

# Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council

## Meeting Summary

March 12, 2021 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meeting held via Zoom

### Members Present:

Deb Gossrow, Jamal Garner, Sheri Cook, Deloris Summers, Karla Giese, Taylor Ozee, Glenn Eyer, Julee Nist, Kerrie Rawlings, Louis Hamer

**Members Absent:** Charlene Hicks, Carrie Tucker

**Others Present:** Jill Bruington, Angie Kuhn, Christine Good-Deal, Michelle Brown, Karen Garrett

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

- Deb opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.

### Reading and Approval of December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- Sheri made a motion to approve the December 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Karla seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes from the December 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

### New Business:

#### *New Member Applications (timelines, etc.)*

- o Deb announced that Carrie would be taking over the role of overseeing the new member applications and asked if there were any suggestions for updating the process.
- o Karla asked if the applications could be available at an on-line location where everyone could go to view them. Julee stated that she liked Karla's idea and would ask the IT Department to set that up. Julee also suggested establishing an expiration date on applications.
- o Sheri made a motion that the applications become available on-line for a 2-year time period. Taylor seconded the motion. The council discussed the process for applications while waiting for them to be available on-line. Deb stated that applications are currently sent to Julee, and Julee agreed to forward all applications to the members until the on-line process is set up. The council voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

#### *Council Member Trainings (Ethics...OMA)*

- o Deb asked if everyone had completed their required trainings. Julee explained that the trainings must be completed every year and that she would need a copy of the certificates of completion. Julee also informed the council that if they had any issues with the trainings, to please contact Ed Hoyt and Desa Johnson. Deb explained that Desa would be taking over the duties previously held by Ed.

#### *Open Council Positions in May (Chair...Deaf Ed)*

- o Deb asked if everyone received the updated member list that was sent out via email. She stated that her and Sheri's terms will expire in May.

- Deb reported that they have one application from a parent and that will be reviewed at the May meeting. She reported that information will be given to Julee and Desa for the ISD website to help recruit applicants.
- Deb reported that in May the council will need to vote in a new chairperson. She also reported that Charlene and Karla's first terms will expire in May and that there will need to be a vote to extend those positions if they are both still interested in serving as council members.
- Sheri asked if the May meeting will be held in person or via zoom. Julee said that it would depend on what the COVID numbers are doing at that time. She explained that right now, the campus is closed to outside visitors to help protect the students and staff members. Sheri suggested a different venue for the meeting, and it was decided to wait and see what is happening with the pandemic as the meeting date gets closer.
- Karla asked for clarification of the positions and Deb stated that the positions are Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary.
- Karla asked if all three positions would be voted on in May. Sheri explained that all three positions are voted on and replaced annually.
- Sheri stated that she would like to read the applications prior to the May meeting. Julee stated that she would send the applications to the council members so that they can review them prior to the May meeting. Deb asked Julee if she could reach out to the applicants that applied more than 2 years ago and see if they are still interested in serving as council members. Julee stated that Desa would be able to help reach out to the applicants.
- Sheri made a motion that applicants whose applications have been on file for over 2 years be contacted to see if they are still interested in serving on the council. Karla seconded the motion. The motion passed with majority vote.

#### Old Business:

*No Discussion*

#### Reports:

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

- Julee announced that her report was sent out to council members prior to the meeting. She also announced that the students would be returning to in-person learning on April 6<sup>th</sup>. She explained that the students will go home every weekend and that staff are being trained and PPE is available to everyone on campus. Julee acknowledged Nurse Kari for all of her work in preparing for the return of staff and students. She explained that Kari has been working closely with IDPH and DHS, and that the school will be following all the guidelines.
- Julee explained that students are being given the choice to return to in-person learning or stay with remote learning. She explained that each teacher will make the adjustments based on what works best for their classroom. She reported that teachers will return to work prior to the students arriving so that they have an opportunity to work with the technology and make sure everything is set up and ready.
- Julee announced that ISD held vaccination clinics for staff members and that those that chose to receive the shots have been fully vaccinated. She reported that ISD will be doing weekly rapid tests for those that volunteer to be tested and will also test anyone who is symptomatic. She explained that staff members who are symptomatic will go home and that Cullom Hall has been prepared for students who test positive. She explained that the students will stay at Cullom Hall until arrangements can be made to get them home. She reported that ISD and ISVI were working on getting contractual nurses to provide 24-hour care at Cullom Hall.

- Julee explained that ISD has several different types of masks on hand, including clear view masks and face shields to aid in lip reading. Christine showed council members the various masks that are available to staff and students.
- Julee reported that a virtual townhall was recently held for parents and it included ISD, ISVI and ICRE families. She explained that during the townhall the schools presented the entire return to school plan and gave the families an opportunity to ask questions.

#### **Other Department Reports**

- No reports

#### **Stakeholder's Reports:**

- None

#### **Discussion:**

- Kerrie reported that Louis had to leave the meeting, but that he wanted to commend everyone's efforts with making health and safety the top priority. He also commended Nurse Kari for all the work she has done to prepare for the return of staff and students.
- Karla asked if the council could learn more about the assessment that is used to track the development of language in both English and ASL. She was curious about what information is utilized for developing a student's IEP.
- Karla asked if it would be possible to get a report from students regarding their perspectives on this school year. Christine and Jill both said they thought they could find some students willing to give a report.
- Sheri asked if the council could see pictures on how the classrooms are being set up for the students return to the classrooms.
- Karla asked if all classes have been offered since last fall or if some have been put on hold. Jill reported that some adjustments have been made but that all classes have continued.
- Jill reported the Student Work Experience is following up with the businesses that have participated in the past to see if they are willing to work with the ISD students for the short time they will be here this Spring.
- Karla asked if the students would have their own rooms in the dorms. Jill responded that there will be just one student per room.

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

- Open positions on the council
- The three officer positions on the council
- Language Evaluations
- Student perspectives on the school year
- Class videos, in person and remote

#### **Public Comment:**

- Karla commended the ISD staff and administrators for all they have done to get the students back to school.
- Deloris asked if the TLP students would be eligible to receive the vaccine. Julee explained that at this time ISD is not providing the vaccine to students but that all students are being encouraged to get vaccinated before returning to campus.

*Adjourn:*

- Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jamal seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.