

LDEFC/RMDS Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 28, 2010  
1921 Youngfield St.  
Golden, Colorado 80401

**APPROVED**

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

Guests: Janet Dickinson (RMDS Director)  
Bob Hughes  
Bill Bethke  
John Dickinson  
Alison Talbert

Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel  
Tricia Frank

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Chris Pendley.

*Overview of Agenda:* Bill Bethke may attend tonight regarding Board Restructuring. We may need to adjust the order of the agenda to coincide with his arrival.

*Approval of Minutes:*

December 3, 2009 – Minutes tabled until next meeting

January 7, 2010 - Discussion

- 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph (special needs consultant) correct to state “overpayment”  
**Approved as corrected**
- Discussion of minutes from previous meetings – Amended minutes show more accurate information.  
**Amended minutes approved as written**

*Reports:*

*Staff:*

- Literacy Night – Moved to February 10 with Olympic theme to coordinate with current Winter Olympics occurring in Canada

- Spring Gala – Sara Lee H. is coordinating a place to hold event. Fossil Trace Golf Club next door to Splash in Golden, CO has been selected. A deposit is required and is requesting \$600 from Board. Request for motion is held until after Clerc Fund Report.

*Parent:*

- Parent Survey – David will give report at next month’s meeting as the results need to be discussed with the Board.

*Public Comments:* None

*Building Report:*

- No written reports due to copy machine difficulties
- Start on high note: Gates Foundation has invited RMDS to apply for \$200,000 grant.
- Governor’s Office invited RMDS to discuss energy needs and how to help fund project with high energy efficiency (Installation, heating, solar panels, etc.)
- Alison submitted a request to Boettcher Foundation for \$100,000
- submitted a letter of inquiry for a possible local match with BEST and Kresge Foundation. They have previously funded Deaf projects in the US. Request will be made for \$500,000.00.
- Raised some money from an email sent out prior to end of year requesting donations
- Several visitors have been in or will come in to view RMDS. This is a good selling point to see the school, students and teachers.
- Owners representative is required by BEST. The position ensures that there is an overseer to check that permits, bonds, and licenses are in place, and, in general, act as eyes on the project. There were 49 requests for qualifications. Deadline is tomorrow. Then they will be reviewed and narrowed to three teams which will then be brought to the Board.
- John met with the architect and they plan to have three workshops to include staff, parents, and the deaf community. John will start workshop, then the architect will lead the rest of the meeting. The same schedule will be followed for the February 3, 16 and 24<sup>th</sup> meetings. Discussion at the first meeting will include more on goals, etc. and the later meeting will include more diagrams and etc.
- BEST grant deadline is set by state level. The plan is to submit 90% of the grant by March 3. The BEST staff will need to review the locations that the Board has approved as possible site locations.
- *Additional Information*
- There is a pre-design contract that is being approved by Bill Bethke that states everything they are doing is “AT RISK” if we do not get the BEST grant.

- Deaf Space was contacted to help, but they declined due to the risk of incurring costs flying back and forth not getting paid as well as their interest for building a portfolio would not be satisfied to their liking.
- Alison has registered us with BEST and we have a code number. Bob attended their meeting and invited them to tour RMDS. BEST staff is offering a lot of support. They are critical of the present location and support need for new building.
- May 21 Golf Tournament is in need of 36 sponsors at \$1200 each. Each Board Member is challenged to get one sponsor!
- Suggestion was made that maybe we could get sponsors for the Gala also to make it more profitable.

*Overview of Budget:* Janet presented the current breakdown of budget costs are 69% salaries, 14% building costs, 12% purchased services (ie- cleaning, maintenance, interpreting, OT/PT or other services not hired), 3% materials, 2% transportation over the \$40,000 provided by Jeffco.

Projection is \$17, 359 in the black if we stay on the planned course of spending this year if there are no changes by end of year.

Learning Center cut staff 2 hours which equals 10 per week. Terri has worked on fundraising and a Parent's Night Out fundraiser. The toddler program and the preschool were combined into one classroom to save costs. The changes created \$3,150 positive impact on the LC budget. New information received by Bill Bethke indicates that the LC can serve age 2 ½ – 6 year olds and it becomes an after school program. This means the LC can be in the RMDS budget and still end up with the \$17,000 at end of year.

In the past, full day tuition for full day preschool was only charged for CODA students. In the past, student's attended full day, but it cost more because teacher's had Masters Degrees. Currently, students get full day programming because the teacher's are qualified but do not have Master's Degrees. Previously 3 year olds were sent home ½ day, and 4 year olds stayed full day.

Currently the LC budget has been put into the RMDS budget so we can bill the district because it is under an excess cost - like before and after care. If a parent shows up with an 18 month old, we may have to have a waiting list. The LC and the ECE must keep a line between free education and tuition paid education.

In general, RMDS still has a balance owing Jeffco of \$17,104 (Original debt \$95,000). We can pay Jeffco the balance owed still have \$255 forward at end of the year if we propose to offer teacher's a 50% salary increase. Two years ago it was agreed to increase teacher's salaries if RMDS increased by 8 FTE students. RMDS added 5 students which is short 3 students of goal. Jeffco teacher's received a 4% step increase 2 years ago.

Discussion included:

- Can pay a portion of what we owe Jeffco and give the teacher's a raise?

