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

**March 6, 2025**

**9:00am-11:00am**

**Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Michelle Mendiola (Elle), Deb Gossrow, Bregitt Endicott, Carrie Tucker, Karla Giese, Jamal Garner, Shirley Wilson, Benro Ogunyipe

**Members Absent:** Tamara Jones, Julee Nist

**Others Present:**

Laci Kennedy, Desa Walls, Angie Kuhn, Christine Good-Deal, Jill Bruington, Allison Fraas, Amy Bordean, Olivia Schone, Sarah Maass, Jesse Hayes, Carrie Grieme, 5 ISD students

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

* Elle welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 9:03am.
* Elle announced that the meeting will be recorded.
* Roll call and introductions were completed.

**Reading and Approval of December 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes:**

* Karla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 4, 2024. Jamal seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting minutes from December 4, 2024, were approved.

**New Business:**

* **Open Meetings Act/Mandated Trainings – Complete by May 31, 2025**
* Elle reported that most council members have not completed their required trainings and advised members to complete them by May 31, 2025. There are 6 trainings and if anyone has issues accessing the trainings, please contact Curt Kuhn.
* **Student Presentations**
* Elle asked if the students were ready for their presentation. Angie let everyone know they will be ready at 9:40am. ISD students, John and Allicia, presented a Shakespeare PowerPoint from Mrs. Grieme’s class. They explained that the students act out certain scenes, compare clips of various versions of the scenes, take quizzes on Kahoot, make collages about characters in the scenes, and much more. Rosie and Ava shared that the class traveled to Chicago to watch Shakespeare at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. ASL interpreters and open captioning were available during the play. Afterwards, students had the opportunity to meet the actors, get autographs, ask questions, and take pictures with the cast. The students also visited Navy Pier and went shopping. ISD student, Eve, added that Mrs. Grieme’s class also participated in an award ceremony called the Shakies where students get in groups and pick their favorite scene from the play to act out. They wear costumes, use props, and memorize lines. The scenes are recorded, and Mrs. Grieme adds captions to all the videos. During the Shakies, students walk the read carpet and have paparazzi take pictures. They watch everyone’s videos and awards are given for Best Actor, Best Costume, Best Effort, and so on. Karla asked if the entire school attends the Shakies? Mrs. Grieme explained the event is for students who were involved in the Shakespeare unit, which is a lot of the school. Those students can invite friends, family, and community members if they want. The students also shared their favorite activities during the Shakespeare unit. Deb shared that she had the opportunity to see the students working together in Mrs. Grieme’s classroom during the Shakespeare unit and thought everyone did a wonderful job.
* **ISD Curriculum**
* Elle asked council members if they had the opportunity to read the ISD curricula chart that Angie sent them. The chart shows the various curricula used to serve ISD students. Karla asked if the curricula is what has been used in the past or new. Angie explained that most has been used before but some of it has been updated. The myPerspectives curriculum for language arts is used for students that are functioning on grade level because they are using it in the Jacksonville School District. ISD has also used the News2You ULS Curriculum for the Functional Living Skills Program. There isn’t a lot of curricula available to serve students with identified intellectual disabilities. We buy subscriptions for that curriculum annually. Karla asked if students and staff seem content with the current curricula. Angie said everyone has their own opinion and added that she would like to reestablish a previous administrative ISD position that is specific to the curricula. Angie, Julee, and principals are managing it currently which takes a lot of time to be sure teachers are implementing the curricula. Elle asked if the current curricula is the same as what is used at Jacksonville School District. Angie explained that it depends on the student and what grade level they are working at. Allison explained that the current curricula map shows what has been mandated in recent years that people adopt and use in particular classes. ISD also has several textbooks that teachers have ordered and continue to use. There are 3 classes for literature that are considered on grade level materials. ISD doesn’t offer any AP classes or honors level high school classes. If students are looking for those exact experiences, they have the option to mainstream at Jacksonville High School to get that AP level. In high school, there are 3 classes on grade level in those core subjects and 1 class in middle school. The 6th grade is still elementary at ISD and there are a few students there on grade level also. Deb mentioned that she has had the opportunity to work with an ISD high school teacher during her Shakespeare lesson while subbing over the years. The students travel to Chicago to see a Shakespeare play and engage in several different activities. Deb shared that Mrs. Grieme does a great job teaching the students about Shakespeare. Elle shared that she is looking forward to the presentation. Elle asked Angie if she had anything to add regarding the curricula map and vacant administrative position. Angie explained that the ISD Administrative Team has been discussing adding the new curricula administrative position to provide training to the teachers from someone who is experienced.
* **ISD Student State Testing**
* Angie reported that the 7th-8th grade students are currently working on state testing and elementary students will start next Tuesday. There is a new testing platform this year and Allison read through the testing manual. There are several accommodations for ISD students that principals need to be aware of when setting up the testing schedules. There are several changes each year and ISD also experienced some technology issues this year. The state of Illinois updated the student iPads with Zscaler in the middle of testing which needed addressed. The state also changed from the SAT to the ACT. Jill added that her and Lana had a successful technical readiness check yesterday. Jill explained that last year ISD used the SAT, but the state has a new contract and will use the ACT for the next 3 years. The same necessary accommodations are applied for the test. ISD is considered the students’ serving and testing school, but their home school does have access to their scores. All tests are electronic now with a few exceptions made for paper and pencil test copies. The juniors are required to take the ACT and can choose 4 colleges they are interested in. The juniors will take the test tomorrow morning. Jill mentioned that Lana Shea spends a lot of time maintaining the Student Information System to ensure accuracy. Allison asked if the Administrative Team discussed adding ISDAC members to the guest option on ParentSquare. Angie said they haven’t discussed it, but it is an option. Allison shared that she writes a weekly newsletter and today’s newsletter explained the student testing procedures. If council members are added as guests on ParentSquare, they could receive the newsletter each week. Angie added that there is a newsletter from the Student Life Office posted each week also. She will discuss adding members to ParentSquare with the IT Department.
* **Advisory Council Roles and Meeting Rules**
* Elle asked if anyone wanted to review the ISDAC roles. Karla suggested discussing the terms considering some council member terms will expire this year. Carrie reported that Elle will have 2 years as a member, Bregitt will be a member for 2 years, and Karla will complete her term in May. Tamara and Shirley will complete their terms in 2026, Jamal’s term will end in 2027, and she wasn’t sure exactly when Deb started her term. Benro and Jamal’s terms both started in December. Elle stated that the council could review the roles discussion in May if members were comfortable with that.

**Old Business:**

* No discussion.

**Reports:**

* **ISD Superintendent’s Report (Julee Nist)**
* Angie read Julee’s report that was previously sent to council members. ISD joined the Great Plains School for the Deaf Conference. ISD basketball and cheerleading teams went to Arkansas for 4 days to complete against 7 other schools in the conference. The ISD boys’ basketball team placed 2nd in the tournament. ISD had homecoming in January. Desa worked with the Student Body Government to provide a wonderful homecoming. The students participated in a spirit week, which included a Friday prep rally with some staff getting slimed by the students. Six deaf schools participated in ISD’s Homecoming this year. Angie read through some of the campus projects that are currently in progress and others that have been completed. Jill explained that February is CTE month and workplace readiness week, and the students celebrated all month long. A CTE student of the week was chosen during the month of February. CTE students had a pizza party at the end of the month and the graphic communications class held a fundraiser where they sold shirts and sweatshirts. All ISD campus buildings are on the back of the shirt. At the end of February, CTE students held a Taste of CTE event for the 7th-8th grade students. The Jr high students visited the CTE building and rotated amongst different student presentations. The event was successful and CTE will continue with the event every other year. Deb added that she was substitute teaching at ISD the day of the CTE event and had the opportunity to participate. Deb complimented Jill and the CTE staff for doing a great job. Angie shared that ISD will be hosting the Tiger 5K on Friday, May 2nd, and invited members to participate. The event is a fundraiser for ISD student out-of-state travel and athletic funds.
* **Other Department Reports**
* No discussion.

**Discussion:**

* Deb stated that she reviewed the ISDAC meeting minutes from May of 2024 and there was discussion about her interest in renewing her membership as a parent representative. It appears to be about a year since Deb renewed her membership. She emailed those minutes to Elle and Karla.

**Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

* IHSA membership is due June 30th.

**Public Comment:**

* Karla mentioned that she works with CHS (Chicago Hearing Society), and they have a deaf mentor program. CHS is looking for more deaf mentors to join their program. They are also looking for funding and she encouraged members to email her with any ideas or comments. Jamal added that he is excited for Camp 1839 and the Deaf Youth Camp at ISD this summer. Allison shared that the Camp 1839 flyer has been posted to the ISD Facebook page with a QR code to register. She encouraged members to share the flyer anywhere they felt it would be helpful to get the word out. Desa will email camp information to ISDAC members after the meeting. Jamal asked Angie if Cue Sign Camp will take place again at ISD. Angie explained that ISD does not have plans to host that camp again. Desa announced that the South of I-80 Conference for Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing is returning to in person attendance. Sarah shared that the business office is doing an excellent job of keeping track of the ISD spending plan. We continue to monitor all federal grants and policies due to the changes of federal administration. Sarah added that she is also the Title IX Coordinator. All policies have been updated to reflect changes regarding how complaints are investigated. Also, if anyone has flyers to go out to leadership, please send those to Sarah. Deb shared that the council recently lost Gwenn Eyer, a past member of the council. Gwenn was from Jacksonville and owned a bed and breakfast in town. Deb believes that Gwenn served on the council for two full terms. Deb sent her obituary to Elle prior to the meeting. Gwenn was a huge asset to the ISDAC and contributed a lot to ISD. Deb shared that the council was very grateful for Gwenn’s contributions and time served on the ISDAC.

**Adjourn:**

* Deb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karla seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12a.m.

**Meeting Dates:**

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