

Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

Meeting Summary

March 10, 2017 9 AM—Noon

ISD Main Building First Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Gwenn Eyer, Susan Dramin-Weiss, Julee Nist, Corey Axelrod, Paula Chance, Deb Gossrow, Quinetta Wade, Sheri Cook, Matt Fraas, Jerry Covell, Michelle Brown, John Miller

Members Absent:

Deborah Beranek

Others Present:

Kathryn Surbeck, Charlene Hicks, Kitty Aubry, Ed Hoyt, Elaine Cady, Carolyn Eilering, Glenn Eyer, Christine Good-Deal, Angela Leavell, Tom Chance, Jerry Glenn, Jonathan Bordean, Joe Vieira, Serena Preston, Jill Bruington, Angie Kuhn, Lori Niemann, Carrie Sluga, Eloise Brewer, Jonathan Miller

Students Present: Alex Z., Phyllis A., Daniel G., Kristian P., Estrella G.

Meeting Summary-

Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors - Gwenn called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members and ex-officio members were instructed to sit at the table and visitors and guests asked to sit around the perimeter of the room.

Roll call and an introduction of visitors were completed.

Julee invited those present to partake in snacks and beverages provided by the foods class.

Recognition of Serena Preston – Gwenn recognized Serena Preston for her work on behalf of the Advisory Council and for what she has done for the benefit of the school. Serena thanked those who have helped her. She stated she could not have done the work without the support of quality supervisors, staff and the individuals present.

Meet the New ISD Superintendent - Gwenn asked the new superintendent, Julee Nist, to introduce herself. Julee stated that many of those present already know who she is. Julee has been here 3 weeks as of yesterday. She thanked Serena Preston for her continuing support. Julee came to ISD from the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD), which is not a residential school, so it is a little different at ISD. Julee is excited to be here and have the opportunity to be involved in residential and vocational programming. Her background includes many years in interpreting and deaf education. She has several degrees, but did not want to review all those details at this time. Currently Julee is observing and taking in information. She has asked some people to gather data for her. She expects to eventually make changes, but not immediately. Last weekend she attended the ISD Alumni Association meeting. They gave the superintendent a tiger costume, which she gave to the athletic director. The plan is that the costume will be used for a little tiger mascot. When the big tiger comes out at homecoming or pep rallies, ISD will also have a little tiger now.

Meet the TA Director of DRS – Gwenn asked Quinetta Wade to provide some background about herself. Quinetta has been working with DHS since 1999, primarily for the Bureau of Disability Services. She has worked at Springfield Mental Health, and also worked in special education and in an internship working with pregnant women. Quinetta has a long history of public service. She is currently going around to different meetings to meet staff, customers, students and program participants. She does not currently have a new vision for DRS, but is taking this opportunity to learn where we are successful and what we can do to improve service delivery. Her goal is to get to know both staff and stakeholders.

Student Presentations - Gwenn requested that those responsible for student presentations come forward. CTE Principal Jill Bruington announced that CTE Month was celebrated during February and the nation-wide logo for the month was shown, which also decorated the t-shirts of the students that accompanied her. Jill explained that CTE has a variety of programs of study, and the four students present today had all been chosen Students of the Week for CTE during the month. Today the students are going to share something about their projects with the council.

Alex Z. was CTE Student of the Week in automotive. Mr. Martin nominated Alex because he has a wonderful work ethic and has developed a lot of skills related to auto body. Alex talked about one of his projects. Alex is in the TLP program. His last day at ISD will be March 24th, because he is going to be turning 22. In Mr. Martin's auto body class the students create designs

for car hoods. Alex explained that the students pick an image and lay it out on the computer and use that picture to help them design the hood of the car. They use masking tape to mask the design on the hood to prevent the colors from running. Alex used the colors of orange and black. He sanded the hood, used filler and prepared the surface for paint. Alex stated that he also does welding and some mechanic work. Alex's class took a field trip to and looked at cars that actually drove themselves and did not need a human to control the car. The cars are guided by lasers. When asked his plan for the future, Alex responded that he plans to work either at Wal-Mart or a hospital.

