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

**March 6, 2024**

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

**Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Julee Nist, Pam Walker, Michelle Mendiola, Deb Gossrow, Bregitt Endicott, Tamara Jones, Carrie Tucker, Shirley Wilson, Taylor Ozee

**Members Absent:**

Karla Giese

**Others Present:**

Laci Kennedy, Desa Walls, Jill Bruington, Christine Good-Deal, Michelle Brown, Angie Kuhn, Allison Fraas, Jesse Hayes, Zachary, Jadyn, Todd Williams, Penelope Hinders

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

* Pam welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 9:00am.
* Roll call and introductions were completed.

**Reading and Approval of December 7, 2023 meeting minutes:**

* Deb made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 7, 2023. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting minutes from December 7, 2023 were approved.

**New Business:**

* **Student Body Government Student Presentation:**
* ISD Student, Jadyn, shared that Student Body Government has discussed updating certain rules. ISD student, Zachary, added that SBG will help organize the Angel Tree this year during Christmas. They have also spoke with ISD staff regarding off campus activities. SBG has been working with staff to reduce excessive discipline reports. They hosted ISD Homecoming and will host again next year. Next year’s theme will be *Frozen.*  Penelope shared that her and Jodi Miller are the SBG Advisors this year. There are 12 members, and they hope to have more next year. Penelope added that Allicia is acting as Secretary and John as Treasurer. Penelope explained they recently visited the Illinois State Museum. The museum staff assumed that ISD would bring their own interpreters, but SBG members informed them that they are responsible for securing an interpreter. It was a good learning experience for everyone. Pam shared that she was impressed with SBG and their accomplishments.
* Julee explained that Desa will present about ISD Homecoming, and it was overlooked on the agenda. Desa shared her homecoming power point with everyone and added that SBG did a great job decorating for homecoming this year and were a great help. Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Ohio participated in basketball tournaments all weekend. Kentucky had to cancel at the last minute due to frigid temperatures. The presentation of The National Anthem has changed this year. The National Anthem is prerecorded by ISD students and displayed on the big screens during ISD sporting events. SBG organized sprit week and the pep rally this year. There were 4 games played at the pep rally and Ella won ISD Royalty this year. Senior night was also celebrated, and the awards provided to students were sponsored by Nestle. ISD has competed against 18 different deaf schools to date. Desa’s goal for next year is to compete against 20 deaf schools.
* **Extracurricular Activities/Clubs Offered by ISD**
* **Jr. IAD/NAD**
* Desa explained that ISD does not have Jr. IAD/NAD this year. The clubs are formed based on student interest. COVID also played a part as to why ISD doesn’t currently have Jr. IAD/NAD. We hope to get it back next year. Julee asked Desa to share a list of available clubs offered by ISD. Desa reported that Leo Club, Chess Club, SBG, Maker Space, Rainbow, and Yearbook clubs are currently offered.
* **Academic Bowl**
* Desa reported that students participated in Academic Bowl last year but not this year. Angie added that Esports is now available for students at ISD. Christine explained that Maker Space Club participates in a variety of STEAM centered activities.
* **ISD Summer Camps**
* Angie announced that ISD will start hosting summer camp again. The committee would like to incorporate the following at camp: recreational activities, dorm life, the history of ASL, and deaf culture. Camp 1839 is the chosen name of the camp because 1839 is the year that ISD was founded. Angie asked if there were any questions and there were none.
* **SCLPI Testing Policy & Procedure**
* Jesse explained that the name of the sign language proficiency test is no longer SCLPI. The “C” has been removed and it is now called the SLPI (sign language proficiency interview). There are different level requirements, determined by position title, and not all ISD positions receive bilingual pay. The SLPI score is determined by a 15-to-20-minute interview given to staff in ASL. That interview is sent to a qualified team for review and score. Jesse asked if there were any questions. There were none. Jesse added that Residential Care Worker Trainees have 18 months to meet the required intermediate level goal. Michelle M. asked if staff who do not meet the time requirement are omitted? Jesse explained that staff members who are unable to pass the SLPI at the required level after 18 months cannot continue in the RCW Trainee position. Desa added that John Miller does a great job training the RCW Trainee staff. Bregitt asked if RCW trainees have a deaf mentor during the training program? Jesse explained that trainees have two hours of ASL class daily and an assigned RCW with the trainee during their dorm work hours.
* **Parent Institute**
* Angie announced the schedule for Parent Institute has changed this year. The institute will be held Thursday-Sunday instead of Sunday-Friday. There are currently 15 families registered to attend.
* **ISDAC Member Trainings**
* Desa reported that she has been in contact with Karla regarding the ISDAC member trainings. Currently, one member has completed the trainings. Desa reminded members to complete the trainings by May. Carrie added that she had to call the phone number provided to get her password reset.
* **PTSO Updates**
* Deb shared that she inherited the PTSO from a previous parent who also served on the ISD Advisory Council. Gwen Eyers served on the council for several years and owns Blessings Bed and Breakfast in Jacksonville. Deb has a son at ISD and served as PTSO treasurer before she became president several years ago. Deb reported that spirit wear sales are down due to added competition. It’s exciting to know that there has been a huge increase in ISD sports teams. The athletic fundraisers have impacted PTSO spirit wear sales. There is currently $1000 in the PTSO bank account. Jamie Butler, the mother of a current ISD student, is the acting Treasurer. There are currently 10 ISD PTSO members which consist of ISD staff and parents. Funds requests are sent to Deb by the ISD principals and then Deb shares them with members to discuss approval. The maximum request is limited to $250. PTSO has had to cut back and suggest creative ways to find other avenues for some requests. One suggestion is to ask students’ parents to financially contribute to student field trips and special events. We are seeing more sports travel and the need for meals and lodging has increased. Deb announced that the PTSO spirit wear online shop is closed because it was costing them more money to maintain and it wasn’t in high demand. Deb added that Desa has been a huge help suggesting fundraiser ideas. Leo Club has shared a percentage of their fundraisers with PTSO. Pack the house at Leo’s, ISD tumbler sales, and auctions have been suggested to raise funds. Deb added that Desa suggested donating 10% of spirit wear sales to PTSO.

* **ISDAC Officer Positions**
* **Chairperson term expiring**
* Pam reported that Karla has completed 3 consecutive terms, so her position as Chair is expiring. Pam asked members to send nominations for Chair and three Officer positions. This discussion will continue during the May meeting.

**Old Business:**

* No discussion

**Reports:**

* **ISD Superintendent’s Report (Julee Nist)**
* Julee announced that she shared her report with members prior to the meeting. She explained that there are several projects in the works at ISD. The sprinkler system for Main Building is in full swing. The Jr/Sr high school roof is almost completed. We are waiting on warmer weather so they can finish up. The Power Plant and Laundry roofs will be next. We have the new building signs but are waiting for warmer weather to install them. The ceiling in the Gathering Room in Main Building was removed which revealed some old golf balls, tools, bottles, and letters written in 1898. They will start on the new drop ceiling this week. Wi-Fi has been installed in the dorm living rooms and we plan on installing more across campus. Bolen Boulevard will be repaved during the spring. Upgrades and replacements to dietary freezers and appliances, both large and small, continue. Several chiller units across campus have been approved for replacement and the Main Building handrails have been replaced. Julee shared that the ISD 185th school-wide photo is complete. Framed copes are displayed in the Main Building and each educational building and will soon be installed in Health Center and Power Plant.
* **Other Department Reports**
* Angie announced that the ISD Educators began professional development using the Conscious Discipline videos and discussions. This year, we introduced the Conscious Discipline training to the dorm staff. Jesse Hayes, John Miller, Jessica Crawford, and Allison Fraas have been involved in the trainings and discussions. Jessica has been making the Power Point presentations and overall, they are receiving a lot of positive feedback. The goal for any crisis on campus is for the adult to ensure that they are teaching students the skills to maintain their composure. Todd Williams announced that some ISD staff will attend a Conscious Discipline conference in Nashville this summer. Deb would like to learn more regarding the training. Angie will share access to the videos. Jesse added that the dorm staff have been receptive to the training, and it has been very beneficial. Taylor mentioned that she would like to have a discussion with Angie about Conscious Discipline. Angie added that Conscious Discipline is valuable information that applies to all areas of our lives. It helps how we communicate with students and respond to student situations. Feel free to contact Angie with any questions.
* Angie announced that Esports is coming to ISD. There are several students interested in gaming and now they can do it competitively. Receiving approval to provide Wi-Fi for the students has been a challenge. Lana Shea, who retired from ISD and has continued to work on contract, has played an important role working with our IT Department and DOIT to get everything set up. Lana and other sponsors are actively seeking out monetary donations. The total expense for this project is estimated to be more than $20,000. A significant donation was received from IFDC, and we are currently working with former ISD Superintendent, Joan Forney, as well. Walmart will donate more monitors soon. Jesse added that the students will also get the opportunity to learn how to build the PC’s and the technology involved. Gallaudet hosts an Esports competition that we hope to participate in sometime in the future. Tamara asked if gaming hardware was needed and offered to donate. Angie will ask Lana about needed items.
* Julee announced that Colin represented ISD at the ISHA state swim meet where he placed 1st in the 50 Freestyle, 3rd in the 100 Freestyle, and placed 9th overall. Christine shared details of the celebration held in the high school to send Colin off to the state competition. They decorated the high school lobby and staff and students gave Colin his favorite Slim Jims as he left for the competition. Desa added that there is a video on the ISD Facebook page of Colin’s send-off. The video has around 201,000 views and 70 shares.
* Jill announced that CTE month is celebrated every February and information about CTE is sent weekly during that month. A student of the week was chosen during February with a pizza party at the end of the month. ISD had a raffle, and the graphics communications class printed a towel to go with the table made by the woods class. The foods class provided an assortment of charcuterie items to put on the table. The raffle winner was a local Jacksonville resident. Christine suggested checking out the ISD Facebook page to stay up to date on ISD happenings.
* Todd shared that ISD is set up and ready for state testing. He stated there are usually technical difficulties that they work through every year. Jill added that tech checks will be performed on the students’ IPADS to ensure they are able to access the testing app on Friday.

**Discussion:**

* No discussion.

**Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

* Pam asked members to email agenda ideas for the May meeting.

**Public Comment:**

* No discussion.

**Adjourn:**

* Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shirley seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:31am

**Meeting Dates:**

May 2, 2024 9:00am-12:30pm (on campus)