

Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

Meeting Summary

May 7, 2021 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Meeting held via Zoom

Members Present:

Deb Gossrow, Jamal Garner, Sheri Cook, Delores Summers, Karla Giese, Taylor Ozee, Glenn Eyer, Carrie Tucker, Julee Nist, Kerrie Rawlings.

Members Absent: Louis Hamer

Others Present: Jill Bruington, Christine Good-Deal, Michelle Brown, Karen Garrett, Laci Kennedy.

Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors:

- Deb opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.

Reading and Approval of March 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

- Sheri made a motion to approve the March 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Karla seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes from the March 12, 2021 meeting were approved.

New Business:

- **New Member Applications (timelines, etc.)**
 - o Deb explained that there were three open positions on the council, a deaf expert, a parent and a person with a disability. Deb asked if everyone had received the applications previously emailed to them. Deb re-sent the applications to anyone who was missing them.
- **New Member Nominations and Voting**
 - o Deaf Ed Position
 - The council reviewed and discussed the application for the Deaf Ed position. Sheri made a motion to vote on the acceptance of the applicant for the Deaf Ed position. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote and Pam Walker was accepted as a new member of the council as a representative of someone with Deaf expertise in the field of Deaf Education.
 - o Parent Position
 - The council reviewed and discussed the application for the parent position. Sheri made a motion to accept the applicant for the parent position. Jamal seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote and Jamie Butler was accepted as a new member of the council as a representative of a parent.
 - o Person with a Disability Position
 - The council reviewed and discussed the application for the person with a disability position. Some concerns were noted about the applicant's prior public comments made about ISD and one of the principals at the school. Delores made a motion to table voting for this position until more applications were received. Jamal seconded the motion. The

motion to table voting on the open position of a person with a disability carried by a majority vote.

- Sheri asked council members to talk to people and encourage them to apply for a position on the council.
- 3 Officer Positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)
 - Sheri nominated Karla for the office of Chairperson. Karla accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Delores made a motion to accept Karla as Chairperson. Jamal seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.
 - Sheri nominated Jamal for the office of Vice-Chairperson. Jamal accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Sheri made a motion to accept Jamal as Vice-Chairperson. Delores seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.
 - Glenn nominated Taylor for the office of Secretary. Taylor accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Glenn made a motion to accept Taylor as Secretary. Jamal seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.
- Deaf Ed Position (One Term Position)
 - Sheri made a motion to accept Karla for a second term on the council as a representative of an expert in the field of Deaf Education. Jamal seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority vote.

- **ISD Student Education Experience Videos**

- Deb reported that she had sent the videos, shared by Julee, to the council members. Sheri thanked Julee and the principals for creating and submitting the videos. Julee thanks Christine and Jill for putting the videos together.

- **ISD Education Communication Statistics (ASL...English)**

- Julee reported that the communication statistics were included in the report that she emailed to council members prior to the meeting. Julee explained that the information in the report was based on the new student population and was collected from the parents' applications. She explained that the report for the current students was completed last year.

Old Business:

- No Discussion

Reports:

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

- Julee reminded council members that she had sent her report to them prior to the meeting.
- Julee announced that ISD's Robotics Girls team finished in the top 5 out of 1200 teams in 61 countries.
- Julee reported that the ISD students returned to campus on April 5th with in-person classes beginning on April 6th.
- Julee announced that the Nurse School, which had been located in Main Building on the north wing of the first floor, has closed. She reported that ISD is in the process of renovating that

space for future use by ISD. She explained that the space would house offices and a multi-purpose room and that they hope to have the renovations completed by this summer.

- Julee explained that her report also included a COVID-19 update from Nurse Kari. Julee explained that vaccinations are optional and that 46% of the students who are 16 years old or older have been fully vaccinated. Julee reported that the dorms are following the same rules as the schools. She explained that masks are still being used and they are social distancing as much as possible. Julee reported that at this time, ISD is planning for in-person school this fall but are prepared if they need to go back to remote learning.
- Karla thanked Julee for everything that has been done to keep ISD running during the pandemic.
- Sheri thanked Julee for sharing pictures of the students first day back to school.

- **Other Department Reports**

- No reports

Stakeholder's Reports:

- None

Discussion:

- None

2021-2022 Meeting Dates:

- It was determined that the council cannot meet until after the first day of school. Julee announced that the first day of school would be on August 17th.
- The council discussed moving the meetings to a different day of the week. After some discussion it was decided to move the first three meetings to Thursdays. The final meeting of the year will remain on a Friday.
- Sheri suggested keeping the meetings on Zoom since some people have so far to travel to attend the meetings in person. Sheri also pointed out that more people may be willing to apply to serve on the council if they realize they won't have to make the long drive. She thought it might even attract some out of state alumni to apply.
- Karla briefly took over as Chairperson to set the meeting dates. The council agreed on the following meeting dates for next school year:
September 2
December 2
March 10
May 13
It was agreed that the first three meetings will be via Zoom. The May 13th meeting will be in person.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting (May 7, 2021):

- COVID-19 update
- Deb reminded council members that they can contact Karla with any agenda items they would like to add.

Public Comment:

- Deb thanked everyone for serving on the council and thanked the new members for joining. She expressed that she will miss serving on the council. She explained that she recently received her bachelor's degree in ASL Interpreting and that she plans to continue as a substitute teacher and PTSO member at ISD.

- Sheri thanked Deb for serving on the council and serving as the Chairperson. She told Deb that she was a good role model for other parents of deaf children.
- Julee reminded council members that they will still need to take the annual trainings. She announced that Desa would be contacting about the trainings.

Adjourn:

- Glenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheri seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.