Kristian P. is a junior and this is his first year at ISD. He was chosen by Mr. Snyders as the drafting CTE student of the month. Mr. Snyder picked Kristian because Kristian has a positive attitude and is ready to work every day. Kristian stated that drafting class has helped him learn so much. He had to work with other people in his class. One project Kristian designed was a saw horse which was built in the woods class. In response to questions from the council, Kristian explained that CAD is computer assisted drafting. He stated that some of CAD is easy to learn and some of it is hard to learn. Kristian's future plans include taking more mechanics classes or IT classes, though he is not sure at this time what he will do when he finishes school.

Daniel G. represented the construction trades area. Mr. Hatfield chose Daniel as CTE Student of the Week because Daniel gets to class ready to work, is curious about using new tools and acquiring new techniques. Daniel's project was dealing with wood. Daniel and his classmates worked as a team to make a chair with a mirror on the back. They used poplar and hickory woods along with a variety of equipment to construct the chair. It took approximately 2 to 3 weeks to make it. Daniel is in the TLP program and is turning 19 years of age. In response to questions about his future, Daniel stated he may work at Wal-Mart stocking shelves overnight. There was interest from council members as to whether projects such as the chair were available for sale to the public. It was explained that this particular project had been paid for by a person in advance. Jill explained CTE does not hold a sale of student constructed items as was once done in years past.

Phyllis A. is a TLP student and was chosen as the CTE Student of the Week by Ms. Sagez for her work in foods class. Phyllis was chosen because she takes a lot of responsibility without complaint; she is willing to try new foods and does good work. Phyllis explained that in class she made vegetable beef soup, chili, lasagna, gumbo, loaded baked potatoes and chicken salad. Phyllis shared a "map" or outline of what you need to do to make these dishes. The map provides directions and the equipment needed. Phyllis stated that she had never eaten gumbo before, but she found it really delicious. Phyllis helped with making the Apple Roses that were served today. Phyllis also takes Early Childhood class. In response to questions from the council, Phyllis explained that in Early Childhood they learned about babies, how to feed them and how to bathe them. Phyllis would have preferred to practice with a real baby, but students

were given a doll first. When asked about her future, Phyllis stated that she keeps changing her mind about what she wants to do, noting that she likes a lot of things. She may want to work with sewing, as her mother is a good seamstress, or with make-up.

Jill said that the foods classes prepared the First Annual Soup and Stew Luncheon for staff and students in February. It was a big success. They had a contest to vote for the best cornbread. One cornbread was healthy and one was not, and of course, the favorite cornbread was the least healthy cornbread!

John Miller commented on how wonderful these programs are, as are the skills that students develop. He inquired if the students are taught the cost of the equipment they use? Jill responded that CTE has two grants, CTEI and Perkins, so the programs are blessed with those financial resources. In foods class, students make a shopping list and comparison shop. In woods, they measure and discuss how much of a product they will need. They do have some idea of the measurement and quantity, as guided by the teacher.

Sheri Cook asked what ISD does to follow-up and track how TLP students are doing when they leave the school. She asked if they have set-up support for them in their home areas. Jill said ISD is required to follow-up a year after graduation and show how students are doing. If they are not connected with their VR counselor, we try to facilitate that. She noted that ISD is not always successful in contacting students because students may change addresses and e-mails, but we try to contact them.

Approval of September 9, 2016, Meeting Minutes - After discussion, two corrections were made, one to change the term "search committee" to "steering committee" on page 2, fourth paragraph from the bottom, and the second to remove one of John Miller's names in the list of Members Present. (His name had been entered twice.) Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Jerry Covell. The motion passed without opposition.

Approval of December 9, 2016, Meeting Minutes – Paula Chance asked if it was correct that we could not identify students by their last names in the minutes, only with last name initials. This was acknowledged as correct.

