



Rochester School for the Deaf Town Meeting #2

Thursday, March 23, 2006

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Welcome

Steven M. Morse

President, RSD Board of Directors

Role of RSD Board of Directors

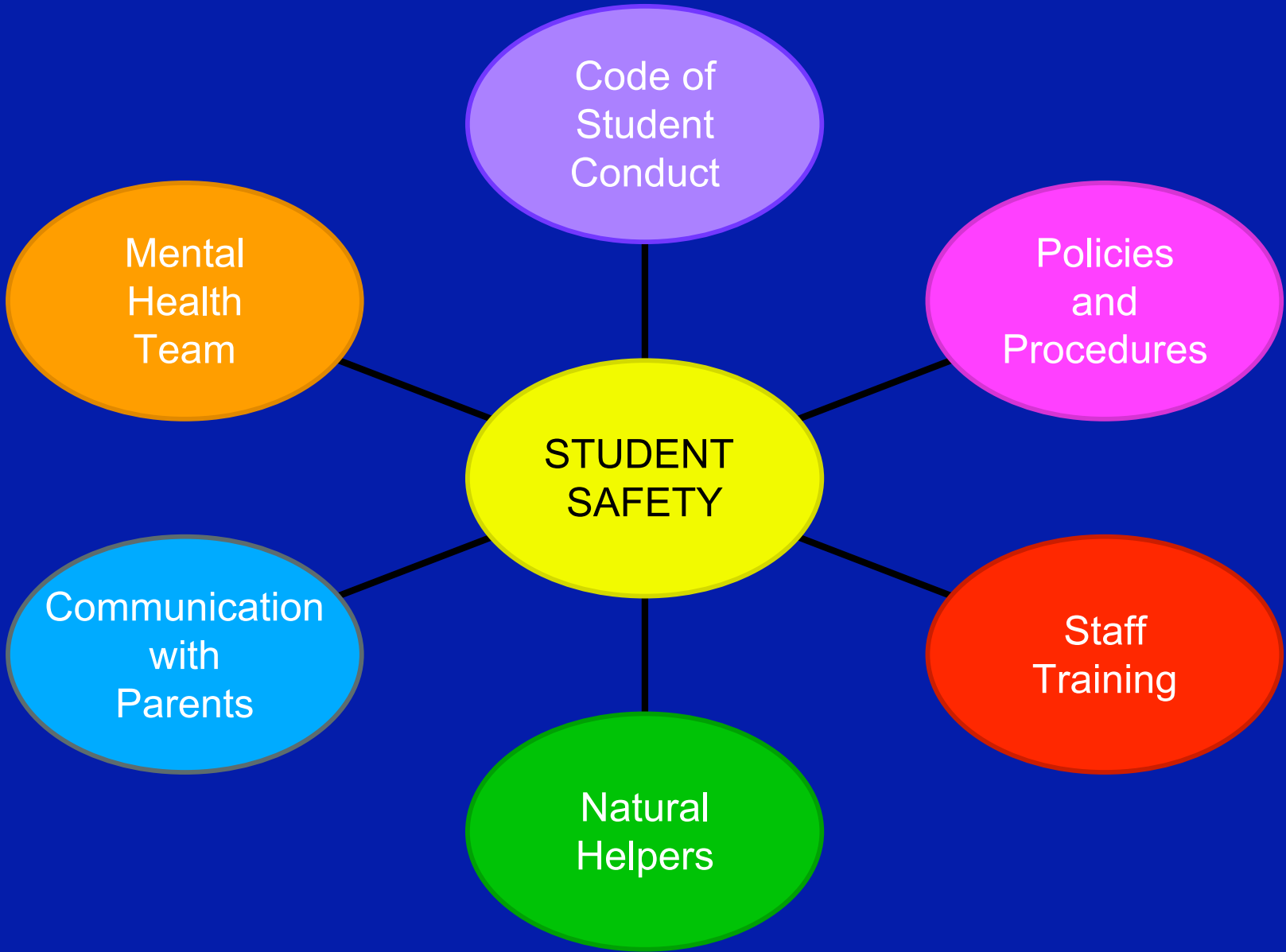
- Non-governmental, corporate Board
- Membership of the Board
 - Composition of the Board
 - How members are selected
 - Access to the Board
- Function of the Board
 - Hires a chief executive officer for the day-to-day operation of RSD; he or she is accountable to the Board
 - Provides general guidance to the chief executive officer
 - Reviews and establishes policies for RSD
 - Provides financial oversight
 - Helps to generate private funds for expenses not covered by New York State (e.g., trip to Italy, Space Camp)
 - Provides visibility and support to RSD (e.g., Denton Hall, Rochester Historical Society)

Response to Other Issues and Concerns Brought Up in Town Hall Meeting #1

Harold Mowl

Issues brought up at Town Meeting #1

- Student Safety
- Education
- Communication
- Administration



Action Item

for Issues Related to Student Safety

- The new Parent Handbook will outline general information and procedures for parents to follow if they have concerns or complaints. A few parents will be invited to review the Handbook before it is finalized. The new Handbook will be ready by June 1.
- In the meantime, parents are encouraged to contact me with their questions and concerns.

Issues brought up at Town Meeting #1

- Student Safety
- Education
- Communication
- Administration

Education

- } Curriculum should be deaf friendly
- } Study strengths in other schools and apply them to RSD
- } Deaf educators do improve quality of education
- } Need full time social worker

ASL

- } RSD should be more ASL friendly
 - } ASL is our native language
- } ASL is a bridge to English literacy
- } Hire deaf teachers with ASL abilities
 - } Add/hire ASL specialists
 - } Start Bi-Bi program

EDUCATION

Issues & Concerns Brought Up
in Town Meeting # 1

Parents

- } Need information on their rights in IEP development
- } Need clear understanding of school policies and state policies

Advocacy

- } RSD should advocate for:
 - flexibility in certification requirements for deaf teachers
 - eliminating 80dB requirement
 - better requirements for interpreters
- } RSD should educate legislators about:
 - deaf people's quality of education to teach in schools
 - ASL, deaf people, etc.

Communication Philosophy

- Can be found at www.rsdeaf.org
- Important components
 - Support each student in reaching maximum potential
 - Students should understand and be understood
 - Staff expected to use sign language at all times, except in certain teaching situations
 - NYS requires mastery of English and other NYS required content areas
 - Two languages: English and ASL
 - Cultural diversity

Written English Development

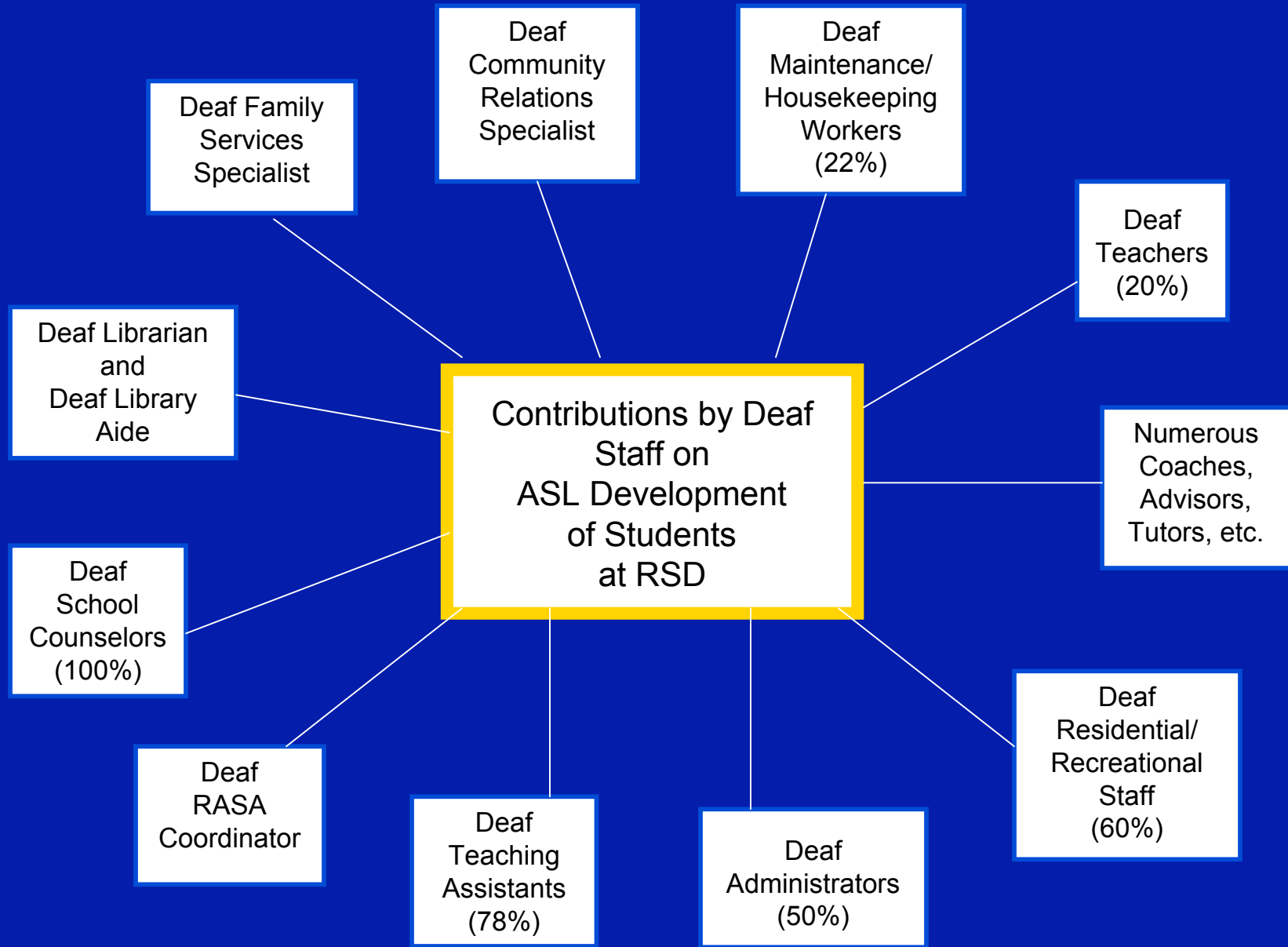
- Wide variety of student abilities and needs
- Efforts at RSD include:
 - Teacher training and support
 - Careful attention to NYS standards
 - Use of technology
 - Bridging between ASL and English languages

