

3rd Town Meeting
RSD Auditorium
Thursday, November 2, 2006

Moderator -- Mr. Kenneth Finton

“Old Business”—

Last March Dr. Mowl presented the group with 4 Action Items to help address the four major areas of concern brought up at the first town meeting. At this time, Dr. Mowl presented an update on those 4 Action Items.

1. Parent Handbook—A new parent handbook was distributed last summer. Some parents of RSD students helped to review the handbook before it was printed.
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Communication Philosophy—This committee was created to evaluate our current Communication Philosophy and to make recommendations on modifying the philosophy. This committee has been meeting since June and should be finished soon.
3. Advisory Committee for Effective Communication at RSD—This committee is made up of organizations from RSD such as the Board of Directors, PSA, Jr. NAD, UFA, SA, and RSDAA, and Administration. This committee has developed a process to track the issues and concerns brought up by members of the Committee. The Committee will continue to meet about once a month.
4. Surveys—The Board encouraged Dr. Mowl to conduct surveys among the different RSD constituencies. The surveys were completed in June, and there was a 34% overall response. While it seems like a small number, some say this is a good response. Dr. Mowl hopes for a better response rate as we continue to do more surveys over time. There have been some issues raised as to why there was such a low response, and those reasons vary. Some of the results were shared via a Power Point presentation.
5. There will be another Town Meeting in the spring of 2007.

“New Business”—

Various speakers came to the front of the Auditorium to express their opinion or ask questions, and Dr. Mowl responded as follows:

Alumnus—

Q: Why was I not informed of the survey? How was the deaf community contacted?

A: This alumni survey was distributed via e-mail. The alumni list came from RSDAA.

It is suggested that the Alumni Association be contacted for correct information, in order to be solicited for any future surveys.

Parent/Faculty—

Q: Will another ASL Teacher be hired? I believe that teaching ASL will help with the connection between ASL and English.

A: The goal is to have 2 ASL teachers.

Alumnus—

Q: Why is our Board of Directors make-up not 51% deaf?

A: Our Board does not have a set percentage. We have recently added 2 more deaf members. A biography for each Board member is posted on the RSD website.

Faculty—

Q: Is RSD a neutral place for a Town Meeting? This may be a reason why there is a low turnout. RSD staff should know more about deaf culture and why ASL is so important to the deaf community. With all of the new technology, I'm worried about the language becoming extinct.

A: The Board has had a difficult time finding deaf people who want to serve. There hasn't been a deaf or hard of hearing person who expressed an interest that has not been allowed to serve. This Board requires a commitment of time and thought. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact one of the Board members or Dr. Mowl.

Regarding whether or not RSD is a neutral place, the implication could be that it becomes an "us" vs. "them" situation. RSD is an appropriate place to meet.

Parent/Faculty—

Q: Referring to the survey, I'm concerned about such a low rating on the question referring to positive RSD spirit being evident. Is there a plan to improve that?

A: All people need to work together to improve it.

Alumnus—

It was suggested that the survey be done twice a year, so that results between the start and finish of school can be compared. It's a good idea to reach out to staff, faculty, and alumni via email or a postcard saying that the survey is available online.