Paula questioned the accuracy of the information on page 3 of the minutes related to the School Climate Committee. She disagreed with the statement that "staff members express concerns about outside forces making statements about ISD that they felt were untrue and were having a negative impact on the school." Paula stated that it was actually the ISD staff members who

were concerned with activities taking place at the school. There was an extended discussion on this topic. Gwenn explained that the minutes are a record of what was said or done during the meeting. We can't add to or take away from that information. Paula continued to express concern that it had been said at the previous meeting that there was discontent expressed about issues within the school by deaf staff. Paula was concerned that when these minutes are made public that people will be upset by the statement as it stands. Gwenn stated that the minutes recorded Serena's report, and that's how it was stated during the report. Jerry Covell expressed concern that it is necessary to address internal issues of the school before we can improve the outside perception of the school.

Paula expressed further concern that she had not been allowed to read Corey Axelrod's entire letter at the last meeting and that the letter had not been e-mailed to the council members. Corey stated that he had never been informed that he was to e-mail the letter to council members and that he wanted to know if this would be a violation of the Open Meetings Act if it were distributed to the council members but not made available to the public. Extensive discussion occurred about his e-mail and whether all or none of the letter should be included in the minutes or posted with the minutes. Gwenn noted that she was taken by surprise by the letter since Corey had sent it to Paula rather than to the council chairperson. She said that she would not handle it the same way again, but since Serena deferred to her to make the decision she allowed Paula, the Corresponding Secretary, to read it as a stakeholder report, with the regular 5-minute time limit. She noted that she will not do that again in future meetings.

John Miller stated that, with regard to Corey's e-mail, he agreed that it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act if we don't make it available to the public. John proposed that the Corey's e-mailed letter be copied and attached to the minutes when published.

John Miller moved that the minutes be approved with the addition that the entire letter, which was presented in part at the meeting, be attached to the minutes. Susan Dramin-Weiss seconded the motion. The motion passed. Gwenn Eyer asked Quinetta to follow up on the proper procedures regarding distributing the letter/ attaching the letter to the minutes.

Sheri Cook moved to add her name to the minutes as a member present and approve the minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Jerry Covell. The motion passed.

Gwenn stated that the order of presentations was being revised in order to accommodate the schedules of several people presenting. She further inventoried visitors to see if anyone planned to make public comments or what stakeholder reports were needed so that she could better gauge the time needed for the rest of the meeting, then proceeded to call upon various members to present.

Estrella G. reported as President of SBG – SBG has accomplished a variety of things this year. They established a theme for homecoming, held an election, had a Valentine-o-gram activity, and hosted a blood drive for the community. For homecoming SBG used the theme of the rainbow to celebrate diversity and encourage people to accept each other. Estrella noted that SBG wants all people to feel comfortable at ISD. They decorated the lobby and had a ballot for the king and queen. SBG collected \$275 and donated it to the local animal shelter, PAWS. For the Valentine-o-gram, SBG members took orders and then packed up gifts and made baskets and gave them out. Some valentines were anonymous and some were not. It was nice to help make people feel good and special with this activity. SBG wants to host a school-wide activity soon to encourage people to collaborate and have a more positive environment. This might include softball and kickball and board games, hopefully right after spring break.

Paula asked if SBG was working on student rights. Estrella responded that they do. She gave the example that they have a lot of complaints about the dress code or staff issues. She noted that SBG is always trying to support student rights.

Gwenn mentioned that she is president of the PTSO, and suggested to Estrella that SBG may want to think about approaching the PTSO for funds for a popcorn machine or other expenses that could help with the planned school-wide activity. Estrella asked what the PTSO was. Gwenn explained that PTSO stands for Parent – Teacher – Staff Organization, and that the organization was there to support the school.

Gwenn thanked Estrella for her presentation.

