

# Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

## Meeting Summary

May 3, 2019 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

ISD Main Building First Floor Conference Room

### Members Present:

Sheri Cook, Gwenn Eyer, Charlene Hicks, Susan Dramin-Weiss, Paula Chance, Karla Giese, Julee Nist, and Quinetta Wade

### Members Absent:

Deb Gossrow, John Miller

### Others Present:

Kathryn Surbeck, Angela Leavell, Karen Garrett, Jesse Hayes, Angie Kuhn, Jill Bruington, Jonathan Bordean, Kitty Aubry, Delores Summers, Ed Hoyt, Melvin Long, Eloise Brewer, Andy Feller, Rebecca Richard, Elaine Cady, Jeannie Jones, and Ted Huber.

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

- Sheri opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m. and announced that the council did have a quorum as six of the nine members were in attendance. She mentioned that Michelle Brown was recently hired as a full-time ISD employee and could no longer serve as a council member.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.

### Review and Approval of the December 7, 2018 and the March 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

- Paula moved to approve the meeting minutes from both meetings and Susan seconded the motion. The December 7, 2018 and the March 15, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

### New Business:

#### *Election of new Council members to replace Michelle Brown, Paula Chance and Gwenn Eyer*

- o Susan reported that there were two applicants for the position of a parent, Carrie Tucker and Glenn Eyer. Gwenn made a motion to accept both applicants with individual votes. Charlene seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Carrie was accepted to the council by majority vote. Charlene made a motion to vote on Glenn's acceptance to the council and Susan seconded the motion. After a brief discussion Glenn was accepted to the council by majority vote.
- o Susan reported that there was one applicant for the position of a deaf education expert, Taylor Ozee. Susan read Taylor's application and after a brief discussion, Gwenn moved to vote on Taylor's acceptance to the council. Karla seconded the motion. Taylor was accepted to the council by majority vote.

#### *Nomination of officers for the 2019-2020 school year (more nominations will be accepted at the first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year and the council members will vote on the new officers)*

- o Nominations were accepted for the offices of chair, vice-chair and secretary. The following nominations were made:
  - Sheri declined Susan's nomination for chairperson.

- Gwenn nominated Karla for chairperson and Karla replied that she would consider the nomination.
- Paula nominated Susan for vice-chairperson.
- Sheri nominated John for chairperson.
- Susan nominated Deb as secretary.
- Gwenn suggested nominating all the chair and vice-chair nominees for either office.
- Sheri will send the nominations to council members to review prior to the August vote.

## Reports:

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

- Julee recently attended the CEASD conference and explained her experience there. She stated that six schools were represented at the conference and that it was a positive meeting.
- Julee shared events happening at ISD and asked Jill to explain the SWE Business Appreciation Reception. Jill explained that an appreciation reception was held for the businesses in the area that support ISD students through work experiences and job shadowing. She explained some of the awards that were given to the students during the reception.
- Julee announced the date and time of graduation and invited the council members to attend.
- Julee reported that ISD currently has 241 students and 14 prospective students for next school year.
- Julee explained that CEASD is supportive of ISD regarding the recent situation that was reported in the local news and reported that CEASD recently wrote a letter of support to the reporter. Julee expressed her frustration that the report tried to focus on anything that was negative and brought up many things that were unrelated to the situation being reported.
- Julee read CEASD's new mission statement.
- Paula asked about how to answer people who asked her questions regarding the current investigation. Julee explained that the situation was being handled by the state police and that there should be no discussions being held about the situation. Quinetta explained that it is a personnel issue and that no one should be talking about it. Gwenn expressed frustration with the situation and agreed that it should not be discussed. She also expressed frustration that the reporter included several unrelated issues in the article.

### *DHS/DRS Director (Quinetta Wade)*

- Quinetta announced that Grace Hou was named the new DHS Secretary and that her position would be confirmed on April 12, 2019. She explained that Secretary Hou is still putting together her executive staff.
- Quinetta announced that Rahnee Patrick will become the new DRS Director on May 20, 2019 and that she would be transitioning into the DRS Chief of Staff position.
- Quinetta reported that the outcome numbers for vocational services in Illinois have been lagging. She asked council members to help spread the word about Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services.
- Quinetta announced that DRS has been working with the University of Illinois on conducting a leadership training for supervisors.
- Quinetta announced that DRS has been planning a Business Development Unit. She reported that they have hired some staff in the Springfield and Chicago areas and that they are working with businesses to provide training on hiring clients.

### *Student Body Government (SGB) Representative*

- No Report

### *Other Department Reports*

- No Reports

### **Presentations:**

#### *Student Presentation(s)*

- No student presentations

#### *The Open Communication Movement (Paula Chance)*

- JCCD gave a presentation on the Importance of the ISD-Deaf Community Relationship. The committee was formed to help improve open communication with the Jacksonville community.

#### *Vocational Rehabilitation (Andy Feller & Rebecca Richard)*

- Andy and Rebecca reported on Vocational Rehabilitation Services throughout the state. They reported that there are currently 24 Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf (RCD) positions throughout the state, and 51 Vocational Rehabilitation offices. They explained that VR services help people find positions in the work force and then provide them with assistance as needed beyond that. They also assist people with the CMS application process.

### **Stakeholder's Reports:**

- Susan presented Julee with a painting by artist Nancy Roarke to use as part of the deaf artist display. Susan explained that the painting is of ISD alum, James Gallahger and is on loan from the ISDAA.
- Paula asked if any ISD teachers were retiring at the end of this school year. Angie reported that she only knew of one PK-8 teacher who was retiring.
- Sheri announced that Gallaudet would have four summer camps. She also announced that ISD student, Valerie Eyer applied for the Bison Brainiacs camp and was accepted. Sheri stated that she would like to have a report of ISD students who attend summer camps.
- It was announced that the alumni will host the ISD 180<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration July 5-7, 2019 and that there will be presentations and performances.
- Sheri announced that an Awards Banquet would be held at ISD on May 20, 2019 at 6 p.m. and that she is hoping to present awards for Gallaudet scholarships.

### **Discussion:**

#### *Vote to change title of the "Language Planning Committee" to the "Communication Planning Committee"*

- Karla made a motion to accept the recommendation that ISD change the name of the Language Planning Committee to the Communication Planning Committee. Gwenn seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

#### *Vote on the Communication Policy recommendations*

- Paula made a motion to accept the communication policy recommendations. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote. Julee asked that the recommendations be emailed to her.

#### *Decide on four Advisory Council meetings for the 2019-2020 school year*

- August 23, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- December 6, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- March 13, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- May 1, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

If a Board member cannot physically drive to the meeting they can call in.

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

- Nominations and vote for the officer positions on council.
- Students and what they did during the summer, such as attending programs and camps.
- Orientation for the new Advisory Council members, perhaps a development of a packet.
- After introductions of the new members, give instructions regarding the responsibilities as Board members.
- Karla would like to have a list of members and their expiration dates. It was suggested that board members' terms (start and end dates) and roles (e.g., parent, deaf expert, etc.) be listed on the meeting minutes.
- DHS legal does not provide anyone to come to meetings to advise on OMA. DHS encouraged that the Board members do a refresher of OMA and if there are specific questions, then those can be sent to DHS legal.

#### *Member Comments:*

- Sheri thanked Gwen and Paula for their service on the council.
- Charlene noted that Curt Kuhn had a wonderful picture of his children on Facebook and comments about the great improvements they are making.
- Paula suggested the following: website pictures need to be updated; departmental reports are missing and need to be sent in advance rather than at the last minute.
- Julee thanked all the Advisory Council Members for their service.

#### *Public Comment:*

- Dede stated that she appreciated the recent open and positive communication and healing that was happening.
- Paula stated that the ISDAA members are still actively supporting the Museum, which is doing well and all managed by volunteers.

#### *Adjourn:*

- Susan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Charlene seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.