

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Council
Minutes – Meeting #67
September 25, 2019
10:00 am-3:00 pm

Vision Forward - 912 N. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53213

Introductions and New Member Orientation

Dan Wenzel, WCBVI Center Director, introduced himself as the new Advisory Council Liaison. Recommended elections for Chair and Vice Chair be held at the next meeting.

Attendees: Julie Hapeman, Nissan Bar Lev, Zarina Mohd-Shah, Colleen Kickbush, Tracy Stanislawski, Cheryl Orgas, Wendy Leising, Martha Benninger, Ben Jones, Lisa Misco, Kate Griffin, Dawn Soto

Off-site Attendees: Pete Zammuto, Kay Rhode, Meghan Fredel attended using Zoom.

DPI updates

Dan Wenzel shared an update from Barb Van Haren welcoming new members to the Advisory Council

Welcomed the new WSBVI Principal Julie Piper, who served as a principal in the Dodgeville School District for the past 25 years.

OSERS Update: Thanks to everyone (educators and families) Wisconsin was found to meet the requirements and purposes of Part B of the IDEA.

Outlined the [Families Matter Stories](#) from the National Center of Deaf-Blindness.

Outlined the 2019-21 Biennium Budget. Governor Evers has presented the budget as an investment in our children and schools and has used his partial veto power to increase funding available to schools for a total increase is \$572 Million (\$570 Million for Schools and \$2 Million for libraries). The budget takes the state investment in Special Education from 25% to 30%.

Superintendent Carolyn Stanford-Taylor appreciates the advice of the advisory council regarding O&M Licensure, including permitting applicants to obtain certification from NCOMA as an additional option for renewal.

Concordia has submitted a proposal to DPI to administer a Teacher of the Visually Impaired Preparatory Program.

WCBVI update: Dan Wenzel

1. Carolyn Stanford Taylor - CST visited on Sept. 5th and observed students and learned about APH.
2. Open Mic night in the dorms was a blast
3. 20 students on track team, which is the largest team in years.
4. New Principal – Julie Piper – Dan introduced her but she will be coming to an Advisory Council meeting to introduce herself.
5. Changed the name of campus locations to be more uniform. East Campus and Central Campus. The Principal has a second office in the East Campus in order to be more present for those staff.
6. Julie has solidified a crisis team and response plan to deal with student issues, allowing staff to remain focused on teaching.
7. There are several staff vacancies. WCBVI Administration is working to be sure to meet short-term needs, while making long-term plans.

8. Dorm Renovations in Woodruff Hall. The plan is to move in by Jan 2020.
NB commented on how it is great to have a new principal and a center director.

WCBVI Outreach Update: Dawn Soto

Discussed her role as the Ex Officio Trustee for the Statewide APH accounts. Made some changes to the process.

1. APH gave notice of an end of fiscal year extra fund disbursement.
2. Asked to have APH loan items returned if not in use. This allows students who either do not qualify for APH funds, or are waiting to be added to the next APH Census, to have access to APH materials.
3. Expanded the High Cost Item loan term from 6 months to one year, which will allow the student to use it for the entire school year.
4. NIMAS needs were discussed for statewide print disability needs that WCBVI Outreach doesn't address (as Outreach only addresses the blind/low vision needs). Staff from CESA 2 will be going to the APH Annual Meeting to gain insight.
5. Contracts and CESA for educational support. Connect with RSN's for digital content and some of the CESA's are already working in this area.
6. Discussion on new braille book requests (transcription requests). Worked with a request from November with APH and was able to have APH produce the book for a better price. Currently the district book request deadline is April 1st. This isn't enough time for sourcing books that have already been transcribed, and definitely not enough time for new transcription requests.
7. When APH discontinues an item, we can give those items to stakeholders. Julie Hapeman stated this was a good program. Question from Julie to Dawn about what other items can be requested - Matt Connect was mentioned. Weekly updates could say what is available for checking out.

Other Outreach Program Updates

1. EmployAbility Summer Program was successful. Dave Ballmann and Meghan Fredel coordinate this program, which focuses on independence for participants.
2. Short Course – Meghan Fredel is currently the only instructor. She is dual-certified, and is working with other Outreach professionals on the programming.
3. Dave Ballmann and Dave Hyde are the Outreach Parent Liaisons. Rita Fuller is the Family Engagement Coordinator. They will be working together on enhancing the curriculum.
4. Outreach is offering Goalball workshops in school districts as requested.
5. Each CESA has a school improvement program.
6. Kay Rhode and Alisha Ragainis have run several PST events this year. They also have continued the Vision Professionals mentoring program.
7. Do Textbook Publishers have to provide Braille books? Dawn – the answer is Yes and No, and it is not out of the box. Julie H – should textbook publishers provide Braille at their cost? Nissan Bar Lev - Is there a move to get this done? Americas Treaty? Julie H – Accessible Standard is not easy to get passed. Cheryl Orgas – speaking from the ABLE perspective, production is time consuming. Nissan – stakeholders groups would be a good place to start the movement. Martha Berninger – Talk to Kurt Keifer to gain support for legislative. Cheryl O - Art

Braille production is pricy and we need some new standard pricing criteria.

