

ISD ADVISORY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY
August 20, 2015

Present: Paula Chance; Serena Preston; Juan Bernal; Susan Dramin-Weiss; Angela Botz; John Miller; Sherri Cook; Jerry Covell; Angela Kuhn; Sheila Stephens; Janet Hamm, CART reporter; Kitty Aubry, Interpreter; Jonathan Bordean, Interpreter; Ed Hoyt; Charlene Hicks. Absent: Matt Fraas; Gwenn Eyer; Ben Lachman.

Paula Chance opened the meeting by stating that the council is happy about the two bills having become laws. She then asked the principals if all of the teaching positions had been filled yet. Sheila stated that there were still two vacancies at the high school, but that the paperwork was in progress and she hoped to have them filled soon. Paula asked the principals if they like the new process for hiring teachers and they responded that they did like it. Paula pointed out that they are now waiting on the other law to go into effect on September 1st. This law will allow us to look at out of state applicants.

Serena explained that the new hiring process still has some waiting time. She explained that when an applicant applies, the school sends the information in for a grade and the grades are coming in much quicker this way. Then the school conducts the interviews and makes a selection. This selection is then sent to CMS for approval. The approval process has been taking about 2-3 weeks.

Jerry then began discussions regarding the governance of ISD. Jerry started by stating that the WIOA (workforce innovation and opportunity act) was added to the board of trustees, section 3 (a), per a suggestion by Kris Smith.

Jerry explained that there would be one more town hall meeting in the south, close to the St. Louis area. He said that there have been many suggested changes, and they have found that it will be hard to please everyone.

He continued by discussing the need for the board to represent everyone, but there has been many different opinions on who should be represented and how many.

Jerry stated that he would like to submit the proposal to legislators around November. Sheri stated that she would like to have some input from ISD staff regarding the proposal and rather or not they favor staying under DHS. Jerry said that he plans to gather input from ISD staff. The council then discussed the possibility of having a special meeting to present the proposal to ISD administrators and gather their input at that time. Paula also suggested including ISVI in the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding possible dates for the Advisory Council and Administrative Council to meet. It was decided that Paula would send possible dates to Serena she would make a decision. Susan made a motion to have the two councils meet at a future date. Jerry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Paula then turned the discussion to council member categories. Paula pointed out that they currently had three categories with 9-16 members possible. The three categories include: a parent category; a person with a disability; and individuals with recognized skills, knowledge and expertise in the field of deaf education. Paula

reminded that council that Gwenn had suggested three categories with 5 members in each category. Paula also stated that they currently had three ex officio members listed: Serena, Student Body Government representative, and a DHS representative. Paula questioned if maybe ISBE should be added to the ex officio list. Jerry suggested changing the bylaws to state at least two in each category rather than one-third. Sheri said she agreed with that idea. Sheri suggested that just saying someone had to be deaf was too general and that there should be two separate categories: one category for a deaf person working in the field of deaf services and another category for deaf education.

After much discussion of categories and the number of board members they should allow, Sheri suggested they go with three parents, two minimum in deaf education, two minimum from the deaf community, two minimum from deaf organizations and two minimum in the field of deaf services. Susan suggested they expand on the meaning of deaf services. She stated that organizations could mean work or volunteer.

Serena suggested the council look at what the ISVI Advisory Council has come up with to maybe get some ideas. She said they made their categories and then listed examples of who might fall into each category.

The council decided to wait until the September 11th meeting to continue this discussion. In the meantime, they would look over the examples from ISVI.

The council then decided to meet again on September 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They also decided to eat lunch in the ISD dining room. The council also discussed visiting various classrooms on campus. It was suggested to submit the remaining council meeting dates to Serena and the principals, and they can schedule tours for those dates.

Juan asked about the rally that was held during ISD's registration day. Paula informed him that it was a peaceful rally and that they handed out flyers with information regarding the parents and students communication rights. Paula mentioned that the police were called several times, but that she didn't hear about anyone becoming angry and overall it seemed to be a peaceful rally. Angie agreed that the flyers being handed out were informational and they did not target anything.

Paula then discussed her visit to Cue Camp. Paula stated that she thought the camp was good and that she can see the usefulness of cueing for certain people in certain situations. She expects Gallaudet to eventually start offering cueing classes. Juan pointed out that there is a lot of negativity on social media regarding cueing. He said that statements are being made that students are being forced to learn cued speech, and he knows that that is not a true statement.

Angie explained that during an IEP meeting, the team will look at a student's scores and academic progress. If a student has been exposed to ASL and they still aren't improving in the areas of reading and language, the team may recommend giving cued speech a try. She pointed out that the parents can say no and that is okay. She pointed out that the responsibility as educators is to recommend other options for the student.

Sheila thanked Serena for her theme of "focus" for this school year. She pointed out the emphasis to focus on the positive and block out the negative. She also thanked Angie, Kathryn Surbeck, Craig Kuhn, and Fara Harper on their creation of posters providing information on ASL and cued speech. The posters show how to use each language, what each one is for, and what the data shows.

Further discussion followed regarding ASL and cued speech and the comments being made on social media. The council agreed that they need to continue educating people and try to block out the negative comments.

Paula then thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned.