

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019

Members Present

Bob Kresmer, Chair
Ed House
Doris Woltman
Lisa Yencarelli

Members Absent

Jared Kittelson
Lisa Jackson
Julie Urban

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of December 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Doris Woltman motioned to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2018 meeting. Lisa Yencarelli seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

High Stakes Test Score Collection Discussion

This item was tabled.

Early Childhood Activities Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) Feasibility Study Phase 1 had been distributed to committee members and inquired whether committee members would like to provide feedback on the study. Lisa Yencarelli stated the Feasibility Study was developed to review the residence hall at ASDB and did not reflect ASDB's education. Bob

Kresmer stated the study indicated that ASDB could not close the residence hall if there were not sufficient resources for students in their home districts. Mr. Kresmer stated the study indicated that the school experienced challenges in hiring teachers to work in rural areas and would continue to have those difficulties. Bob Kresmer added that a majority of students that resided in the dorms were from the Native American populations and would not have other resources in those rural areas. Doris Woltman stated she attended a Supervisor Summit and Annette Reichman, ASDB Superintendent, stated that ASDB was considering offering virtual instruction for students in rural areas. Bob Kresmer stated he had been in communication with a family in Flagstaff that was considering virtual instruction. Lisa Yencarelli stated that ASDB was seeking to identify other states that used virtual instruction as a method for providing services to students in rural areas.

Bob Kresmer stated that when the Individualized Education Plans (IEP) indicated that students should be educated with their like peers, the deaf and hard of hearing students were affected most. Mr. Kresmer inquired whether ASDB would consider a model similar to the Prescott Valley model, where students from several different schools were transported to one school. Lisa Yencarelli stated that deaf and hard of hearing students should be educated with their like peers when learning language, or American Sign Language (ASL). She noted that often the least restrictive environment was not the general education classroom because those students benefitted from being able to communicate with their like peers. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB was considering a similar model in the East Highland area. Lisa Yencarelli stated that ASDB was considering a similar model in the East Highland area, although the process to establish those programs were quite lengthy. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the travel time for students. Doris Woltman stated that areas such as Sierra Vista and Casa Grande served students in other areas, although she was unsure regarding their travel times. She added that the students could choose which school they would like to attend. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the name of the model where students from several school districts would attend one school. Doris Woltman stated she was unsure regarding the name of the model, although the practice was common in smaller communities. Bob Kresmer stated that those schools would still need Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVI) in the rural areas. Doris Woltman stated ASDB did not serve every school district, unless those school districts entered into agreements with ASDB. Ed House stated he was unsure whether ASDB had indicated a preference in the Feasibility Study regarding the potential closure of the residence hall. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that ASDB was gathering information to be presented to the Board of Trustees as the Phase 1 of the study.

Youth Transition Program Discussion

Bob Kresmer inquired whether Lisa Yencarelli participated in the Transition Program presentations. Doris Woltman stated she attended the presentations by SAAVI Services for the Blind, Colorado, Minnesota, and Foundation for Blind Children (FBC), which all provided great presentations. Doris Woltman stated she was unable to confirm whether students had been signed up for the Transition programs. Bob Kresmer stated that Doris Woltman could contact Beverly Reghabi, a Supervisor in Phoenix, who would have that information. Lindsey Powers stated she would forward Ms. Reghabi's contact information to Doris Woltman.

Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is TDB. Agenda items are as follows:

- High Stakes Test Score Discussion
- Early Childhood Program Discussion
- Youth Transition Program Discussion

Announcements

Bob Kresmer announced that SAAVI Services for the Blind would hold a Family Retreat in April for parents and siblings and would provide transportation, food and lodging to attend the retreat.

Public Comment

A call to the public was made with no responses forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Lisa Yencarelli motioned to adjourn the meeting; Doris Woltman seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.