Higher Ed Aids Board: Pete Zammuto

Loan programs for \$10,000/year for O&M certificate. Loan is totally forgivable. Requirement - Must work in the state of WI for 3 years. Two schools offer the programs in WI. Other eligible programs are Illinois State, NIU, and Western MI University. Popular – Distance Learning Program, onsite sometimes. Eastern MI has a program. We would like other states to offer this. The fund is 99,000. (9 or 10 students). Dawn Soto noted that loan forgiveness amounts are prorated if there are more students.

Council Guidance: DPI Chief Legal Counsel - Ben Jones

1. Roles and Responsibilities of Council – Defined by Carolyn Stanford Taylor so Advisory Council crystallized the policies and bring those to CST. Councils are a forum for the exchange of ideas, which can be shared with Carolyn.
2. Parliamentary Procedure. How do we obtain information. Reports to the State Superintendent should be from the Council, not any specific person, and be presented with the Council Chairperson signature. Minutes get adopted and approved then will be posted. Motion is presented, someone will move and then a second person will move. This should be documented in the minutes. Discussion continues, and there can be amendments, first and second motion. Motion to close debate, No more discussion. Motion to adopt the report, any further debate, then Yay or Nay.
3. Roberts Rules document:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ciQ6bc0p3TTHgVlwSFQpaTqJK2NN3Xhu/view?usp=sharing>
4. Role Call vote has to be requested by two people and read off name of each individual and they say Yay or Nay and it must be seconded, discussion and once discussion is ended, Chair restates the motion on what is being voted. The vote is run by the chair. Only defined members of the Council can vote.
5. What kinds of topics should be involved in the Advisory Council? DPI is the executive. Identify a problem as a Council and decide to take it up to CST.
6. Confusion with By Laws – CST establishes policies and procedure. By-laws will be incorporated into policies and procedures by CST.
7. By-Laws document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eHeT-QyrQP0jI9dcXSxJO5jxvSvpMfsB/view?usp=sharing>
8. Required members are listed in the Policies and Procedures document:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AnR16R7FbA-NdOuje_bQdkrPuWcsWMFK/view?usp=sharing
9. PowerPoint –
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pyPVMcbMOwNlt9PirUtXdSc6_fyVjpL1/view?usp=sharing
10. Giving notice to the districts 45 days ahead. Letterhead going out with specific dates from Dan Wenzel.

Libraries Update:

Zarina Mohd-Shah – Talking Book and Braille Library

1. Downloads on Demands BART – Reminder of one talking book per patron.
2. Finances – happy with state funding – 2 million dollars. Milwaukee – million dollar cut. Not

going to be affected by Milwaukee budget because we are state funded.

3. National library services visited and they want to send people for professional development.
4. Work with WCBVI to sign up with the state. Also working with ABLE. Print Braille and audio done by ABLE. No staff is trained on JAWS. Fiction and Non-Fiction, leisure reading. Maybe bring someone in from CESA for information. WCBVI – folks go to Michelle Rueckert for the library books. Materials for visually impaired.

Martha Berninger – Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning

1. Badger link resources will be out this weekend. Back up again 9/30/19.
2. July a call for a Badger Link group to discuss content and how to use the Badger Link resources. Initial council with an eye toward equity. Recruits for this are needed and looking to Advisory Council to share anyone who will want to be on this.

Council Vacancies:

Dan Wenzel read the required positions and the vacancies. Nissan Bar Lev thinks a teacher from Janesville would be able to take one of vacancies. Licensed substitute teacher as well would be good for the vacancies. Perhaps Concordia members. Legally Blind – is that a requirement?

Unfinished Business – Next meeting vote in a chair and vice chair.

Announcements – All meetings go from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with lunch included

1. Dec 11, 2019 Madison Resources
2. March 4th Department of Public Instruction Room 041 – 125 S. Webster St., Madison WI
3. June 3rd - Janesville; 1700 W. State St., Janesville, WI.

Tour of Vision Forward facility – CK, JB

Adjournment

Resources within the minutes documents:

1. [Roberts Rules](#)
2. [By Laws](#)
3. [Policies and Procedures](#)
4. [PowerPoint](#)