Joe Vieira presented regarding Outreach – Outreach Coordinator Joe Vieira recognized Carolyn Eilering for her work in taking care of Outreach prior to his hire. He stated that we are seeing a need for Outreach to grow. Joe supervises four staff. Currently their activities are impacted by the lack of a budget. He noted that even without a budget, Outreach has been serving people statewide. Outreach has recently participated in two conferences, South of 70 Conference and ITDHH. Joe stated he is ready to head to Wheeling for the next North of 80 Conference. There are 50 people signed up to attend the conference, including parents, administrators and educators. Joe is going to the conferences to meet people. He stated that the mission of Outreach is to provide resources to people throughout the state through training, technical assistance or whatever resources are needed. He has a brochure that is a summary of the program and mission. He noted that Outreach is its own department, but he is meeting with others to learn what Outreach can do to make improvements and where they are needed. Joe said he had a

variety of fliers that Outreach distributes, but the number one requested flier is the one about ISD summer camps. Joe passed fliers around to the council members.

John Miller said on the fliers it shows June 8th as a date for a camp with an arrow pointing to July 8th. What is the real date? Joe responded that John had caught an error, and the actual date is July 8th.

Paula said she saw Outreach had sponsored a Cued Speech workshop. Joe replied that he would be reviewing and approving all the trainings in the future. There was a question if Outreach sponsors activities or if they just send out information about them.

Joe further explained that currently Outreach does not have a budget. The Outreach budget comes from GRF. Without a state budget, they are using other funding sources. One example given was the use of donations through Locally Held Funds.

Corey Axelrod asked Joe how to donate money to Outreach. Joe said you would write a check to ISD and in the memo write Outreach Fund Donation. That money would go a LHF for use by Outreach.

Corey thanked Joe for his visibility. Corey went on to say that IAD would like to work more with Joe. He noted that collaboration is needed. Corey stated that IAD will have a booth for Joe at their conference and looked forward to seeing Joe there.

Deb Gossrow added that she works with Andrea Marwah with a program for parents. She stated that she will be in touch with Outreach more, too.

Carolyn Eilering added clarification that Outreach was formerly known as HEAR under Marcia Breeze, and as Hearing and Vision Connections, under Gail Olson. These two programs were combined to make the Outreach program. After Marcia Breese retired, Carolyn temporarily managed the program until a new coordinator could be hired. She agreed that the concept of Outreach as a sponsor of trainings can be confusing. She clarified that trainings are developed when a need is identified for a training. When someone in the community asks for training on Cued Speech, then a training is set up. Outreach has prepared trainings on some 25 different topics, all of which have been requested by someone. The Outreach program needs to be seen as the Outreach for the State of Illinois. We need to be seen as the best of the best!

Joe responded that this is a very exciting time to be in Outreach. He further explained that this is a new era and we are starting from scratch! He encouraged council members to check out the website. He stated that Outreach will be posting things from time to time. He further encouraged council members to go and listen and see what Outreach provides.

Gwenn asked that if council members have input on the agenda, to please make sure she is copied. The agenda is a work in progress until it is posted. She also reminded council members to work as a team to save questions until the end of presentations in the interest of time.

Membership Report was presented by Deb Gossrow – Gwenn noted that the council still needs members and any applications should be sent to Julee Nist. Deb Gossrow was called upon as membership chair. Deb read a letter of resignation from the Advisory Council from Ben Lachman which was sent on February 15, 2017. In the letter, Ben noted personal reasons for resigning, offered congratulations and good wishes to Superintendent Nist, offered good wishes to the ongoing work of the Advisory Council and noting that there room is at the table for everyone.

Corey asked if the resignation letter would be included in the minutes. Gwenn acknowledged that the Advisory Council should have a standard for whether letters are included and it was decided that a copy of the letter would be posted with the minutes, if appropriate as determined by DHS.

Gwenn asked Paula, as corresponding secretary, to write a thank you note to the students who provided food for today. Paula responded that she would.

