

ISD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
September 9, 2016

Members Present:

Gwenn Eyer
Sheri Cook
Paula Chance
Susan Dramin-Weiss
Matt Fraas
Deb Gossrow
John Miller
Jerry Covell
Serena Preston
Corey Axelrod
Kris Smith

Members Absent:

Ben Lachman
Deborah Beranek

Others Present:

Charlene Hicks
Deloris Summers
Jonathan Bordean
Kitty Aubry
JC Hatfield
Ed Hoyt
Angie Kuhn
Kathryn Surbeck
Karen Garrett
Jill Bruington
Chase Odell
Lori Niemann
Tom Chance
Glenn Eyer

Gwenn thanked everyone for coming and announced that Sheri Cook would be running the meeting due to Gwenn not feeling well. Sheri called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

Chase Odell, a TLP student, gave a presentation on combining language/reading class with CTE woods class.

Approval of May 8, 2015 Meeting Summary – after discussion to make a few corrections, Susan Dramin-Weiss made a motion to approve the summary. Corey Axelrod seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of December 11, 2015 Meeting Summary – after discussion to make a few corrections, Susan Dramin-Weiss made a motion to approve the summary. Corey Axelrod seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of May 13, 2016 Meeting Summary – after discussion to make a few corrections, Paula Chance made a motion to approve the summary. Corey Axelrod seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ISD Advisory Council Chair Report – Gwenn address the council regarding the goals and expectations she has for the council. She expressed the importance of honoring our past and respecting our future. She named several goals and expectations she has for the council:

- She expects the meetings to start and end on time and to stick to the agenda throughout each meeting.
- She encouraged council members to present themselves as professionals, treating other members with dignity and respect.
- She would like to get the agenda and meeting summaries completed and posted in a more timely fashion.
- She reminded members that they are not to speak on behalf of the council unless asked to do so.

- She reminded council members that as stated in the by-laws, they are required to attend a certain number of meetings throughout the year.
- She reported that the ethic packets have been sent out and encouraged members to complete the training and submit the signature forms.

DHS/DRS Director Report – Kris Smith complimented ISD on completing FY16 without a budget. She reported that the stopgap budget has been implemented, but that the school still needs to stretch their budget as much as possible. She stated that they are working on grants for the schools through ISBE. They are trying to make sure that funding is available for necessary programs.

Kris stated that she plans to retire effective December 31, 2016. She said she will miss working with Rehabilitation Services and the schools. She reported that she has been working with Secretary Dimas to find a temporary or permanent replacement for her position. Kris also reported that she is working to get Marjorie Olson's position filled and she is hoping to get this posted within a couple of weeks.

Kris reported that she has been working with John Miller and Serena Preston on filling the Superintendent position at ISD. They have talked with several applicants. These have not been formal interviews, but rather discussions to ensure they are viable candidates. Kris stated that John, Serena and herself would conduct the interviews. She reported that there are currently four candidates and that the plan is to have two of them visit ISD. Kris stated that they are following the directions provided by Beth Purvis on how she wants the process to be implemented.

When asked by Paula about ISD staff members having input, Kris stated that they will have an opportunity to meet the candidates when they visit the school.

John Miller explained that the two goals of the steering committee were to focus on recruitment for the Superintendent position and to interview ISD staff, parents, students, advisory council members and then take those concerns to the Governor. He explained that a steering committee was formed to help with this process. The purpose of the steering committee is to use their knowledge to help select viable candidates. The steering committee will help to develop interview questions.

John also thanked Serena for the opportunity to have a table set up during student registration so that he could obtain parental consent for the students to be interviewed regarding the Superintendent search.

Gwenn questioned why no parents of ISD students were on the steering committee. Kris responded that they do feel there is a balance of representation of the steering committee. She also explained that this is a different administration and the process will not be the same as the previous process.

Council Membership Report – Gwenn reported that there is currently one vacancy for a parent position on the council and there was one applicant. Juan Bernal resigned from the council, as he no longer has children attending ISD. Gwenn recommended the council accept the applicant for the parent position. After reading the application, the council unanimously voted to accept Michelle Brown as a council member, and she will serve a two year term.

Student Body Government (SBG) Representative – There was no one at the meeting to represent SBG.

Discussion returned to the superintendent search. John Miller stated that there are currently four applicants, but that the position was still posted. If a superintendent cannot be found among the four applicants, they will continue to seek applications. The plan is to bring the top to applicants to ISD for a tour and a meet and greet. Kris said that she would take into consideration the council's desire to add a parent to the steering committee.

Matt Fraas pointed out that the superintendent search is being conducted very similar to how any other school district would conduct the search.

Kris said that she would try to get a timeline regarding the search to the council as soon as possible.

John pointed out that the listening tour was a directive from the Governor and that the tour will gather concerns from staff, parents, students, council members, etc. regarding ISD.

Jerry made a motion to table the remaining items on the agenda until the next meeting so that the discussion regarding the superintendent search process could continue. Corey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The council decided to make a list of their concerns:

1. Will there be a parent of an ISD student on the steering committee?
2. They would like to know ahead of time about any information pertaining to the steering committee.
3. They requested an official statement for parents and the community regarding the purpose of the steering committee and the hiring process. Information from one source on the entire process of the superintendent search, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the steering committee and what actions this committee can make.
4. Can Beth Purvis come to the next council meeting, scheduled for December 9, 2016?
5. They expressed concern regarding the drop in enrollment at ISD and what can be done to put more effort and resources into student recruitment.
6. May the Advisory Council members reach out to the organizations they are involved with to help with recruitment at ISD?
7. They suggested hiring an outside consultant to be involved in the superintendent interview process. Corey recommended Dr. Henry "Hank" Klopping, former superintendent at Fremont, California, as a possible candidate for consultation.
8. Will the listening tour affect ISD's budget? If so, is this fiscally responsible?
9. Does ISD have a good plan in place for budgeting our money to show fiscal responsibility, given our extensive budget and concern by legislators regarding a 20 million dollar budget and serving 200 students.
10. Can a videotape forum be set up for the candidates so they can talk about their background and goals for ISD? We would like to have this available live-streamed so people can watch. This particular forum was done during last's years search for Gallaudet's new president. Gallaudet had a series of on-campus listening forums and an online survey. Three finalist candidates were announced on August 11, 2015, each candidate visited campus, met with constituent groups and presented at a campus-wide open forum.
11. May we involve local school district's superintendents and gather their input on how to go about searching for a new superintendent?
12. They suggested hosting an "ISD 101" for home school districts, to better inform them about services at ISD and what we can do to work with the home schools to serve deaf students.
13. The IL Association of the Deaf President, Corey Axelrod, suggests collaborating with the Governor's Office and IDHHC to create vlogs with ASL translations of all statements from the Governor's Office/IDHHC

relating to the superintendent search and the steering committee. ISD will also add closed captions and post the vlogs on social media at no cost. Can this be done?

Sheri called for comments from the visitors attending the meeting. Deloris Summers requested that the deaf community would like to be included and have more involvement in the superintendent search process. They would like to be informed and have more open communication.

Corey made a motion that the December 9th meeting of the Advisory Council be an all-day meeting, 9:00-3:00. The motion passed. It was suggested that the council members bring their own lunches which could be eaten in the dining hall with students. The afternoon could be used as a time to tour the campus, see special projects or continue with the meeting agenda, as needed.

Kris Smith is planning on attending the meeting on December 9th, but will only be present for the morning session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.