Spoken English Development

- Speech/Communication Program
- Varied approaches depending on student's abilities and needs
- Helping students to be able to interact with both deaf and hearing people comfortably

ASL Development

- Wide variety of student abilities and needs
- Contributions by deaf staff
- Efforts at RSD include:
 - Staff training and support
 - Bridging between ASL and English languages
 - Student activities related to ASL literacy and Deaf Culture



Teaching Staff at RSD

- NYS: Requires teaching certification
 - Complete college program as required
 - Pass Liberal Arts & Science Test (LAST)
 - Pass Assessment of Teaching Skills (ATS-W)
 - Pass content specialty test
 - Have experience as a teacher
- RSD: Requires achievement of expected SCPI level

Action Item for Issues Related to Education

- Establish an ad hoc Board committee to study the current Communication Philosophy statement and to recommend any changes to Harold Mowl and the Board by September 1, 2006.
 - Harold Mowl, Convener
 - Representation by the Directors, parents, administrators, faculty and staff, students, community members, and education professionals.
- The first meeting will be held in May.

Issues brought up at Town Meeting #1

- Student Safety
- Education
- Communication
- Administration

Communication

Internally (RSD)

- } Parents should be able to communicate with the Board
- } RSD should welcome more kids that have multiple disabilities
- } RSD Board more visible around campus
- } Better communication methods between staff and students
- } Shared Reading Program to be set up
- } Expand ASL classes at reduced or no cost to family members
- } More deaf people on RSD Board
- } Roles of Board members
- } More socialization between Board, Alumni and staff
- } Building Futures newsletter should include reports from Board, PSA, etc.
- } What is a "CEO"?
- } Improve and increase public relations
- } Mediation services
- } More balanced curriculum for students with CI and other deaf students
- } Subs need to be qualified to teach in specific areas

Externally

- } RSD should provide Alumni Room for RSDAA, not just a storage room
 - } Alumni website should be linked to RSD website
 - } Dr. Mowl should help Deaf community address its needs
 - } Deaf schools and deaf community need to mingle more to develop social skills/leadership
- } RSD should advocate for:
 - flexibility in certification requirements
 - eliminating 80dB requirement
 - better requirements for interpreters
- } RSD should educate legislators about:
 - deaf people's quality of education to teach in schools
 - ASL, deaf people, etc.