Report from Superintendent Julee Nist – Julee stated that we still don't have a budget. She stated that ISD is getting by with grant money and limited funds for safety issues or educational needs. It is a difficult situation. She reviewed the personnel report. She noted the good news that the boys' basketball team was recognized for its good sportsmanship. She said that the students enjoyed and did a great job with Battle of the Books. The superintendent directed the council members to the school reports for more information about these things. She then asked Carolyn Eilering to talk about an IEP meeting that had recently taken place.

Carolyn shared that she and PK-8 principal and attended an IEP meeting for a 2nd grade girl about 30 miles from here. At the table were principal, special ed teacher, classroom teacher,

parents, SLP, hearing itinerant, supervisor of HI program, Angie and Carolyn. The little girl is bi-laterally implanted and reading at the end of kindergarten. Parents recognized something was wrong. The IEP team went through the child's IEP goals, progress, related services and asked the parents if they had any concerns. The way the school presented the information, the student was getting As and Bs. It came down to parents saying their daughter is making progress but she is reading at the end of kindergarten. The gap is only going to get greater. That is why they invited ISD to the meeting. One of the staff members said, "We don't think ISD is the appropriate placement and we are not failing her." Then Angie spoke with the group and stated that they had talked about reading fluency but nothing about reading comprehension. She noted that the teachers were also reading the test to the child, and she was not reading the test herself. Only one of the home staff members at the table could support an ISD placement. The direct referral law allowed the parents to make a direct referral to ISD themselves. Carolyn pointed out that with a direct referral, the school district does not have to pay to transport the student to ISD, but in this situation the district will support the parent and pay for transportation. Carolyn stated that we sit in a lot of IEP meetings, either in person or on the phone. It takes a lot of courage for a parent to tell schools, thank you for what you've done, but it is not enough.

Carolyn went on to discuss another student who had visited this week. She was 12 years old, adopted at 9 years of age. The young girl had come to sports camp. She wants to come to ISD but the mother is struggling with sending her daughter here. It is very hard to let go of your prized possession, even though the mother understands the benefits of the school.

Many of the specialized programs for deaf and hard of hearing students are shrinking. Hindsdale South now has 60 students and they've had 120. Hershey, Lamont, everyone is shrinking, because LEAs believe they can provide the most effective programs. For us, our enrollment being 209 is good. Carolyn stated that no one is more concerned than she is when the phone is not ringing, but it is "letting go" that is a struggle for most of the families. She added the most of the time if we can get them to the school for a visit, we can get them to come in as students.

Angie Kuhn added that at the first meeting they had a conversation about the least restrictive environment (LRE). The student had a 1:1 aide and was being pulled out for support services and this is not LRE. She noted that much of the research about LRE is on students with Intellectual Disabilities and not with hearing loss. ISD staff emphasized this point during the IEP meeting.

Corey Axlerod stated that he agreed with Angie Kuhn regarding LRE. The way the language is written, that is what people think. A battle needs to be fought. The Outreach program needs to be in contact with parents and reframe their thinking about what is LRE.

Paula Chance asked about students with cognitive disability. ISD has been called a “dumping ground” for years. We have a student here with a 45 IQ. What do you do with students with intellectual disabilities? I think it is harder for some parents to think about placing students here when then they see students with intellectual disabilities.

Carolyn Eilering stated that ISD’s policy is that students should have a primary disability of deafness or hearing impairment, but the law says that if you are a student with a hearing loss, you are eligible to attend. ISD was established for any child with a hearing loss to attend, regardless of IQ or any other disability. ISD’s policy cannot supersede the law.

Sheri Cook noted that this problem is not unique to ISD. She stated that 75% of deaf and hard of hearing students are educated in the mainstream. She asked if there was a way to help attract families with use of a video for parents. She suggested making a video of parents commenting about why ISD is so great. She stated that ISD used to have a video, and it was wonderful, but she wasn’t sure what happened to that. She suggested that ISD create videos about why students have come to ISD. Maybe some will be inspired to come to the school by these.

