

LCEFC/RMDS Board Minutes
Thursday, September 30, 2010
1921 Youngfield St.
Golden, CO 80401

APPROVED

Present: Christine Pendley (Board President)
David Wilcox (Board Vice President) arrived at 6:25
Anne Marie Baer (Community Representative) arrived at 6:14 PM
Lara Balczarck (Educational Representative)
Ryan Commerson (Community Representative)
Lisa Hann (Educational Representative)
Kelly Baldwin (Staff Representative)
Mary Cregan (Staff Representative)

Guests: Nancy Bridenbaugh, Alison Talbert, Namati Katungu, Bill Bethke, Eric Pendley

Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel and Tricia Frank

Meeting called to order at 6:11 pm. No changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – Review of the April 29, 2010 minutes postponed until the October meeting. Aug 26, 2010 and Sept 9, 2010 headings need to be corrected from “agenda” to “minutes”. It was suggested that we no longer copy the minutes to hand out for the board handbooks because the minutes are posted online at www.rmdeafschool.net.

Anne Marie moves the minutes for Aug 6, 2010 & Sept. 9, 2010 be approved with the noted correction. David Wilcox seconds. All in favor.

Public Comments - none

Meet Potential Board Rep – Namati Katungu applied for the Business Representative vacancy. He was born and raised in South Africa. He came to the United States and studied at Gallaudet University. He has a BA in Education and a MA in Business. He has taught at several different schools for the deaf. He currently has a real estate business in Colorado Springs in addition to working for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He was raised bi-lingually with African and English, so the educational philosophy that he was raised with is very similar to RMDS. Namati stated he is a visionary leader and feels this is important as well as having strong fiscal ideas. Namati expressed concern for his own safety if he were to serve on the board because of the late meetings and the distance he would have to travel home.

Enrollment Policy – Nancy met with Bill Bethke and Lisa Haan regarding the policy. Several ideas were drafted regarding the policy. One suggestion was to prioritize the students, for example those who are Deaf/HH with ASL as primary communication would be first. Then Deaf/HH but whose primary language is English (qualifies for IEP, benefits from signing environment) next. Thirdly, those who have

no significant hearing loss (primary language is ASL, no spoken English) could be third but a 1:5 ratio recommended and it would be determined on a case by case basis. The fourth priority ranking could be those with no hearing loss (can sign, can use spoken English) with a ratio of 1:5 also recommended. The goal would be to preserve the integrity of the language environment.

Mention of an old admission policy was brought up. There isn't such a policy in the Board Handbook. Bill Bethke will search to find the old policy.

The Deaf Plus classroom has six students in the classroom. The board set a ratio according to how many students in the school as to how many in this program. There is an additional student that would benefit from this program who wants to enroll.

Interview Committee Guidelines – Bill Bethke informed the board that the Sunshine Act would govern the Interview Committee. Basically it says that when hiring a chief executive officer, the list of finalist must be made public before making the final decision. This insures the public can make comments as to the people that are finalist. The finalists are the applicants that will be interviewed. This list of finalists needs to be posted for two weeks before a contract is signed. If a preliminary screening is conducted, it needs to be distinguished as being separate from the actual interview.

Building Team Report – Eric Pendley reported that the building team has met to discuss various plans for the future because the Best Grant was not awarded to RMDS. If Amendment 61 passes in November, the BEST Grant will not be available next year. Nancy has written a Letter of Intent to Jeffco to let them know we are starting the process again. In the event the BEST Grant is still available, we will reapply. The architectural firm that has been working with RMDS will revisit the drawings and see how we can reduce the square footage in order to help lower the cost of the building. In the meantime, new space is needed for next year. We need to find space that can be used for at least the next 2 years because of how long it would take to build a new building, in the event the BEST Grant is awarded to us in 2011. RMDS currently occupies +/-22,000 sq ft but is in need of approximately 30,000 sq ft to suit the student population needs. The school could be in Denver if Denver granted permission for the school to be there. If the BEST Grant is available next year, the building team and administration will focus on the grant following the same timelines as in the past. Matching funds will need to be found again.

Eric reported on the success of the Golf Outing as well. Thirty-six people paid and all of the showed up for the event. The Gold Outing Committee is asking that at least one board member be on the committee. The committee is considering raising the fee for the outing for next year.

Eric wanted to board to know that Bob Hughes is no longer under contract with RMDS; however he continues to come to the building team meetings and is still helping RMDS for free. If RMDS is awarded the BEST Grant, the committee recommends that RMDS contract with Bob Hughes again.

Director's Report – Nancy Bridenbaugh reported that Sept 24 was the mid-quarter point. Department meetings are being held weekly.

The US Government Accountability Office will be coming to visit RMDS on Oct. 29, 2010.

November 6th is the Fall Festival Fundraiser. There will be games and booths for families to do. Discussion was held as to where or not the parking lot was the safest and most attractive place to hold the festival. It was decided it is the most “comfortable” because people already know where it is and it helps people who aren’t so familiar with the school to become more familiar if it is held on our premises.

Anne Marie moves that the Clerc Fund pay for the games and expenses in the amount of \$1800. Lara Balczarek seconds. Discussion – none. All in favor. Motion passes.

Search Committee Report/ Search Committee Budget – Ryan Commerson reported that the last meeting was cancelled. The job description is completed and ready for posting. The committee is requesting \$300 to advertise the job online. The next meeting will be Oct. 6.

Anne Marie moves that we use the Clerc Fund for the advertising for the director’s position, not to exceed \$300.

David Wilcox seconds. Discussion – none. All in favor. Motion passes.

Fundraiser Schedule – Kelly Baldwin reported that for the next Spring Gala, the teachers would like to share the responsibility with the board. This would allow for 50% of the profits to be used by the teachers for RMDS needs and the remaining 50% could be put in the Clerc Fund for the board’s discretion of other school needs.

Discussion was held about various fundraising events and what is more beneficial, one large event or several smaller events for fundraising. There is a need to target different groups and not depend on the same people all of the time. It was suggested that the students host their own kind of fundraiser, like a penny. In the past, RMDS has co-hosted a ski day fundraiser with CRID. David will contact different ski areas to see if this would be a possibility again for this upcoming winter.

Executive Session – Personnel Matters to discuss an employee’s status - C.S.R. 24-6-402 (4)(f)

David Wilcox moves we enter Executive Session.

Anne Marie seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Entered Executive Session at 9:16pm.

Exited Executive Session at 9:54pm.

Ryan Commerson moves we support Nancy Bridenbaugh in the process of terminating Jeff Beatty’s contract effective October 1, 2010. He will be paid his remaining Sick Leave and Personal Leave.

Anne Marie seconds. Discussion – none. All in favor. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.