning Center budget from August to January. The budget does not include projection from February to the end of the year. Currently the Learning Center will have a deficit of about \$19,000 by June. Board members discussed the history, value, purpose, financial status, and the need for operating changes in the Learning Center. The priority of Board action is to address the deficit of the current year, and on the future structure and operation of the Learning Center.

David moves that the Board reduces the staff of the Learning Center staff from 2 to 1.5, the center be consolidated to one room with the understanding that a waiting list is maintained, the staff discount is reduced to 10%, and the senior instructor's salary is cut by \$4,000 beginning in January 2010.

Rob seconds the motion

All in Favor

Motion passes

Public Comments - No Comments

Staff Representative Report - Stephanie invited the Board members to the Winter Program on Thursday December 17, 2009.

Parent Representative Report - David reported that the Thanksgiving Feast was successful there was a good turnout. Christine thanked members for all the help they contributed to the event.

Capital Campaign - Bob Hughes reported that there a 4 teams currently functioning. There are several grants that will be contributed in the upcoming weeks. The Boettcher Foundation has committed \$100,000 to the campaign. We have submitted a request for invitation for \$100,000 from the Kroger Foundation. Representatives from several major foundations have been invited to tour RMDS. The Boettcher Foundation is helping to coordinate several of these visits including the Gates Family Foundation, Daniel's Fund, Temple-Hoyne Buell Foundation, Donnell-Kay Foundation, and Pose Community Foundation. There are continued meetings with potential major donors.

Regarding the BEST Grant, John Dickinson, Troy Talbert and Bob Hughes met with the BEST staff on November 18<sup>th</sup>. RMDS will not be limited on the amount of funding that we request. RMDS can see a higher level of LEED certification letting the design for the school to be more energy efficient. Consulting fees are 100% reimbursable, including Bob's current contract. RMDS can designate a portion of the current lease payments to be used as a part of the futures local match. If the school is constructed for less than the full grant amount then the State and RMDS split the difference. This would allow RMDS to establish an endowment fund or building fund reserve for future operation costs in the new facility. As a Pre-K-12 facility, RMDS can include the cost of a gymnasium and an auditorium in the BEST funding request. The BEST staff is very supportive of this application from RMDS and Bob has invited BEST Board member to tour the current school. Bob and Janet attended the BEST Board meeting on 11/13/2009. Contact has been made with the owners or agents of all three targeted properties. Troy is drafting the letter of intent. A request for qualification for architects has been prepared and circulated by the BEST staff. The deadline for submitting RFQ's is December 14<sup>th</sup>. Questions from architects were submitted by 11/30/2009, and were answered by Eric, Myra, John and Bob. The Building Team will review the RFQs and will select three to interview 12/21/09. The Building Team will interview three firms on 12/28/09 and will then make a recommendation to the Board on the selection of an architect. John will serve as a consultant to the selected architect and his fees will be 100% reimbursable by the BEST. Tours of the school by potential donors are continuing in an on-going basis.

Bob explained the process and procedure of applying for the BEST Grant. RMDS is responsible to raising a local match or percentage of the grant. There are several options for doing the local match. Bob feels 100% confident that RMDS will have a new school in 2 years.

CSAP Report - Nancy Bridenbaugh explained that RMDS does a variety of assessments. These assessments track student data as well as reflect the services of RMDS to outside organizations.

Reading Assessments (measured in average year level gain)

DRA	Adams 50	SAT
2007-2008 – 1.1	2007-2008 -.64	2007-2008 - .26
2008-09 - .8	2008-2009 - .8	2008-2009 - .76

The CSAP reading results were not what RMDS hoped for. There were a higher percentage of Unsatisfactory (U) students than Partially Proficient (PP) students. However, for the students who have been at RMDS for the past 3 year, there was major increase in scores. But with new students included it appears that we have no increase of PP students. This year we are focusing on Reading and Responding.

Writing data began in the 2008-2009 school year.

#### Writing Rubric

2008-2009: Average gain of 1.18 on the Step-up-to Writing rubric

#### SAT Spelling

2008-2009: Average gain of .82

#### CSAP Writing

Last year PP was above the U. This was partially due to the new writing program we implemented. For the Cohort of continuing students, there was a dramatic positive change.

#### Math

STAR Math  
2007-08 1.4  
2008-2009 .9

#### SAT

2007-2008 .9  
2008-2009 - .4

Students are weak with word problems. Several teachers recently went to a workshop for a new math drawing model called the Singapore model. This approach to word problems is visual as opposed to algebraic.

#### CSAP

Math is a strength for many students with more PP students than U students despite a slight decrease this year. But again, the cohort of continuing students made gains in scores.

The Growth Rate measures the academic programs each student has made during that year. Progress is compared to other students with a similar CSAP history. Growth Rate is categorized as Low, Typical or High.

RMDS showed High and Typical growth rates.

Reading 69%

Writing 54%

Math 79%

Clerc Fund - Rob reported that he his keeping track of current finances. The current balance is \$16,217. We are currently ready to add Rob and Christine to the account, and can add online banking at that time.

Christine reported that Janet had requested the Board pay for its own interpreting costs. Christine suggested that the Spring Benefit proceeds go to general funds and not the Building Fund in order to cover those costs. She suggested this change be limited to this year only. Stephanie suggested waiting to vote on the issue until an itemized budget is ready.

Background Check - Each Board Member needs to have a background check. Christine suggested that in the future the Board run background checks on applicants before they are voted onto the board. Christine passed out the background check paperwork, and requested each member complete it.

Attendance Policy - Janet has reported that staff are not consistently using the “punch in” method. The handbook has a vague attendance policy. Christine feels it is important to develop a more clear and detailed policy. Members brainstormed about possible stipulations for such a policy, and define “tardy.” The Board expressed support for Janet and the need to create a policy, and committed to communicate to the RMDS Staff that a policy is being written, and remind them that coming to work on time and prepared is required.

Logo - There is a concern that the current logo is not the most suitable for RMDS. Christine suggested hiring a new designer with fresh ideas. It is also important to consider that RMDS will have a high school, and should avoid child-like logos. Members will be making contacts to graphic designers.

Board Retreat - This year the Board will be writing a new strategic plan. Christine recommends meeting twice. The Board tentatively scheduled the first meeting for January 30<sup>th</sup> and it will be held locally.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.