**Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council Meeting Summary**

**May 2, 2024**

**9:00am – 12:30pm**

**In person at ISD**

**Members Present:**

Michelle Mendiola, Bregitt Endicott, Karla Giese, Tamara Jones, Carrie Tucker, Shirley Wilson, Pam Walker

**Members Absent:**

Deb Gossrow, Taylor Ozee, Julee Nist

**Others Present:**

Angie Kuhn, Michelle Brown, Laci Kennedy, Desa Walls, Jesse Hayes, Zachary, Renee Jumper, Amy Bordean, Katie, Jill Bruington

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

* Karla welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 9:08.
* Roll call and introductions were completed.

**New Business:**

* **PTSO Updates:**
* Karla announced that Deb was unable to attend the meeting today and shared Deb’s PTSO report. There is currently $1000 in the PTSO account. Members have discussed different fundraiser options. A member suggested to have a fundraiser that does not require purchasing items. Karla asked Carrie and Tamara if they had anything to add as PTSO members and they did not. Karla explained that the new business will be discussed later in the meeting, and they will move to the report’s discussion first.

**Reports:**

* **ISD Superintendent’s Report (Julee Nist)**
* Angie shared Julee’s report in her absence. She reminded members that Julee emailed her report to everyone prior to the meeting. Everyone is excited for the end of the school year. There are currently 15 students registered for ISD’s Camp 1839. There are 5 ISD students attending and 10 outside students. The Buff and Blue teams advanced to Nationals at Washington D.C. and placed 6th at the Battle of the Books competition this year. Carrie asked which age groups are allowed to participate in Camp 1839. Angie explained that this year’s camp will be for 4th-8th grade students. Karla asked if there was a fee to attend camp. Jesse explained that there is a $75 registration fee to attend the camp but if the student decides to attend ISD in the Fall, their school registration fee will be waived. Michelle M. asked if Children of Deaf Adults (CODA) are allowed to attend. Angie said the camp is only for deaf and hard of hearing students. Bregitt asked about transporting the students to and from camp. Angie shared that ISD will bring the students to camp, and parents will pick students up from ISD on the last day. Camp directors are Allison Fraas and Renee Jumper, and it is scheduled to be held on June 25-29 this year. Angie shared that ISD Parent Institute will be held Thursday-Sunday this year to accommodate working parents. 20 families have completed registration and 7 are still in the process. Bregitt asked how many families participated in Parent Institute last year. Angie said 22-23 families attended. Parents night out is eliminated this year and will be replaced with a fun family activity. The activity day at the Tiger Den has also been eliminated due to time limitations. Student reports will be completed on Monday after everyone leaves and then sent to the parents. Bregitt added that she remembers how fun Parent Institute was when she attended as a young child. Joe Vieira will oversee setting up an information fair for the families to attend during their stay. Angie asked if there were any questions regarding Parent Institute and there were none.
* **Other Department Reports**
* Zachary introduced himself and announced that he felt honored to represent the ISD Student Body Government at the meeting. Zachary shared that he is ISD’s Valedictorian, and the students have worked very hard this year to improve their test scores. Bregitt asked Zachary what his biggest accomplishment is. Zachary said his biggest accomplishment was getting off campus approval for students. Angie asked what the off-campus rules are. Zachary explained that there must be three students in a group, they must tell staff where they are going, and it is only allowed on Monday’s and Thursday’s from 4:30pm-9:00pm. Jesse added that there have been no issues so far this year. Zachary shared some of the activities that the students participated in during the 2023-2024 school year. Carrie asked him what his plans were next year? He explained that he will attend the ISD Transitional Living Programand Lincoln Land Community College in the Fall. Bregitt asked Zachary how his family heard about ISD, but he wasn’t sure. Zachary shared that he chose Lincoln Land Community College because they offer trade programs in Springfield.

**Reading and Approval of March 6, 2024 Minutes:**

* Karla announced that the approval of the March meeting minutes was accidentally skipped earlier in the agenda. Pam made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 6, 2024. Michelle seconded the motion and the meeting minutes from March 6, 2024 were approved.

**New Business:**

* **New Member Applications**
* Karla announced that she received Jamal Garner’s Advisory Council member application. She shared that Taylor decided to resign from the council due to work conflicts. The council has lost one deaf professional with 8 members remaining. The council would like to keep an odd number of members for voting purposes. Pam and Karla are currently the only 2 deaf professionals on the council. Karla announced that she has 1 year left as a member and can assist the new Chairperson if needed. Bregitt and Michelle are deaf representatives and Carrie, Deb, Tamara, and Shirley are parent representatives. Karla reviewed previous applications that were sent and shared that one was held during the previous meeting, but she couldn’t remember the reason. It was determined that it was an application for a parent representative and those positions are currently full. Karla read Jamal Garner’s application, submitted on April 3, 2024. She asked the council to vote and added that Bregitt and Michelle are 3-year members, so Jamal would be a 2-year member. Carrie thinks that Jamal would be a great addition to the council. Pam added that Michelle and Bregitt have 2 years left and asked if Jamal should serve 3 terms. Bregitt asked what the maximum term limit is? Karla explained that members can do each term twice with a year off and then serve again. Jamal never completed his term, and it has been a year, so he is eligible to apply again. Tamara made a motion to vote on Jamal Garner’s membership as a deaf representative. Carrie seconded the motion. Jamal was accepted into the council by all members. Karla let members know that Julee’s office will send out an Advisory Council welcome letter to any new members.
* **ISDAC Officer Positions (Chairperson term expiring)**
* Karla reported that her term ends in 2025 and Bregitt and Michelle’s end in 2026. Deb, Tamara, Shirly, and Pam’s terms end this year. Deb was not present at the meeting but informed Karla that she is interested in extending for a 2nd term. Tamara accepted a second term with no objections, Pam resigned, and Shirly accepted a second term with no objections. Karla announced that the council needs another deaf professional and explained the qualifications to be considered for that title. Karla reported that the council needs to vote on Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions and explained the role of each position. Karla’s term as Chairperson expires this year and Pam was the only nomination for Chairperson but she will not continue her membership. Pam asked if first year members may serve as Chairperson.? Karla reviewed the By-Laws and did not find rules regarding that subject. Pam nominated Michelle as Chairperson. Michelle accepted and all members voted in favor of Michelle as the new Chairperson. Karla mentioned that it is a good idea to have a deaf professional as Chairperson. Michelle accepted a term of 2 years as Chair. Karla will be available to assist if needed. Karla reported that Bregitt was nominated for Vice Chair and Tamara nominated herself. Tamara withdrew her nomination and Bregitt accepted a 2-year term as Vice Chairperson. The council voted and all members were in favor of accepting Bregitt as Vice Chairperson. Karla announced there was one nomination for Secretary and that person was Carrie. Carrie accepted a term of two years as Secretary. The council voted and all were in favor of Carrie’s 2-year term as Secretary.
* **OMA Trainings**
* Karla stated that the State of Illinois requires that OMA trainings be completed by May 31, 2024. She sent an email to members with login instructions and encouraged members to reach out to her or Desa if they have any issues. User’s accounts will be disabled if they have not logged in before a certain period. Pam shared that it took her a while to complete all the trainings. Bregitt left the meeting at 10:11am.

**Discussion:**

* Karla asked members which day of the week works best for next year’s meetings? Carrie is off on Thursday’s and Shirley is off on Wednesday’s. Karla suggested scheduling the meetings on Wednesday’s and Thursday’s again. Next year’s meeting dates were discussed and scheduled. There will be three meetings via Zoom and one in-person meeting. The meetings were scheduled for: August 29, 2024 from 9am-11am, via Zoom, December 4, 2024 from 9am-11am, via Zoom, March 6, 2025 from 9am-11am, via Zoom, and May 7, 2025 from 9am-12:00pm, at ISD campus.

**Suggested Agenda Items for the next Meeting:**

* No Discussion

**Public Comment:**

* Jill shared that the Transitional Living Program will have an open house tomorrow. Several parents are planning to participate. ISD has started a partnership with Hyvee to provide more work skills opportunities for students. Tamara mentioned that Julee invited council members to ISD graduation last year. Angie invited members to come and support ISD’s five graduates. Jill shared that JR Harper assisted MJ Martin’s class with making a new Illinois School for the Deaf sign to be displayed near the road in front of Main Building. Jill will share pictures after the sign is completed. Angie announced that there will be a store set up in ISD’s Main Building where ISD spirit wear and items made by students will be sold. Karla thanked Pam for her years of service on the ISD Advisory Council.

**Adjourn:**

* Tamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:27am.

**2024-2025 Meeting Dates:**

**August 29, 2024, 9am-11am, via Zoom**

**December 4, 2024, 9am-11am, via Zoom**

**March 6, 2025, 9am-11am, via Zoom**

**May 7 2025, 9am-12pm, in-person**