- Does Jeffco have a deadline to repay the money?
- the State may take back 2.31 % PPR which equals about \$6,000 at the end of the year

#### Learning Center Discussion

- Motion was put on hold due to conflict in schedule allowing staff input
- Janet and Terri made changes -- reduced aide time, combined 2 rooms
- Question was brought up if motion could be modified?
- Discount for staff is currently 20% - motion was to move to 10%
- The Board has asked to have the motion put on hold, and review how money could be saved internally, which is what the board would like to see happen.
- Alison explained the aide position was not cut. Two hours aide time was moved into an available position within RMDS, creating a position part LC and part RMDS

**David moves that the motion we made in December become nullified and that the LC budget be transferred into the RMDS budget with close monitoring.**

**Rob seconds.**

**All in favor.**

**Motion passes.**

#### *Clerc Fund Report:*

Rob took previous information from Amy and created a spreadsheet. Amy previously stated that the money did not match the funds the bank said we had, so Rob is recommending an audit. Rob is trying to follow industry standards which will make it easier to transfer to the next person.

#### Discussion:

- Credit card and their fee was added -\$34.99 - see in last column.
- Rob is comfortable saying there is \$15,084.47 in the bank right now. Small withdrawals are reasonable.
- Alison answered question about child care reimbursement which may be under general funds. It is \$1,100 approximately which Rob can look up and reimburse the school. Child Care Program CAP funds were deposited to Clerc Fund and needs to be repaid to school, as it was for an individual student who no longer attends RMDS.
- Further brainstorming and discussion on raising funds and having an amount of money in the Clerc Fund. Previously, there was \$80,000 in the Fund and that would be a goal again. Currently, all fund raising is going towards the Building Fund. Next year, more emphasis needs to be on fund raising for this area.

**Stephanie moves to use \$600 from the Clerc Fund for the Spring Benefit deposit required by Fossil Trace, to be repaid after the Spring Gala.**

**Kelly seconds**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

*Staff salary increases:*

Questions were asked and clarification given: A onetime 25% increase would be \$3,600 approximately in the red. COLA started midyear last year which equaled about a 2% increase for teachers and it applies to the STEP increase. It would difficult to write in an increase for sure into the next budget because it could cause it to go into excess cost. State is looking at reducing PPR, but it is unknown when this could happen. Bill Bethke explained the state would be taking back what they are paying for all students. The PPR (Per Pupil Revenue) formula is different for each district depending on various factors. Each student is given a PPR cost. Districts are supposed to use PPR to cover all the regular education expense, not excess cost. PPR is only state funds, not federal. The Board understands teacher's positions, but also realize Jeffco and other district are not giving raises at this time.

Board members need more time to digest information and do further research on what other districts are doing. It would be helpful to get a summary of Jeffco's, CSDB's, and other school district's salary schedule. We need to consider if we will be seen as acting responsibly if we give salary raises when all others are not. Bill Bethke encouraged us to look at every comparison and still attempt to remain attractive to teachers.

**David moves that we table the teacher's increase until the next Board meeting.**

**Ann Marie seconds**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

*Director's Report:*

Important points are:

- High School was approved
- Mid March - we need to submit curriculum
- February 4 - Jeffco will have hearing to renew charters for regular schools. It looks like we will be on the consent agenda. However, Jeffco just replaced 5 board members and new members tend to have questions so we may have to explain it all again. Jeffco Board meeting starts at 6pm.
- New thing – RMDS is using social networking on Facebook and Twitter now
- High School starts next fall and we have 3 students moving up and 2 interested sophomore. Should we have freshman and sophomores combined? Is it a better use of our money to combine them? Would we need to look at the curriculum requirements. We need to inform Jeffco, if we are looking at a change. You can have cross age groups of students working together but on different skills. The issue here is having a small group of students and giving them a full curriculum. Use committee to investigate what students need.

*Board Restructuring:*

Recently, Janet and Chris met with John Peery, He is directly under Cindy Stevenson, Jeffco Superintendent, and is in charge of managing Charter Schools. John Peery recently visited RMDS and has expressed some very strong opinions about staff being on the Board. John Peery's email is nicely threatening. Employee voice is important and also neglected in schools, so it would be a mistake to remove this voice. This would be responsive to Jeffco as we could state that we are trying to establish a timeline to restructure.

Points to consider:

- One pro to having a Faculty Council is to better include ECE, elementary, upper and lower, middle school, and high school as each group may have issues specific to their classes/situation.
- Janet could give fair warning to staff on what will be on the agenda.
- Janet likes the idea of having a meeting with all the teacher's and hearing a variety of voices.
- Bill Bethke noted that it would be good to soon as possible notify Jeffco that we are looking in the direction of eliminating teachers on the board and give them a timeline.
- Teachers should be involved in organizing their needs.
- It is important to have consistent staff voice for the board.
- A nonvoting member or a staff representative would meet the Jeffco need.

Janet needs an answer to give Jeffco Board next Thursday, if asked.

**Chris moves that the Board direct the administration and staff to work together to change the bylaws so that the staff become non-voting members on the Board, but that they are still having a voice in school governance.**

**David seconds**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

*Public Comment Guidelines:*

Chris gathered information on this topic as we are becoming larger and may need guidelines in the future. One concern was regarding limiting speaker time. RMDS wants to retain the culture of openness, when a speaker follows the agenda, or just public comments more flexibility is built in, may need time limit or not, rules give more structure and protection to Board Chair.

Chris asked Lisa to help set up some guidelines regarding this issue and present at February Board meeting. David stressed that we want to maintain our open culture.

**Chris moves at 10:32 that we enter into Executive Session**

**Lara seconds**

Adjournment at 11:04 at end of Executive Session