

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
September 19, 2017

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer\*, Chair  
Ed House\*  
Lisa Yencarelli\*

**Members Absent**

Julie Urban  
Jared Kittelson

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin Asst.  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

Doris Woltman\*

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of August 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The August 1, 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

**Education Committee Activities**

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI was interested in ensuring that all high stakes testing were accessible to blind and visually impaired students. Mr. Kresmer noted that the council received testing scores from the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), although the council had not received testing scores from blind and visually impaired in schools statewide. Lisa Yencarelli stated ASDB had access to student scores that ASDB served, although the council would need to request additional data from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Bob Kresmer inquired whether all blind or visually impaired students test scores would be tracked by the ADE. Lisa Yencarelli stated the scores would be tracked by any blind or visually impaired student with an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Mr. Kresmer stated the GCBVI had been asked to support the ASDB Superintendent's request for 1.6 million in additional funds to support the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP). He noted that the council would need to know how the additional 1.6 million differed from the \$800,000 additional funds requested previously. Bob Kresmer stated he

would welcome the individual responsible for the funding request to attend an Education Committee meeting, and the committee could then report to the GCBVI Full Council. Lisa Yencarelli inquired whether the council was interested in knowing specific information about the bill. Bob Kresmer stated the council was interested in knowing why ASDB increased the amount requested to 1.6 million and how would the AZEIP activities be improved with the additional funds.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether Doris Woltman's outreach program would be extended to all of the co-operative schools. Lisa Yencarelli stated ASDB was in the process of expanding the Braille production program and she anticipated that the program would become a statewide initiative. Doris Woltman, ASDB, stated ASDB was interested in incorporating more technology into the classrooms to allow the students to engage with their peers and teachers in the classroom. Bob Kresmer stated several years prior, ASDB held a week-long Summer Seminar where teachers were invited to stay in the dorms and receive instruction and hands on experience using different technologies. Mr. Kresmer inquired whether ASDB would be interested in a similar program where the teachers could gain hands on experience using different technologies. Doris Woltman stated she had not participated in the summer program, although her understanding was that teachers did want more technology instruction. Ms. Woltman stated the school invited technology vendors to the schools to provide that training. Bob Kresmer stated about eighteen teachers attended the summer program and the responses to the training had been favorable. Doris Woltman stated ASDB could identify some teachers that were proficient in technology and expand their roles to cover schools without access to technology training. Bob Kresmer stated some teachers did express disinterest in attending a week long summer program immediately following school and already had summer vacation plans. Doris Woltman inquired regarding the types of technology that teachers were interested in learning about. Bob Kresmer stated teachers were interested in training devices such as iPads, Braille Apex, and Braille Touch. Bob Kresmer stated some teachers were reluctant to introduce new technologies into the classrooms if those teachers did not feel proficient in the technologies. Doris Woltman stated ADSB had technology teachers in the classrooms to assist the teachers with technology for the teachers and the students.

Bob Kresmer stated Annette Reichman, ASDB Superintendent, indicated that ASDB hired subject matter experts to teach the classes and that the teachers of the blind and visually impaired supported the subject matter experts. Bob Kresmer inquired whether that new program was successful. Lisa Yencarelli stated she did not have data to support the program, although the school had started to gather data. Ms. Yencarelli stated

anecdotally, the program was working well, especially in the high schools, where the schools required teachers with knowledge of upper level classes. Lisa Yencarelli stated ASDB interviewed several students to obtain feedback and noted the majority of students were successful because they had access to the General Education classes. Bob Kresmer stated in order for the GCBVI to fully support ASDB, the council would be interested in receiving the data. Lisa Yencarelli stated Lisa Jackson was developing an agency profile and Ms. Yencarelli agreed to inquire regarding the information included in the profile. Bob Kresmer stated the council was interested in learning the successes of the students in their own school districts. Bob Kresmer noted the council would need information to support ASDB's request for additional funding when advocating with the Legislature. Ed House stated the GCBVI Strategic Plan included the council's need for data in order to identify the items that the council would support. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB required GCBVI support on any other items. Doris Woltman stated ASDB did not require support, although both organizations should continue to communicate and collaborate. Ms. Woltman stated ASDB hoped to better prepare students for graduation so that students did not required as many post-graduation services.

### **Workgroup Activity Discussion**

This item was tabled.

### **Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The date of the next Education Committee meeting would be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- Education Committee Activities

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm.