

Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
December 2, 2022
9:00pm - 12:30pm
Meeting Held Via Zoom

Members Present:

Pam Walker, Tamara Jones, Julee Nist, Taylor Ozee, Deb Gossrow, Jamal Garner, Carrie Tucker

Members Absent:

Louis Hamer, Karla Giese, Shirley Wilson

Others Present:

Laci Kennedy, Michelle Brown, Desa Walls, Angie Kuhn, Amy Bordean, Christine Good-Deal, Jill Bruington, Todd Williams, Nicole Frye, Jesse Hayes

Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction to Visitors:

- Pam welcomed members and opened the meeting at 9:30am.
- Pam announced that Karla was not able to attend the meeting. Pam will take over as Chair until she must leave at 10:15am.
- Pam suggested postponing the By-Laws discussion until the next meeting.
- Roll call and introductions were completed.

Reading and Approval of September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

- Jamal made a motion to approve the September 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting minutes from September 1, 2022 were approved.

New Business:

ISD Classroom Wi-Fi Access Struggles

- Julee explained that DOIT has strict policies and is a long process upgrading the Wi-Fi. Deb mentioned that Wi-Fi is limited in the classrooms and some students are not able to use their school iPads. Tamara suggested researching the T Mobile 10 Million Project explaining that the Wi-Fi is free. Angie explained that there are dead zones in some of the buildings.

PTSO Updates

- Deb announced that the PTSO had a successful Fall ISD spirit wear sale and they plan to have another sale in the Spring. She explained that several checks have been distributed. The PTSO consists of school staff and parents and currently has 12 members. Deb explained that \$250 is the maximum requested amount from PTSO.

Student Presentation

- Julee announced that the students would be available to present Battle of the Books today at 10:00am.

Old Business:

- No discussion.

Reports:

ISD Superintendent's Report (Julee Nist)

- Julee announced that the ISD COVID numbers have decreased, and that unvaccinated school staff are no longer required to test. She explained that student enrollment is up over the past year. There are currently 213 ISD students. COVID hit student enrollment hard, but we are beginning to see new and returning students enrolling. Julee mentioned that ISD started receiving money donations from someone's will four years ago and she has been saving the money. It will be a total of five years next year and she is hoping to have enough money saved to get a new ISD track. She would like to have it completed by 2025 if possible. Julee applauded Leslie Lynch for doing a great job with the ISD and ISVI swim team and explained that the two schools formed 1 team. She told council members that ISD staff and students received free t-shirts with the new tiger logo from Sorenson and there are a few left if members were interested in purchasing them for \$8.00. Deb offered to donate PTSO funds if needed around campus.

Dorm Report

- Jesse presented a power point for the dorm report. He explained that there are currently 6 RCW trainees and 7 dorm supervisors. He announced that some dorm staff will be retiring soon. Jesse explained that John Miller set up the house of tigers in the dorms. Each dorm was given a tiger name. Staff and students decorated their dorms to receive points to go towards rewards to pick an activity. Students have picked kickball and dodgeball against staff or a pie in the face of a staff member. There will be a dinner for the winners. Jesse announced that the recreational supervisor will also retire soon and explained that there are 2 teen centers at ISD. The teen centers have ping pong tables, pool tables, snack bars, televisions, and an Xbox. He explained that the recreational department is responsible for setting up student activities. The students have 2 nights of gym and 2 nights of teen center weekly. There is always a certified lifeguard on duty at the pool. He said that a gaga ball pit was recently donated and is currently set up in Burn's gym. The students made a haunted house during Halloween, went to tiger den at the lake and elementary boys and girls are currently participating in YMCA basketball. Jesse mentioned that day students are invited to the dorm activities. He presented the PK-6 evening schedule and TLP monthly activity calendar. Jesse announced that John Miller developed a student life newsletter a few years ago that consists of dorm events, pictures, and ISD news. The newsletter is shared on campus. Jesse shared that some of the RCW trainee classes have been extended from 12 months to 18 months. Deb mentioned that recreational staff have reached out to her last year regarding dorm activities. She would like to know about receiving more information regarding dorm activities for day students to join. Jesse is open to ideas and said that weekend staffing could be an issue if day students participated. Deb mentioned that she would be with her son during the activities and mentioned that parents might be willing to help with the activities. Tamara agreed and mentioned that she has been involved in some of the dorm activities in the past. Pam suggested that Jesse or John pick 1 person to take on the responsibility of getting dorm activity information to the parents of day students. Jesse mentioned that he has sent out Skylerts or the secretary has called to inform parents in the past. Carrie mentioned that she has received several handouts sent home with her child.

Other Department Reports

- Julee asked the principals if they have anything to report. There were no reports. Desa explained that there is a high school boys basketball game at ISD today. There are 15 boys on the team and Jamal and Dylan are coaching this year. The girls' basketball game had to be canceled due to illness and injuries. The team consists of 8 players. ISD does have a cheerleading team this year and TLP students are allowed to participate. There is 1 high school student and 7 TLP students

on the team. Boys and girls swimming with ISVI will start in March. ISD/ISVI have a wrestling team currently and there will be a bowling league in January. ISD will coop with Westfair for track in the Spring with 9 away meets scheduled. Desa explained that Dylan and Jamal organized an alumni game with ISD students as a fundraiser for the boys' basketball team. Taylor shared that she thought that was a great idea. Desa said that 25 players wanted to join, and the students enjoyed the opportunity. Jamal explained that the team is currently working on how to work together and manage certain behaviors. He mentioned that Curt Kuhn has been volunteering as a support coach.

Student Presentation

- Nicole announced that the students had the opportunity to participate in the Gallaudet Battle of the Books competition this year. The competition is for 5th-8th graders divided into teams based on reading level. This year students had 3 books to read independently with no outside help unless it is for a vocabulary word. Matches are held via Zoom and schools are ranked by total number of points. The top teams advance to the next round. Nicole shared a power point showing team information and the Blue Team introduced themselves. The Blue Team read three books: *Maya and the Robot*, *Front Desk*, and *The Gauntlet*. Nicole explained that ISD had 42 points and Wichita Falls Regional Deaf Education had 38 points in the most recent match. There were 10 teams that advanced to the playoffs which is scheduled for next Wednesday. The Bison Team introduced themselves and explained that they read *Stargazing*, *Black Brother*, *Black Brother*, and *Wayside School is Falling Down*. Nicole announced that the Blue Team will compete again on December 7th at 9:30am and the Bison Team on December 13th at 11:00am. Carrie asked how the books are chosen for students. Nicole explained that the books are chosen by Gallaudet University. Carrie congratulated the students. Taylor asked how the students prepare for the matches. Nicole explained that students discussed the books with each other and used an app to take online quizzes. Pam shared that she was impressed with the students and announced that she had to leave the meeting. Desa took over as Chair.

Discussion:

- No discussion.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- By-Law review
- PTSO update
- Battle of the Books update

Public Comment:

- No discussion

Adjourn:

- Deb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tamara seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12am.

Meeting Dates:

March 9, 2023 (Zoom)

May 4, 2023 (ISD Campus)