Rising Schools, Inc./The Rising School Governing Board

Minutes of April 11, 2013, Governing Board Meeting

Governing Board members present:
Mr. Greg Berger
Ms. Rosie Garcia (telephonically)
Dr. George Rising
Ms. Margret Huebner

Governing Board members absent:
None

Quorum? (Two or more Governing Board members present?):
Yes

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order by Dr. Rising, Board President, at 5:04 pm

2. Board Approved Dates and Places for Future Board Meetings
- Handout: Draft Calendar for future Board meetings
- The Board discussed dates and places for future Board meetings.
- The Board agreed to set Thursday April 25, 2013, 4:00pm, as the next Board meeting
- The Board set 1701 E. Seneca St. as the site of the next Board meeting

2. Board Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Handout: Minutes from previous Board meeting of February 21, 2013
- The Board voted (3-0) to approve the draft minutes, without revision, from the previous Board meeting of February 21, 2013

3. Board Interviewed potential new RSI/TRS Board member Margret Huebner
- Handout: Ms. Huebner's resume
- Ms. Huebner described her background and was questioned by Board members
- Ms. Huebner is from Tucson, went to Santa Rita High School
- One son; she was an active parent, especially in 4-H program
- Owns and operates a local business, Commercial Carpet Cleaning, with her husband Richard
- Ms. Huebner has been with CCC since 2000
- For CCC, she does bookkeeping, administration, databases
- Her reasons applying to RSI/TRS Board is her dismay that today's young people do not know how to manage their finances
- Has done other volunteer work
- Open to training and professional development as a Governing Board member

4. Board Approved Margret Huebner as RSI/TRS Board member

- Ms. Huebner left the room after her interview
- After a short discussion, the Board voted (3-0) to approve Margret Huebner as a RSI/TRS Governing Board member
- Ms. Huebner returned and was congratulated by other Board members

5. Board Approved RSI's appeal of TRS's exclusion from AZ CSP Grant Funding

- Handout: Scores on AZ CSP applications of 5 awards and of The Rising School
- Handout: Letter from Dr. Mark Francis of AZ CSP, which answered questions by TRS
- The Board discussed the AZ CSP award process
- The Board reviewed its April 3 letter to the Arizona Department of Education, which outlined several serious problems in the AZ CSP process
- The Board agreed that the AZ CSP process, especially the interview section of the application, was flawed and the TRS was unfairly harmed by the process
- The Board agreed that to officially request a hearing to appeal the exclusion of TRS from AZ CSP funding
- Mr. Berger requested that Dr. Rising send the Board copies of the statute that outlines the appeal process; Dr. Rising agreed to send the relevant statute to Board members

6. Board Approved Dr. Rising's Negotiation for Leasing a Possible Facility for TRS at 2222 N. Craycroft Road

- Handout: Flyer for 2222 N. Craycroft facility
- Handout: Maps for 2222 N. Craycroft facility
- The Board reviewed information about a possible facility for TRS
- Dr. Rising discussed facilities that he had toured with RSI's real-estate agent, Tari Auletta
- Dr. Rising stated that one building, 2222 N. Craycroft, was a facility very well-suited to TRS's needs in terms of size, location, and price
- The Board voted (4-0) to allow Dr. Rising to pursue negotiating and leasing the 2222 N. Craycroft facility

7. Board informed by Dr. Rising of his decision to contract with ADI Business Solutions as for accounting and other financial services

- Handout: ADI's Scope of Services
- Reviewing the ADI handout, Dr. Rising described the accounting and financial services provided by ADI
- Dr. Rising stated that ADI had 30 clients, including 28 charter schools
- He also stated that ADI's clients had strong records in financial audits
- Ms. Huebner stated her preference for using local, Tucson accounting firms for audits
- Dr. Rising stated that competence was the prime requirement for any vendor, but that he believed that there were several competent Tucson auditing firms

8. Board Approved Opening The Rising School in August 2013

- The Board discussed opening TRS in August 2013, rather than August 2014

- Dr. Rising pointed out that the Board had previously voted to open TRS in August 2014 on the basis of having a planning year funded by the $230,000 AZ CSP grant
- After discussion, the Board voted (4-0) to open TRS in August 2013.

9. Ms. Garcia Left the Meeting

- Ms. Garcia, who was attending the meeting by phone, excused herself from the meeting to attend another appointment at 6:12

10. Board Tabled Discussion of Potential RSI/TRS Board Members

- The Board agreed to postpone discussion of potential RSI/TRS Board members until the next Board meeting

11. Board Members Had No Requests for Future Agenda Items

- No Board members requested any future agenda items
- Dr. Rising reminded Board members that they could email him any future agenda items prior to 48 hours before the next Board meeting

12. Adjournment

Dr. Rising, Board President, adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
George Rising, Board President