Action Item for Issues Related to Communication

- Establish an Advisory Committee for Effective Communication at RSD
 - Harold Mowl, Convener
 - Representation by the Board of Directors, School Administration, United Faculty Association, Staff Association, Parent Staff Association, Alumni Association, and Junior National Association of the Deaf
- Committee to meet quarterly and recommend strategies for improved communication
- First meeting to be held in May or June
- Meeting minutes to be maintained and shared

Communication

Internally (RSD)

- } Parents Have the right to communicate with the Board
- } RSD should welcome more kids that have multiple disabilities
- } RSD Board more visible around campus
- } Better communication methods between staff and students
- } Shared Reading Program to be set up
- } Expand ASL classes at reduced or no cost to family members
- } More deaf people on RSD Board
- } Roles of Board members
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- } Building Futures newsletter should include reports from Board, PSA, etc.
- } What is a "CEO"?
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- } Subs need to be qualified to teach in specific areas

Advisory Committee for Effective Communication at RSD

Externally

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- } RSD should advocate for:
 - flexibility in certification requirements
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Issues brought up at Town Meeting #1

- Student Safety
- Education
- Communication
- Administration

Board of Directors

- } More deaf people should serve on Board
- } Confusion over roles of Board members
- } "CEO"-what does that have to do with school
- } Improve and increase Public Relations
- } RSD should develop a more balanced curriculum for students with and without cochlear implants

Alumni

- } RSD should provide Alumni Room for RSDAA, , not just storage room
- } Alumni website not linked to RSD website

ADMINISTRATION

Issues & Concerns Brought Up in Town Meeting # 1

Communication

- } More socialization between Board, alumni, and staff
- } Building Futures newsletter should include all reports from Board, PSA, etc.
- } Dr. Mowl to help Deaf community address its needs
 - } Need for mediation services
- } Deaf schools and deaf community need to mingle/socialize more

Students

- } Favoritism in discipline situations
 - } Morals need to improve
- } Student leadership needs to be encouraged
 - } Subs must be qualified to teach
 - } Student morale is very low

Action Item for Issues Related to Administration

- Harold Mowl will meet with the RSD Alumni Association, parents, and others regarding their complaints and concerns.
- Harold Mowl will attend PSA and RSDAA meetings when invited.

Action Item (General)

- Conduct surveys before school closes in June
- Groups to be surveyed: parents, students, staff, alumni, and Board
- Above groups to help with survey questions
- Outside firm to assist RSD with the surveys
- Surveys to be anonymous
- Survey results to be shared with the Advisory Committee for Effective Communication

Summary of Action Items

- Student Safety: New Parent Handbook will be ready by June 1, 2006
 - In the meantime, parents are encouraged to contact me with their questions and concerns.
- Education: Ad hoc Board committee to study the current Communication Philosophy statement and to recommend any changes to Harold Mowl and the Board by September 1, 2006.
- Communication: Advisory Committee for Effective Communication at RSD
- Administration: Harold Mowl to meet with the RSD Alumni Association, parents, and others regarding their concerns
- General: Surveys to be completed before school closes in June

Student Accomplishments

NE Academic Bowl Competition

- RSD won the championship!

Rochester School for the Deaf

Rochester, NY



(L-R back row)
Justin DiBiase, 12th
Abby Worek, 11th
Cory Behm, 11th
Barbara Spiecker, 11th
Eric Smith, 12th
(L-R front row)
Patti Wink, Assistant Coach
Scott Gentzke, Head Coach

NE Academic Bowl Competition

- Onward to the National Bowl!

Varsity Soccer Honors

- 16 wins and 1 loss
- ESDAA Northern Regional Tournament Champions
- Western New York Christian Athletic Association League Championship
- Frat Team of the Year
- Justin DiBiase, Frat National Player of the Year

Girls' Varsity Basketball

- First ever ESDAA Tournament Champions!

Optimist Club Competition

- “My Future Is Bright Because...”
- 5 students
- Competition at RSD on March 29
- District level competition in Auburn on May 6
- \$1,500 scholarship

Student Trip to Italy

- 19 students, 4 chaperones
- April 10 through April 20
- Trip costs paid by parents, fundraising, and RSD
- Evening classes to prepare for trip
- Two highlights: meet deaf hotel general manager and get together with deaf students in Italy

Questions and Answers

Closing Comments

Steven M. Morse,
President, RSD Board of Directors