Corey Axelrod noted that he had recommended that 1-½ years ago when he joined the Advisory Council. He supported the idea of having more videos. Videos show the language of ASL and emphasize it.

Jerry Covell commented that he agrees about the problems with LEAs. One of the biggest problems he has noticed is that parents feel intimidated with all the experts around the table. He has been thinking about getting ISD to be pro-active and setting up an advocacy data base. He emphasized that he didn’t mean that just anyone can be an advocate, but it is important to empower parents. He noted that he advocates for parents by encouraging them and empowering them. He stated that we can’t expect parents to know everything about ISD, but if we had someone there helping the parents in general, that would be great.

Corey stated that IAD works with NAD and through that organization, they have deaf advocates.

Chairperson Gwenn Eyer called upon the next presenter.

Museum Report by Elaine Cady – When asked the hours of the museum, Elaine reported that it is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. On Mondays the museum staff works on the displays. The staff consists of Janet Peyers, Roslyn Jacobs, Maureen Mattern, Elaine Cady and Joe Deering. Joe assists with the heavy lifting and computer work. While not an ISD graduate, he was willing to volunteer. Elaine went on to state that this year we will have a 200 year celebration of Deaf Schools and ASL. She had a flier with her. April 13th there will be a scavenger hunt in the Museum. Sheila Stephens will do that. The students really liked it in the past. A program will take place in the school on the 14th and a banquet that night. Elaine also shared they have shirts you can order for the event.

Gwenn inquired about how often the information in the museum is updated? She asked, for example, if they have information on the Battle of the Books. Elaine responded that unfortunately they are not that good about updating. The museum staff is hoping with the new superintendent they can get a filing cabinet and new technology. Gwenn clarified her question and asked items added to the museum all the time? Elaine responded that the museum staff is adding new things all the time. She gave examples of the ABCs of ASL and new posters. Elaine went on to state the names of some of the ASL- Deaf Schools Committee members, including herself, Sheila Stephens, Deloris Summers, Craig Kuhn, Charles Hicks and Tom Chance.

Deb Gossrow reported on PTSO – The PTSO raises money to cover areas of need throughout the school. They earn money through Spirit Wear sales. Gwenn Eyer and some of the CTE teachers help with this. PTSO earns about \$100 every six months from box tops. PTSO uses these funds for PBS activities or field trips for students and have recently put money into the principals' accounts. PTSO sponsors Santa's Cottage every year in December for students to buy gifts for parents. Staff can also make formal requests for money for special projects. They have plans for enrolling the PTSO as a 5013C. Once that is done, it will open activities for Amazon Smile or other charitable endeavors. We've discussed changing the name from PTSO to Friends of ISD. We have a FB page, so please find it and join us. Anyone who is helping the school can join the group.

Reset May Meeting Date – Since there is no school on May 12th, it was decided that the Advisory Council will meet May 5th.

Corey Axelrod commented that he travels a long distanced to come to the meetings and if they only last 3 hours, it is not sufficient time to complete business. He commented that he wants the meetings extended.

Paula Chance moved that the May 5th meeting be held from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Jerry seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed.

DRS Report presented by Quinetta Wade – Quinetta announced that we still do not have a state budget. At this time DRS is focused on WIOA with the transitional age groups and updating MOUs to work with different partners. She stated that Home Services still has outstanding information regarding OT and noted that Home Services is a Medicaid waiver program. She further explained that at this time we don't know how the repeal of the ACA will impact Medicaid. DRS wants to improve efforts for visibility and communication. Director Wade reported that HB 2377 and SB 0698 are not yet passed but would amend personnel code so we could have direct hire.

Corey Axelrod thanked Quinetta for coming. He stated that we need improvement for social media exposure for the school. There have been some small improvements.

Paula Chance requested an update from John Miller on the Walking Tour and also from the Climate Committee.

