

**LDEFC/RMDS Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 7, 2010**  
**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)  
Rob Gerck (Community Representative)

Absent: Laura Balczarek (Educational Representative)  
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative)  
Anne Marie Baer (Community Representative)

Guests: Janet Dickinson (RMDS Director)  
Gwen Walton (RMDS Secretary)  
Bob Hughes  
Bill Bethke  
Eric Pendley  
Jessica Rogers  
Justin Buckhold  
Ryan Commerson

Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel  
Tricia Frank

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

Introduction of all attendees

*Overview of Agenda:* No Changes to the Agenda.

*Building Team Proposal of Architectural Firm:* Eric Pendley reported that the Building Team completed the interview process for selecting an architectural firm for the new building. At the end of the process, the team unanimously voted for Anderson Mason and Dale (AMD) to recommend to the Board for their approval. The reasons for this selection include:

- their commitment to involve the Deaf Community and RMDS students
- detailed timeline for construction following BEST requirements
- in-depth knowledge of LEED
- high standards for construction
- technological expertise
- willingness to complete the building before receiving pay
- prior school and charter school construction
- competent budget plan
- willingness to cooperate with the Building Team

- a solid and committed core team with defined roles
- familiarity with RMDS, and
- history of successful fund raising

Eric responded to questions regarding AMD's past involvement with RMDS, design process, change orders, Deaf consultant, and plan to communicate and involve the Deaf Community.

**Rob Gerck moves to accept the Building Team's recommendation to approve Anderson Mason and Dale from the RFQ bidding process and to begin negotiations for a contract.**

**All in Favor**

**Motion Passes**

*Building Team Proposal for Special Needs Consultant:* Eric Pendley reported that the Building Team is recommending Winter & Co as a consultant for RMDS. Winter & Co. employs John Dickinson, who has experience building similar projects. John Dickinson is married to Janet Dickinson, RMDS Director.

Bill Bethke discussed conflict of interest principles. The concept applies to directors on a Board who has potential to vote on issues where a relative could benefit from the decision. The rules state that the conflict must be disclosed and the person in the position of conflict must refrain from voting and lobbying on the issue. Janet Dickinson is not a board member; she has no vote in the board's decision. There are currently no Board members who have a relationship with John Dickinson; therefore, there is no conflict of interest in this matter. Another principle is that firms or individuals are not receiving overpayment due to inside relationships or influence. It is premature to assess if a contract is fair now, as it has not been negotiated yet. John Dickinson has already stated to Bob Hughes and the Building Team that he would not accept direct pay for consulting work, although his staff would receive pay for their work on the project and the cost of materials would be covered. Bill recommends that RMDS treat this relationship as though it is not a conflict of interest and make sure RMDS gets value from any contract negotiated with an outside firm.

Staff and Community Members expressed concern of not begin able to maintain the role of employer to John Dickinson when he is married to the RMDS director. Concerns were expressed about some people having negative experiences working with John in the past. Bob informed the Board that he inquired of several of John's references and they were all good. He brought copies of the comments for the Board to review. Bill reiterated that Board members must make the best decision for the school without regard to the relationship between John and Janet, and should feel safe against any retaliatory actions.

The Board discussed including both Deaf Space with Winter & Co as consultants. Eric Pendley recommends this action. Bob Hughes will contact Deaf Space and inquire as to their interest in working with Winter & Co.

**Kelly moves that Winter & Co would be hired as our Special Needs Consultant with the addition of Deaf Space and their continued involvement and multiple avenues for the Deaf Community's feedback to be heard.**

**2 in favor**

**1 opposed**

**2 abstentions**

**Motion does not pass**

**Chris moves that Winter & Co would be hired as our Special Needs Consultant with the addition of Deaf Space and their continued involvement in order for there to be multiple avenues for the Deaf Community's feedback to be heard. The contract negotiated is subject to performance requirements.**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

Bill Bethke reminded the Board that the contract will be between Winter & Co and RMDS, not solely to John Dickinson.

*Board Meeting Frequency:* The Board discussed the possibility of meeting twice a month to avoid long meeting and address the current needs to make frequent decisions regarding the building. Members expressed flexibility and willingness to meet more frequently but would rather have extra meetings on an "as needed" basis.

*Strategic Planning Goal:* Janet reported on previous strategic goals:

Academic Achievement, Increase Enrollment and Grade levels, achieve and maintain financial stability, parent satisfaction, employee satisfaction.

Janet suggested possible goals: Academic Achievement, Enrollment/PR, Outreach, Financial Goals and Processes, Parent & Employee Satisfaction, Transitions to Life, Spoken English, Technology, Facilities, ECE, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Deaf Plus, PT/OT

Janet asked the Board members to prioritize her suggested goal areas. She then reported that the goals of the Board's goals were in line with the staff's goals with minor variations in the priority of them. The decided on goals are as follows:

1. Academics
2. Outreach/Enrollment/PR
3. High School
4. Facilities
5. Spoken English
6. Transition to Life
7. ECE

Janet will hold a town hall style meet with Parents and Staff to gather more ideas for the strategic plan to present to the Board at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9:20pm