

Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

Meeting Summary

December 7, 2018 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
ISD Main Building First Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Sheri Cook, Gwenn Eyer, Michelle Brown, Charlene Hicks, Paula Chance, Deb Gossrow, John Miller, Karla Giese, Susan Dramin-Weiss, Julee Nist, and Quinetta Wade.

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Kathryn Surbeck, Angela Leavell, Karen Garrett, Angie Kuhn, Jill Bruington, Christine Good-Deal, Tammy Miner, Jonathan Bordean, Kitty Aubry, Tonia Bogener, Dana Craig, Joe Vieira.

Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors:

- Sheri called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.

Review and Approval of August 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

- Paula made a motion to approve the August 24, 2018 meeting minutes. Karla seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the August 24, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

New Business:

Election of Officers (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary)

- o Sheri handed out a list of nominees.
- o Sheri accepted the nomination and was appointed Chairperson.
- o Nominees for Vice-Chairperson were Gwenn and Deb and they both accepted the nomination. After a brief discussion of the by-laws, a vote was held and Gwenn was appointed as Vice-Chairperson by majority vote.
- o Nominees for Secretary were Deb and Michelle. Deb did not accept the nomination. Michelle accepted the nomination. The floor was opened for additional nominations and there were none. Michelle was appointed Secretary.
- o Officers will serve thru May.

Student Presentation:

- The student presentations were moved up on the agenda.

- Sherry Humphries gave a brief explanation about the Hamilton for Education program. She explained that Jon Sander was chosen to perform his project “My Thoughts on Slavery” as Benjamin Franklin on the stage of the production of Hamilton in Chicago. Jon talked about his portrayal of Benjamin Franklin and his thoughts on slavery.
- Jill explained the progress of the Child Development Course that was started two years ago and introduced the four students who have completed Level 1 of the course. The students each talked about their experience with the certification process.

Reports:

ISD Superintendent's Report

- Each council member received a folder containing Julee's reports.
- Julee explained that she was still waiting on the full report from the CEASD accreditation team and that she would follow-up on the results once she had a chance to review the full report.
- Julee reported that ISD's first annual 5K was successful and raised approximately \$4000 for the Athletic Fund. She explained that the funds will help with out-of-state travel expenses.
- Julee provided council members with a Jacksonville Journal Courier article featuring benches made by ISD students. Jill reported that the Governor's mansion was needing benches and wanted some that were made in Illinois. She explained that through a connection with a CTE teacher, the ISD students were asked to make benches to be placed at the Governor's mansion.
- Julee reported that the Battle of the Books was underway and that the Buff team won and was moving on in the competition.
- Julee explained that ISD had to drop out of the Academic Bowl because two students of the four-member team were unable to continue in the competition.
- Julee reported that students recently participated in the CTE Building and Trades Day and that the LEO Club baked cookies for the JCCD Christmas party and she shared photos from these events.
- Julee announced that ISD is on the front cover of a recently published book, “The Way We Were, Volume III”. She reported that the book can be purchased for \$25 and is available at Jacksonville Savings Bank and at Our Town Books. She reported that there are pictures featured in the book that were obtained from the ISD Museum.
- Julee announced that ISD employee, Tina Hungerford, was awarded the Volunteer of the Month award by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.
- Joe Vieira gave a brief presentation about how the ISD Outreach Department is reaching out to the community. Joe explained that ISD has been asked to be a sponsor for professional development credits and the process to make this happen. Joe handed out packets containing information about the program called the Online Itinerant.
- Julee stated that she has started working with the Communication Committee and is working with organizations and individuals on communication accessibility.
- Julee reminded everyone that she is still interested in collecting artwork by deaf artists. Susan said she recently ordered some artwork and Julee suggested the possibility of posting pictures of that artwork.
- Julee reported that she is still working with Melvin Long on the ISD 180th birthday celebration that will be held July 5, 6, and 7, 2019.

DHS/DRS Director Report

- Quinetta reported that DRS is experiencing a quiet period as they wait for the transition of the new Governor.
- She announced that the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program as shown a significant increase. She explained the Fast Track Program which targets younger students and works with getting them in contact with VR services prior to graduation.
- Quinetta also announced that Rehabilitation Services recently acquired a new team and is going through a learning process.

Student Body Government (SBG) Representative

- No report

Other Department Reports

- No other reports

Stakeholder's Reports:

- Sheri reported that she was asked by Brandy Hayes to present to the ISD transition students. She explained that it is a two-hour long training and that she made the presentation to about 75 students and found that most of the students were responsive. She noted that the TLP program has grown and that ISD has a lot of students with challenges. She expressed concern about the influence these students could have on the students with good behavior and asked about the possibility of ISD having an "at risk" program for students with severe behavior issues.
- Gwenn suggested more training in trauma informed care.

Discussion:

Educational Advocate – Informative video for families from ISD Outreach Program

- Joe reported that ISD is developing a video that covers various areas of training provided by the Outreach Department. He explained that they plan to develop the video in February and make it accessible to families.
- Joe announced plans to meet with DHS to talk about creating a Facebook page. He reported that ISD was recently given approval for the Facebook page and it is still in the building stages. He explained that they are hoping to produce a video and get feedback about other social media outlets so that they can build on this project.
- Deb suggested that the PTSO Facebook page be closed and the information currently on it be added to ISD's Facebook page.
- Gwenn suggested creating a committee to assist in making recommendations for publications to the community and asked if an Advisory Council member could be included in the Outreach meetings regarding this process. Julee suggested waiting until ISD met with DHS and learned how the process would go before discussing this further.
- Deb suggested that Joe and Julee view the PTSO Facebook page prior to their meeting with DHS.
- John commended the Outreach Department on all that they have done.

Recruitment for ISD

- Nothing to discuss

Updates on Ethics and OMA training

- Sheri reminded everyone to watch the OMA training and asked if everyone has read and signed the ethics training. Paula suggested having someone come in and present on the sexual harassment training rather than reading the 39-page training. Tonia reported that she is trying to get ASL videos of the training, but everything is on hold until the start of the new administration.

Sharing a Letter from a Parent

- Deb shared a letter from ten ISD parents and stated that the letter had been emailed to all the council members. The letter was in response to a letter that was sent to several state contacts by IAD members.

Updates from the Communication Policy Committee meeting on November 2, 2018

- Karla provided a power point presentation showing the results of the Communication Policy Subcommittee meeting that was held on November 2, 2018. The presentation outlined the suggested changes and recommendations to the communication policy.
- Sheri suggested changing the recommendation of developing a Language Planning Committee. She suggested changing the name of the committee because she thought it sounded like they are trying to develop a new language, and that communication for instruction is provided in each individual IEP and that this policy should be for communication outside of the classroom.
- Karla agreed that the name of the Language Planning Committee be changed to the Communication Planning Committee to address general communication on campus. There will be a vote to accept this change at the next meeting.

Appropriate ways to share information on school matters

- This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Members Conflict of Interest

- This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

ISD alumni summer celebration

- Deb asked if the council members or parents could do anything to be involved in the 180th celebration. Susan explained that it is an alumni celebration and that the Alumni Association is hosting the event.

New Business:

- There was no new business.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Appropriate ways to share information on school matters
- Members Conflict of Interest
- Communication Policy Recommendations

Public Comment:

- No public comments

Adjourn:

- Susan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karla seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.