

# Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

## Meeting Summary

December 4, 2020 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meeting held via Zoom

### Members Present:

Deb Gossrow, Sheri Cook, Karla Giese, Carrie Tucker, Charlene Hicks, Susan Dramin-Weiss, Glenn Eyer, Taylor Ozee, Julee Nist

### Members Absent:

**Others Present:** Todd Williams, Jill Bruington, Karen Garrett

### Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors:

- Deb opened the meeting at 9:11 a.m.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.
- Susan recommended switching Old Business and New Business on the agenda. The council agreed and the change was made to the agenda.

### Reading and Approval of December 6, 2019 and August 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- Sheri requested a word change to the December 6, 2019 meeting minutes and the council agreed. Sheri made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings with the correction to the December 6, 2019 minutes. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes from the December 6, 2019 and August 21, 2020 meetings were approved.

### Old Business:

#### *Membership Term Update*

- o Susan reported on the membership status of each council member. She also reported that there were two vacancies on the council for persons with a disability. There was a question about Glenn still being eligible to serve on the council as a parent since his student is attending classes at the local school district as well as ISD. After some discussion, it was determined that Glenn is still eligible to serve on the council as a parent of an ISD student because his student is still taking classes at ISD and ISD is responsible for the student's IEP.
- o Deb reported that she had five new applications that had been sent to Julee. Susan reported having two applications from previous applicants. There was some discussion as to how long to hold on to applications. It was determined that there is no expiration date on the applications, so they remain valid until the applicant is no longer interested in serving on the council.
- o There was a discussion about who should receive applications. Julee reported that the applications currently say to submit them to Sheri and herself and that they should be updated to say Deb rather than Sheri. Deb stated that all applications should be sent to Julee. Sheri suggested that at some point, all council members receive the applications so that everyone on the council has the same information.

- Deb asked about officer positions, wondering if things should stay as they are until the council can meet in person and things are less confusing. Sheri pointed out that this was Susan's last meeting so the vice-chair position would need to be filled now.

## New Business:

### *Membership Applications*

- Deb reported having 5 new applications and Susan reported having 2 older applications. Deb put the new applications on the shared screen so that the council members could all read them. Susan did not have the older applications with her but was able to report who those applicants were. It was determined that all seven applicants qualified for the two vacancies of persons with a disability.

### *Voting in New Members*

- After some discussion, Karla made a motion to proceed with voting to fill the two vacant positions of persons with a disability. Sheri seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.
- The council members voted, and Jamal Garner and Delores Summers were selected as new council members after receiving the most votes.
- Susan stated that while serving on the council she has enjoyed working with everyone and will miss them. Sheri thanked Susan for her service to the council and said she would be missed.
- Sheri made a motion to vote for a vice-chair at the next meeting when the new members would be present. Taylor seconded the motion. After some discussion, Sheri made a new motion to vote for an interim vice-chair to finish out this school year. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.
- Sheri nominated Karla as the interim vice-chair and Karla accepted the nomination. Susan nominated Charlene as the interim vice-chair and Charlene declined the nomination. There were no other nominations. After a vote by the council members, Karla was chosen as the interim vice-chair to finish out the current school year.

## Reports:

### *ISD Superintendent's Report (Julee Nist)*

- Julee's report had been previously emailed to all council members. Julee said that her report stated the current academic passing rate of ISD students was at 80% but the correct passing rate is 86%. Julee explained that this is partially due to some students having difficulty participating with the on-line learning. She reported that ISD personnel are in contact with those students and their home school districts.
- Julee explained ISD's COVID-19 protocols and stated that information on this can be found on ISD's website.
- Julee explained that the Title IX statute has become a law and applies to education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. She stated that the information on this statute can be found on ISD's website.
- Julee reported that Quinetta Grant has moved to a new position and will no longer be serving on the Advisory Council. She announced that Quinetta's replacement is Lou Hamer and she is unsure if he will be joining the Advisory Council meetings in the future.
- Julee reported that half of the council has completed their mandatory on-line trainings. She stated that Ed Hoyt should have sent them the link to the trainings and that if they have any problems with the on-line access to please email Ed and herself. She asked council members to

please send her their certification of completion once they have completed the 2020 trainings. She reported that the trainings will need to be completed again in 2021.

- Sheri asked Julee about discussions as to when the students will return to campus. Julee explained that there are constant discussions regarding resuming in person instruction. She reported that as of now, DHS has decided that ISD will continue remote learning until further notice.
- Carrrie asked if there has been any consideration to having the day students return and hold off on having the residential students return. Julee explained that ISD submitted three options to DHS on how to bring students back safely. She also reported that ISD sent surveys to all parents to gage their feeling on students returning to campus. Susan stated that she supported ISD's decisions and Sheri commended ISD on working with other departments to work through this safely.
- Susan asked about ISD dorm parents and Julee explained that they are still working with students during after school hours on life skills and they are also assisting with other duties at ISD.

#### *Other Department Reports*

- No reports

#### *Stakeholder's Reports:*

- No reports

#### *Discussion:*

- Deb thanked Susan for her service to the council and stressed how much the council will miss her. Deb stressed that Susan has been extremely helpful to her during her time on the council.
- Deb thanked Sheri for her help with running the meetings and she thanked everyone for attending the meetings and for their patience with her during this crazy time.
- Karla asked about the membership committee chair position since Susan was no longer serving on the council. Susan asked Carrie if she would be interested in taking over the position and Carrie accepted the chair position for the membership committee.
- Deb reported that she had asked council members if they would be in favor of sending a letter of appreciation to the ISD staff for their dedication and contributions to the students during this time of accommodations due the pandemic. Deb informed the council that all members responded with approval of the finalized staff letter which is now ready to be distributed by Julee.
- Deb announced that the next meeting would be on March 12, 2021.

#### *Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:*

- Reading and Approval of December 4, 2020 meeting minutes
- Discuss adding something to the by-laws regarding expiration dates for applications to serve as council members.

#### *Public Comment:*

- Todd Williams announced that he recently started working at ISD. He explained that he recently replaced Kathryn Surbeck as the Evaluation Center Director.

#### *Adjourn:*

- Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.