
**Special PRDSB Meeting
DRS (STEPS Bldg.) Conference Room
Monday, January 26, 2009
3:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Foster called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Amelia		Mr. David Whitaker Mr. Art J. DeMario, II
Buckingham	Ms. Rebecca Cobb	Ms. Judy Lightner *Ms. Rebecca Carter
Charlotte	Mr. Eugene Morris Ms. Norma Tuck (Secretary/Treasurer)	*Ms. Susan Adams
Cumberland	Mr. Robert Oertel *Dr. Susan Lynch	Mr. James Ferrell
Lunenburg	Ms. JoAnn Torrence	Mr. George Ingram *Vacant
Nottoway	Mr. Sherman Vaughn	Ms. Elaine White *Ms. Becky Covington
Prince Edward	*Ms. Edith Williamson	Mr. Jonathan Pickett (Chairman) Mr. Norman Walker
Business Representative	*Mr. Ryan Follett	Ms. Sharon Harrup
PRDSB Staff	Ms. Melody Foster	
DRS Liaison (* Alternate Member)	Ms. Beverly Dunnivant	

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Matthew Torrence, Lunenburg County Citizen

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morris moved and Mr. Vaughn seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

-Elimination of Funding for Staff Support for Disability Service Boards

Ms. Foster referred members to the attached notifications included in the board packet concerning the Elimination of Funding for Staff Support for Disability Service Boards (DSB) in Virginia. Ms. Foster stated this was a result of the Governor's proposed Budget Reductions that were announced in December. Ms. Foster stated the notice includes not only the elimination of funds for staff support but also an elimination of code mandates requiring localities to create DSB's.

-Discussion of Future of Piedmont Regional Disability Services Board

Ms. Foster stated currently the Department of Rehabilitative Services provides funds for staffing of Disability Service Boards. The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) receives \$14,800 to staff the PRDSB annually. Due to the elimination of these funds, Ms. Foster stated the CRC could not absorb the costs to continue providing this service without funding.

There was extensive discussion on this subject. Several ideas were discussed:

- Requesting counties to cover the cost of staff support (\$14,800).
- Ask the Department of Rehabilitative Services what other DSB's are going to do.
- Group needs to attach itself to some other type of similar organization in order to continue it's function in the future. Dr. Lynch will be contacting the Longwood Center that is located above the "Daily Grind" in Farmville to see if there is some possibility of working together in the future.
- Using Local Fund balance to support staff from July thru December 09.
- Possibly a member could volunteer to staff the group.
- Consider becoming a 501C3 in order to gain tax-exempt status.
- Commissioner Rothrock, DRS, mentions in his letter that before the DSB's were created there were "Mayors Committees on the Needs of Disabled Citizens." Ms. Foster was asked to inquire what these committees did and how did they work?
- What structure could the PRDSB be after June 30th if they choose to continue to exist without staff support?
- Ask the Commonwealth Region Council to continue to provide administrative support of the PRDSB after June 30, 2009.

Ms. Torrence moved and Ms. Williams seconded to request the Commonwealth Regional Council continue to provide Administrative Support to the PRDSB after June 30, 2009. Motion carried with Mr. Vaughn abstaining.

-Local Projects Funded & Local Fund Balance

Ms. Foster stated included in the packet is a copy of the listing of Local Projects completed with local funds that totals \$13,149.70 and the bank balance of funds available to the PRDSB which totals \$ \$7,795.87.

Ms. Foster stated with the uncertainty of the future of the PRDSB the board may want to consider spending down the local funds to ensure they are used and would not need to be returned to counties. Ms. Foster stated in talking with Reverend Rabon at Heritage Baptist Church it appears that the temporary ramp that the PRDSB purchased earlier is not long enough to meet the needs of participants. Ms. Foster proposed that the PRDSB purchase two additional sections of ramp (10 ft. each) so that the entire length of the temporary ramp would now be 30 ft. and could be used more effectively to meet most needs of a temporary manner. Ms. Foster stated further that since the future of the PRDSB is currently uncertain, one idea that could be entertained would be to give the entire temporary ramp to Heritage Baptist Church so that they could be entrusted to continue to provide this service after June 30, 2009 and would ensure that the ramp is used in the future. Ms. Foster stated she had briefly discussed the idea with Rev. Rabon to seek his input to the idea. Rev. Rabon stated while he could not speak for the Church he believed they would be open to the idea contingent upon some agency being responsible for seeking potential participants who are in need of the ramp and then contacting the Church.

There was discussion on this proposal.

Mr. Morris moved and Mr. Oertel seconded to purchase two additional ramp sections (10 ft. each), contingent upon Heritage Baptist Church accepting the entire ramp from the PRDSB. This also would be contingent upon the Church requiring that the ramp be installed only temporarily for no longer than 6 months. Agencies such as DRS, Social Services, STEPS, SCOPE, etc. would be notified and requested to assist in locating participants who are need of the temporary ramp for Heritage Baptist Church. Motion carried.

Ms. Foster stated the board also received two additional requests for local funds. One from Ms. Helen Rogers requesting a ramp for her elderly mother who lives in Green Bay. The other was from Heartland Horse Heroes who heard of the PRDSB's possible dissolution and wanted to make sure they entered their request for additional funds for their program. Both requests were tabled this month.

Board members discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with local request from counties for FY 09-10 funding. Ms. Foster informed the board members that counties are currently working on their budgets and requests need to be made now in order to be considered.

Ms. Cobb moved and Ms. Torrence seconded that budget requests be sent to counties requesting level funding (\$750.00) for the PRDSB. It should be noted in the request that the board has the intent of continuing as an advocacy board for people with disabilities even if a State Mandate for DSB's no longer exist. Motion carried.

-Update on Spring Disability Event

Ms. Foster reviewed with the members the planned Spring Disability Event with Mr. Brett Leake, Standup-Sitdown Comedian/Motivational Speaker. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hull Education Center at Longwood University. The event will be co-sponsored by The Therapeutic Recreation Organization of Longwood University. Mr. Leake will be contacting local media to conduct interviews and provide promotional materials for the event.

Mr. Leake did request that the Board select the topic of discussion from the following: *Fun Gets Work Done: Celebrate the Problems in your Life*; or *At Least I've Got My Health*. It was the

consensus of the members to have Mr. Leake present *Fun Gets Work Done: Celebrate the Problems in your Life*. It was decided that this theme sounded more upbeat.

There was discussion on providing refreshments at the event. Dr. Lynch stated she would check with Longwood to see if they could sponsor the refreshments.

It was also suggested that the Public Schools be notified of the event.

-Update on PRDSB 2009 Needs Assessment

Ms. Foster reported that Commissioner Rothrock, Department of Rehabilitative Services, has indicated that DSB's will not be required to complete a Needs Assessment by February of 2009.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009.