Listening Tour Update was presented by John Miller - John stated that the steering committee completed assisting with the new superintendent search and that now we have a new superintendent. John turned to Superintendent Nist to welcome her. The steering committee discussed development of questions for interviews. John stated that with that done, Julee Nist and he had met at ISD and came up with A-Z topics. The Listening Tour is one of the things we talked about during our meeting. They discussed that he and Julee could go out together, so no dates set yet, but the two of them will work on setting up something soon to start the process. When the interviews are completed the steering committee will come back and review responses without names. We will draft a report and John will submit the report to Beth Purvis and Quinetta Wade, as well to the Advisory Council and Superintendent Nist. It will be open to discussion later. John stated that he hoped they can finish the project by the end of summer.

Paula thanked John for the report. She asked who they will be meeting with.

John reported that they will meet with the ISD Advisory Council members, administrators, parents and students who have parent permission.

Corey inquired if they would talk with the council meetings during the meeting on May 5th or if a special meeting will be held.

John stated that this will not occur during a meeting, but rather they will meet with people individually. They did not want people interviewed in front of others where they might feel pressure to respond in a specific way.

Corey stated that Beth Purvis went to the IDHCC meeting last August and asked that we have things ready for the new superintendent's arrival, but now Corey doesn't know why the time line has changed.

John stated that the timeline was changed because he had health issues. He spoke with Beth Purvis who said his health was more important and it was okay to postpone the timeline.

Corey stated that he did not understand because he thought the Dennis O'Brian had been appointed to take John's place during John's absence. Corey thought that O'Brian's name was on the steering committee.

John clarified that Dennis O'Brian was not on the Walking Tour committee.

Corey stated that he will have to review his notes, as that was not his understanding.

ISD Summer Camps were reviewed by Christine Good-Deal – Principal Christine Good-Deal stated that summer camps are a good way to get students on campus. She brought up the ISD website to show where information about the camps is listed under Outreach. All campus area listed and each camp has an individual flier. The camps cover ages 3rd grade through HS. The three camps are: Sports, Creative Arts, and STEAM camp. All happen the same week. The students eat in the cafeteria. ISD will provide transportation to camp, but parents have to come and pick children up, which means that parents have to come to campus. Camp ISD is for parents and occurs the same week as the other camps, but does not run quite as long. We send web-blasts out to parents and groups.

Sheri Cook inquired about the curriculum used at the camp. Christine replied that the camp directors and educators develop their own themes and develop the activities for the week from current information.

Susan Dramin-Weiss stated that she knew a family that wanted to send their son to Sports Camp, but didn't want to send him without his hearing sibling. They contacted ISD, but were told that the hearing sibling could not attend. For that reason, they decided to not send their deaf son. Susan really wanted this family to send their son here.

Christine responded that the state will only allow the school to feed deaf and hard of hearing students. Currently we don't have a way to feed or provide for the hearing siblings.

Gwenn asked if there might be scholarships from Gallaudet that could fund siblings coming to camp. Sheri Cook took note of that inquiry.

John Miller made a motion that the Advisory Council recommend that they would like ISD to explore the possibility of involving siblings in the ISD summer camps. The motion was seconded by Sheri Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the motion included a comment from Susan Dramin-Weiss who thought this was a good idea. Parents may not want to send students the first time, but if the hearing sibling came home from camp and said how great it was, maybe that would be enough for the parents to send the deaf child alone the next time.

Michele Brown added that it would be a good opportunity for siblings to be immersed in ASL. She thought this was a great idea!

Suggested Agenda Items for the Next Meeting - Gwenn Eyer called for agenda items for next meeting. Items suggested included: listening tour update, video promotions, update on student recruitment, recruitment of Advisory Council members, additional ideas about summer camps, educational advocates from ISD, recruitment of deaf and hard of hearing teachers, and election of officers.

Gwenn needed a committee to select a slate of officers. Susan Dramin-Weiss (deaf community member) volunteered to be the nomination chair. Others willing to serve on the committee are Michelle Brown (parent) and Sheri Cook (educator).

Adjournment - Gwenn Eyer adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.