

**LCEFC/RMDS Board Minutes**  
**Thursday March 24, 2011**

Present: Rob Loveless  
Ryan Commerson  
Avi Haimowitz  
Kelly Baldwin  
Mary Cregan

Absent: Anne Marie Baer  
April Webb

Guests: Nancy Bridenbaugh  
Mayra Martinez  
Alison Talbert

Interpreters: Tricia Frank and Lynda Rimmel

Meeting called to order at 6:17 pm.

**Rob Loveless moves the agenda be amended to discuss the Cliff Moers award. Ryan Commerson seconds. All in favor. Agenda approved as amended.**

February 24, 2011 minutes approved as written.

Building Committee Report – Myra Martinez

After visiting and revisiting the Maranatha property, it was determined that the BEST Grant should not include this property. The BEST Grant should be submitted with just Option A – a new building proposal with land purchase. Options for the Fall to solve the immediate space issues worth pursuing would be to:

- acquiring a Jeffco school building that is being closed and using that building
- asking Maranatha to lease rooms to use for a possible 2-year lease
- expand the current school into adjacent vacant storefronts.
- possibly could check into other parochial schools that might be closing and inquire about leasing.

Several individuals will be contacting specific individuals about matching funds as well as hosting the Golf Tournament this spring. The Building Team would like to invite already committed donors to the Golf Tournament as a ways of recruiting other donors.

Search Committee Report – Rob Loveless

There is one potential candidate whose application will be held while the job description is revised. The Search Committee feels they are struggling to find a well qualified individual and feel the pay is a factor. The committee would like to create a clip of the students that would advertise the position. The committee is looking for a create, more effective way to get the word out across the nation and into Canada that we are hiring a director. In the meantime, Nancy Bridenbaugh will continue as Interim Director and Amy Novotny continue as Interim ARC Coordinator.

Director's Report – Nancy Bridenbaugh

Ryan congratulates Nancy for the work she has done getting additional funds for the school. Nancy explained the process for hiring new teachers at RMDS. Direct recruiting is a possibility; however, the job posting was just advertised on Monday and Nancy has already received two interested applicants.

Sound Waves is an organization that contacted RMDS about fundraising for us as well as another gentleman who wants to host a concert for the school. Both organizations sign to music. The gentleman would like to host a non-admission fee benefit and collect donations at a concert on April 10. Ryan would like to create collaboration between this organization and the school, he would help facilitate the connection for the students at RMDS being able to educate and teach signs as they relate to music and its concepts. The board has concern that the image of Deaf people may be conveyed in an offensive way without the understanding of deaf history and culture, etc. Nancy would like the board's input as to what kind of protocol she can follow in order to handle situations that come up that are similar to this. Because there is a date in place, it is suggested that someone from the school open the concert with remarks and thanks in order to shed a positive light and not draw on people's sympathy. In the meantime long term protocol should be established. This topic can be added to the second board retreat.

Overview of the 2010-11 budget – Alison reviewed how RMDS creates and gets approval for the annual budget. The Excess Cost Rates were divided into three categories and approved as follows: Preschool \$93.45, Kindergarten \$117.14, Grade 1-12 \$130.04. The current projection is that we will pay off the Jeffco balance this year and have \$35,714 left.

2011-12 recommendations would include one additional teacher and proposed salary increase. Recommend eligible teaching staff receive .5 step increase effective August 2011. The proposed budget includes an additional 1.0 step increase for all eligible staff with an additional increase review in the spring 2012.

**Ryan Commerson moves we approve the .5 step increase for teachers in August 2011. Avi seconds. Discussion none. Motion passes.**

Public Comments – none

Board Reports –

For the staff report, Mary and Kelly reported that the Optimist Club hosted a competition entitled "If I were a leader, how would I change the world?" First place award went to Mia White, second place Coleen Gunst, third place went to Leah Voltz. There is a Science Fair, Spring Dance and Middle School Fun Night coming up.

Invitations for the Spring Gala are ready to go out. Kelly has letters she is asking the board to help pass out to ask for donations.

Cliff Moers Award is awarded to a person who supports bilingual education. There isn't a criterion at this time for this award. Nancy would like to recognize the architects, AMD, who have been working on the building designs for RMDS. The board agrees that criteria needs to be drawn up and a separate award be given at the Spring Gala this year. One idea was to have the kids create some kind of art work that could be included in the award.

There was no Parent Rep report given.

Letter from Purple Communications – Rob Loveless shared an email from Purple Communications that expressed their desire to have a presence at RMDS. Due to recent practices by Purple, Rob would like the board’s feedback about accepting donations from Purple. The board feels that accepting a sponsorship for the golf outing would still be appropriate.

Advertisement for the three Board position vacancies – Rob has edited the board vacancy postings and would like the board to approve the passion and commitment statement that is included in the posting.

**Avi moves we advertise the vacant board positions with the advertisement as submitted to the board in writing. Ryan seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

Rocky Mountain PBS advertisement opportunities – Cliff Moers and Rob Loveless were shown a signing program that will be aired on PBS. To advertise before or after this sign program may be worth investigating. Rob would like a Media Committee established to discuss different advertisement and exposure opportunities. Nancy will move forward on contacting PBS to investigate the possibility of advertising on PBS.

Board Retreat will be determined via email.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.