

LCEFC/RMDS Board Minutes
Thursday, August 26, 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 Gerk (Business Representative)
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative) arrived at 8:10 pm
Anne Marie Baer (Community Representative)
Lara Balczarck (Educational Representative)

Guests: Nancy Bridenbaugh, Alison Talbert, Ryan Commerson, Rob Loveless

Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel and Kirk Neuroth

Preliminary:

Meeting called to order at 6:13 pm.

Overview of Agenda – no changes

Approval of Minutes – April 29, 2010 minutes are not yet complete.

Rob Gerk moves the June 8, 2010 minutes be approved as written. Ann Marie Baer seconds. All in favor.

Reports:

Staff Rep Report – There hasn't been a second faculty person to serve on the board alongside Kelly Baldwin as teacher rep. This should be determined at the next staff meeting.

The teachers would like to use approximately \$2,500 from the Spring Benefit dinner to purchase two Elmos for the school. This will be added to the Sept. 9th agenda for discussion. Kelly was asked to find the prices for two Elmos and two carts.

Public Comments:

Christine Pendley reports that Lynda Rimmel has asked for a letter of recommendation for RMDS.

Rob Gerk moves that a letter of recommendation for Lynda Rimmel be written. Ann Marie seconds. All in favor.

Search Committee Report:

Stephanie reported that the confidentiality forms have been signed by the individuals serving on the Search Committee. The next meeting will be Sept 1, 4:00-6:00pm. The committee will bring ideas to the table for the job description and how it is to be written. There will be samples of other job descriptions to compare to. There will be discussion as to best places to advertise/post the position. There are several people on the Search Committee who would like to serve on the Interview Committee. The Board will add Interview Committee guidelines to the Sept 9th agenda.

Director's Report:

Nancy Bridenbaugh reported on academics:

- Average reading gain Elementary 1.0 Secondary 0.9
- Average math gain 0.7 school-wide
- CSAP two students moved up from unsatisfactory to proficient

Professional Development is to focus on test taking strategies.

Virtual Academy- Working with Jeffco to get this set up properly.

Alternative Education Campus – The school will have a new accreditation due to a law passed in 2009.

Partnering with DEAF Awareness week and Compass Montessori.

Current student enrollment is 53 students.

Budget 2009-2010:

Alison Talbert reported that the previous deficit was \$17,104 and the total due to Jeffco is \$31,504. The current deficit for 2009-10 is \$14,400. Two main factors for this deficit are because benefits exceeded expectations by \$33,501 and Interpreter costs for the Capital Campaign equaled \$14,165 (both were not included in or exceeded the original budget). The school must report to Jeffco what steps are being taken to handle the deficit. The school wants to show that when we renew our charter that we can handle our budget and are working towards paying off the deficit. Chris reported at there is approximately \$20,000 in the building fund; however, Rob Gerk will give a full Clerc Fund report at the Sept. 9th meeting.

Rob Gerk moves that money in the building fund be used to pay back the expenses for the interpreter costs for the capital campaign meetings. Laura Balczarek seconds. All in favor.

CODA Discussion:

Nancy Bridenbaugh reported that approximately seven years ago, RMDS accepted CODA's into the school. The ratio was about 5 deaf to one CODA (5:1). Three years ago we had a CODA/SODA program and we enrolled any students but did not have any data regarding the ratios. This was dropped after one year because the ratio of students was off balance. This year there is a parent that wants their child to be enrolled in the school in kindergarten. The student had been enrolled in the Learning Center and did very well in the program. Nancy is asking the board for some guidelines and/or policies in accepting these students into the school. Until the board is able to create some guidelines/policy, the Learning Center is being offered for that student to come after his/her regular kindergarten school.

One thing that would need to be investigated would be a possible dual enrollment conflict within Jeffco?

A committee will be established to set some guidelines for CODA/SODA coming to the school and determining this as a case by case basis. This committee will be Lisa Haan, Laura Balczarek, Jennifer McLellan. and Nancy Bridenbaugh.

Review of Parent and Staff Survey:

The Staff Survey was reviewed. Some minor concerns were noted, but are already being addressed. The Parent Survey was mostly reviewed. Board members will review the remainder on their own time and bring any questions or concerns to the September 30th meeting.

Potential Board Reps:

Ryan Commerson Interview – Ryan introduced himself and shared his background. Ryan is from a hearing family; he attended a mainstream school and has been involved in the deaf community. He feels that all his experiences will help his service on the board. Ryan stated that one of the reasons he moved to Colorado was because of RMDS and its philosophy of being a bilingual school. Ryan feels that a person needs to be allowed to be who they are and not the result of the system. Ryan feels that he is a resourceful person.

When asked, “How would you collaborate within a team?” Ryan responded that he is very flexible and open minded and likes to look at various approaches and keep the issues at the forefront. When asked about his level of commitment, Ryan stated he has committed himself to the state of Colorado and a nonprofit organization.

Ryan defines himself as an “activist” when it comes to human rights and social injustices. He in the past has taken a nonviolent approach. When asked whether or not he was a “zealot” Ryan explained the differences between these two terms and stated he is not a zealot, but an activist. There was concern brought up regarding an activist serving on a board because there are rules and bylaws that have to be followed and these may seem to be in conflict with an activist’s approach to systems. Ryan stated that he is a level headed person. He has been involved in protests in the past but knows that we need to have some sense of order and system in place. Ryan stated, “I stand up when there is injustice.” Ryan said he would be considerate of the school and the board and stated, “You have my word that I would consult with you.” When asked about confidentiality, Ryan explained that this is a very important rule being an activist and he abides by confidentiality in other areas.

Rob Loveless Interview – Rob shared his background with the board. Rob was born hearing and became deaf at the age of 4. SEE was the mode of language that was used in the mainstream program he was placed into. Rob stated, “Indiana Deaf School is where my journey began as a deaf person.” Rob feels his deaf identity developed when he had a deaf teacher. Rob attended Gallaudet University for two years then went back to Indiana School for the Deaf to work as a RA. Rob felt it important for children to learn to beat their own drum. After moving to Colorado Rob obtained a liberal arts degree and began working at Front Range Community College. When asked about his interest serving on a board and how he might help, Rob replied, “You don’t come in to revolutionize the system; but come in as a soft stream not a raging river.” Rob has a love for children and would like to see how we can change the system to benefit the children and their education. Rob attended a RMDS meeting when there was turmoil; he wants to hear both sides. When asked about confidentiality, Rob stated, “Yes, it is important. It is like a dam with a leak.”

David Wilcox moves that we appoint Rob Loveless as the Community Representative. Rob Gerck seconds. One in favor. Motion does not pass.

Stephanie Carson moves that we appoint Ryan Commerson a Community Representative. Ann Marie seconds. Four in favor. No discussion. Motion passes.

David Wilcox moves that we appoint Rob Loveless as Community Representative. Rob Gerck seconds. Four in favor. There was some discussion. Motion passes.