



BOARD OF VISITORS

THE VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND
P.O. BOX 2069
STAUNTON, VA 24402-2069

Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Board Chairman

Executive Committee Meeting
August 4, 2011
Minutes (DRAFT)

Members present: Senator Hanger, Delegate Bell, Virgil Cook, Alice Frick, Donna Gateley.

Senator Hanger opened the meeting acknowledging a quorum is present and welcoming the Executive Committee.

Review 2011-2012 Budget: Lisa Byrd was present to answer question from the Committee. A short discussion followed. A request was made to review the Capitol Project request at the next full Board meeting.

Naming of new buildings: Samantha Vanterpool presented a draft policy for naming VSDB controlled facilities. The new deaf dorm, new blind dorm and educational building will need names. It was proposed that a subcommittee be created to review suggested names then report to the full Board for final vote. Delegate Bell MOVED to accept the name Kiser Hall for the new deaf dorm and put it before the full Board at the September Board meeting, then follow the proposed policy for naming of the remaining buildings. The motion was SECONDED by Virgil Cook. The students will move into the dorm August 21, 2011 all though the name will not be official till after the September Board meeting. No changes were recommended for the new policy. The motion carried by voice vote.

Superintendent's House: The Committee reviewed the information provided by Marvin Mahler. Donna Gateley MOVED to; with the assistance of the Department of General Services, 1) get more information on the "scope of work", 2) prepare a fair market value for rent, 3) obtain other estimates for repairs to be able to compare cost. The motion was SECONDED by Alice Frick. Nancy Armstrong will contact the Department of General Services. The motion carried by voice vote.

Code changes for leasing of vacant buildings: Delegate Bell MOVED to proceed with a request to change Virginia Code to allow VSDB to manage and retain the proceeds from leasing vacant buildings on the VSDB campus. The motion was SECONDED by Virgil Cook. The proposed language is as follows:

1. The Board of Visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (the Board), with assistance of the Department of General Services, is authorized to lease any of its buildings no longer needed for the purposes of the School to private entities, provided such private entities are appropriate providers or otherwise provide services deemed necessary or desirable to the operations of the school as determined by the Board. Any such lease shall be approved in writing by the Governor or his designee, who shall first consider the written recommendation of the Department of General Services, and shall be approved as to form by the Attorney General.
2. Any proceeds derived from such leases shall be held, used and administered by the Board of Visitors for such purposes as said Board may deem best for the School.
3. Any construction required to allow use of such buildings by the tenant, at the tenant's sole cost, shall not be deemed a capital project as the term is defined in §4-4.01 of Chapter 890, 2011 Session of the General Assembly. Such construction shall be subject to §36.98.1.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Timing of News Stories in the media: As much as possible the School needs to keep the Board of Visitors informed of news releases that will draw public comment. This can be done by either email or phone.

Integration of the two programs: The Committee discussed the integration of the blind department and the deaf department into one educational building. The Committee requested a report at the next Board meeting on the steps the school is taking in insure a smooth transition.

Mascot of the Deaf Department and Blind Department: Jack Johnson spoke to the Committee. The Executive Committee recommended this discussion be suspended until Mr. Johnson can speak with the current students. Mr. Johnson will report to the full Board in September.

VITA correspondence: The Committee discussed the history of communications with VITA.

Other Business:

Doug Wright informed the Committee that he has been working on the VSDB web page. He has temporarily removed the state seal and the cardinal image due to possible copy right infringements. Once he has received permission to display the state seal it will be returned to the web page. He will research cardinal images that can be used by the public.

Nancy Armstrong asked how the Board will be informed of the Decision Packages that will be proposed. The Committee discussed the need of subcommittees to work with VSDB staff on several items; Capital Project, Decision Packages, Building & Grounds etc. The full Board will review the need for subcommittees and appoint those needed at the next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned