

Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

Meeting Summary

August 24, 2018 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
ISD Main Building First Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Sheri Cook, Gwenn Eyer, Michelle Brown, Charlene Hicks, Paula Chance, Deb Gossrow, John Miller, Karla Giese (via phone), Julee Nist, and Quinetta Wade.

Members Absent: Susan Dramin Weiss

Others Present:

Kathryn Surbeck, Angela Leavell, Karen Garrett, Jesse Hayes, Ed Hoyt, Angie Kuhn, Jill Bruington, Carrie Sluga, Eloise Brewer, Elaine Cady, Joe Vieira.

Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors:

- Gwenn called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Deb announced that there was cake for everyone to enjoy. The cake was a thank you to John and Gwenn for their service to the council, especially after they both suffered significant health issues. The meeting was adjourned briefly for photos with the cake. The cake was made by Michelle Brown and was decorated like the ASL Flag.
- Sheri welcomed everyone to the meeting and the meeting resumed.
- A discussion regarding OMA concluded that three members cannot conduct a conversation via phone, email or in person. Gwenn suggested that council members repeat the on-line OMA training and then have a presentation during a council meeting. Deb suggested that council members send their questions to Sheri following the on-line training so that she can get the questions to the presenter prior to the presentation.
- Karla requested that if there were still concerns regarding the communication policy, it be put on the agenda.
- Gwenn asked that the date of the next meeting be added to the bottom of the agenda. She stated that the next meeting would be held on December 7, 2018.
- Paula questioned rather or not to proceed with the nomination of officers. Gwenn made a motion to delay the vote until the December meeting. Paula seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.

Review and Approval of May 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

- Gwenn made a motion to approve the May 4, 2018 meeting minutes. Paula seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the May 4, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

Reports:

ISD Advisory Council Chair

- Sheri reminded the council members that the annual Ethics Training needed to be completed and they should print and sign the signature page of that training and turn it into Ed.

ISD Superintendent's Report

- Julee shared the ISD Opening Day power point with the council. She reported that ISD has hired 4 new teachers, 1 new nurse and 10 new RCW Trainees. She also reported that there were 27 new students on campus this year.
- The power point recognized the milestone years of service for several staff members, including 30 years for Kathryn Surbeck and 40 years for Bruce Bacus.
- Julee explained the new visitor's policy and informed the council members that the written policy was included in the folders she handed out to them.
- Julee shared the emergency safety contact cheat sheet and explained that it shows staff members what to do in various emergency situations. She explained that these cheat sheets would be made available to all staff members.
- Deb pointed out that Julee's opening day orientation was made public via social media. Julee stated that someone took a picture of the agenda and then sent it out. She informed the council that she was aware of the situation and that the incident had been reported to the Jacksonville Police Department.
- Julee explained that the CEASD accreditation process would be taking place this fall. She handed out surveys for Standard 2 explaining that this survey needs to be completed by ISD Administration and Advisory Council members. Angie explained the accreditation process and asked that the members fill out the surveys as soon as possible and return them to her.
- There were some questions regarding curriculum in the school and Angie explained how it works at ISD. Julee explained a little about the Bedrock Literacy Curriculum and asked members to send her any specific questions and she would try to answer them.
- Sheri called a short break at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:45 a.m.
- Julee announced that she was starting a Deaf Art Wall and that she is still looking for more artwork to display. She asked the council members to send her any artwork they would like to see included in the display.

- Julee also announced that she was still working with the ISD Alumni Association on ISD's 180 birthday celebration.

The Institute for Parents of Preschool Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Angie reported that this was the 75th year for the Parent Infant Institute and that 23 families attended this year. She explained that the families attending stayed on campus during the week. She reported that she recently received a call from a family who attended the Institute last year and was interested in sending their child to ISD.

August Conference at ISD

- Joe reported that the August Conference was hosted by ISD and was attended by over 100 people. He explained that the conference was for Educational Interpreters or anyone who works with deaf students and that CPUs could be earned during the conference. He said they were still in the process of collecting surveys, but he felt it was a successful conference.
- Carrie Sluga announced that free on-line courses were offered through IDHHC and that credits can be earned from these courses.
- Joe explained that the Outreach Department offers three conferences throughout the year and are considering adding a fourth conference.

DHS/DRS Director

- Quinetta reported an increase in employment for the individuals served by DHS/DRS. She explained that they have been targeting transition aged students this year and working to expand their outreach throughout the state. They have been trying to target students whose schools do not offer transition programs so that those students will have a vocational rehabilitation connection. She explained that many people are not aware that VR services are available. She stated that they will have a presence at the transition conference to help make people aware of VR services and to recruit RCDs.

ISD Teaching Positions

- Deb reported that DHS made the proposed change to the sub-teacher requirements and that ISD has 4 new contractual sub-teachers and 4 new educators. Paula asked about current vacancies and Angela explained that there were still 4 vacancies and that one of those vacancies is on hold while the union decides where that position will fall. Paula asked about out of state applicants and Angela reported that there have been a few out of state applicants.

Other Department Reports

- There were no other department reports.

Parent Presentation:

- Deb shared a power point presentation entitled “Experiencing School as a “Whole” Student, A Parent’s Perspective”. This presentation was prepared for the August Conference that was hosted by the ISD Outreach Department and detailed her son’s experience going from a mainstream classroom to ISD.

Stakeholder’s Reports:

- John commended the Illinois Legislature for passing House Bill 4516 which requires Illinois insurers to cover replacement costs of hearing aids every 3 years for children who are 18 years of age or younger.

Discussion:

Communications Policy Subcommittee

- Sheri asked Karla to guide this discussion. The subcommittee decided to meet on November 2, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. to prepare a presentation for the December meeting. Sheri reminded Karla that she would need to have an agenda ready and posted more than 48 hours before the meeting. She also reminded her to schedule a meeting room and interpreters for the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Adm. Code from DHS/DRS

- Paula reminded everyone that Julee passed out copies of the Adm. Code and it was discussed at the last meeting. Everyone agreed that this issue had been addressed.

New Business:

Election of Officers

- Postponed until the December meeting.

Membership Appointments

- It was determined that the council meets the criteria for membership. Gwenn stated that she would like to see an ISBE representative as an ex-officio member. This was the case in the past, but that position has not been replaced. Sheri explained that there is not currently a deaf education representative at ISBE.

Complete CEASD Survey/Review CEASD Standard #2

- The CEASD survey was discussed earlier in the meeting. Angie asked the council members to read the standards and complete the survey. Angie asked to have the surveys returned to her by September 7th. Julee reminded the council that anything highlighted in yellow was old data and could be ignored.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- OMA training
- Election of Officers
- Communication Policy Committee
- Educational Advocate – Better training for families
- Student Presentations
- Bi-lingual pay for ISD staff

- Recruitment for ISD
- Sheri reminded everyone to send suggested agenda items directly to her or Ed.

Public Comment:

- Deb reported that PTSO spirit wear sales were going well and was still available for purchase. Sheri suggested the spirit wear items be brought to the next meeting so council members could make purchases.
- Paula announced that the Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on September 21st beginning at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. She said that 5 people would be honored that night and that tickets for the event were still available.
- Michelle reminded everyone that the ISD Tiger Glow & Go 5K would be held on September 21st.

Adjourn:

- Gwenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.