

**Draft**  
**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 13, 2021

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Doris Woltman  
Lisa Yencarelli  
Julie Urban  
Colin Wong

**Members Absent**

Lisa Jackson  
Ed House  
Jared Kittelson

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of September 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Lisa Yencarelli motioned to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2020 meeting. Julie Urban seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Bob Kresmer stated that since the last committee meeting, the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) had occurred as well as the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) IEP seminar. Colin Wong stated the NFB Education Committee held an IEP seminar in which 25-30 individuals attended. He noted the Zoom recording of that meeting had been converted into distributable material for individuals unable to attend the training. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that VRATE had good attendance, which included many teachers and families. Lisa Yencarelli stated the virtual format allowed more teachers and families to attend the conference. Colin Wong stated he provided assistance to the vendors

participating in the exhibit halls and he encouraged vendors to provide speeches during the general session.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Procedures**

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI had developed a workgroup to discuss the COVID-19 vaccination procedures and to provide updates as they were received. Mr. Kresmer noted that many individuals were required to visit the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) website to create a profile and to schedule a date and time to receive the vaccine. Bob Kresmer stated the ADHS was adhering to national guidelines regarding the categories and order that individuals were eligible to receive the vaccine. Bob Kresmer stated that each county had different processes, although everyone was to use the same ADHS website, which was mostly accessible. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the Tucson Unified School District was offering its own vaccination center for teachers and staff and inquired whether the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) would offer something similar. Lisa Yencarelli stated ASDB staff were state employees, and they had received instruction regarding using the ADHS website to schedule appointments for vaccinations. Ms. Yencarelli stated ASDB staff were located statewide, and she was unsure whether the organization would consider a centralized vaccination site. Bob Kresmer stated that according to national news, the CDC was reconsidering the classifications and potentially opening appointments to individuals over 65. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Lisa Yencarelli or Doris Woltman had received any calls from parents inquiring about when they could receive the vaccine. Doris Woltman and Lisa Yencarelli stated they had not received any communication from parents. Bob Kresmer stated he had received calls from parents that were confused regarding the classification of the categories, although he would learn more at the next workgroup meeting.

### **Braille Materials for Students Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated he was contacted by a parent in Tucson, indicating that her child had not received any Braille materials in months, and inquired whether any committee members had heard about that. Lisa Yencarelli stated that Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) provided Braille materials for the state. Lisa Yencarelli stated the Braillists at ASDB were working hard to distribute Braille materials to students and to keep up with the higher demand for teachers that were using different methods to get the information to the students. Ms. Yencarelli noted that some materials that were sent through the mail could be delayed as well. Bob Kresmer stated he also heard from parents that their children were experiencing Zoom fatigue and some students would log into class and walk away from the computer.

He noted he also heard that some students had to share devices with other family members also attending classes virtually. Doris Woltman stated that ASDB districts gave out Chromebooks to all students and she had not heard of any families having to share devices. Lisa Yencarelli stated that she had heard some charter schools were asking students to share devices if they did not have enough, although ASDB would work with families to ensure that students could access the information.

### **ASDB Update**

Bob Kresmer inquired how students on reservations were able to participate in their classes. Lisa Yencarelli stated ASDB worked with families on the reservations to provide access. She noted that families were given hot spots, or students could live in the dorms during the Fall to access their classes virtually from the dorms. Lisa Yencarelli stated that students needing to access the dorms would be able to return to campus on January 18<sup>th</sup> and would attend classes remotely. Colin Wong stated that some students and teachers reported challenges with engaging the students virtually. Bob Kresmer inquired whether any schools had tentatively scheduled dates for returning to the classrooms or whether they would remain a mixed of virtual and in person learning. Doris Woltman stated some schools would continue to provide virtual learning until the end of the month, although the dates could change due to the pandemic. Ms. Woltman noted that some special education students were able to receive restricted in person school for a couple days of the week. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the buses continued to provide transportation to students. Doris Woltman stated the buses did provide transportation. Bob Kresmer stated he would be interested in receiving an update regarding the possible endorsement from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for individuals to become TVIs without the required education. Colin Wong stated the ADE met to discuss a potential endorsement, although he had not heard of a final decision.

### **High Stakes Testing Discussion**

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the high stakes testing were still on hold. Lisa Yencarelli stated that schools had received a waiver for the previous school year and were not required to offer testing. Ms. Yencarelli stated that schools would hear more from the new Secretary of Education on whether schools would receive another waiver or would be required to offer testing.

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

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

- ASDB Update
- High Stakes Testing Discussion

## **Announcements**

Bob Kresmer reminded committee members that the GCBVI had moved to quarterly meetings, and the next meeting would be in February instead of January.

## **Public Comment**

A call to the public was made with no response's forthcoming.

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Lisa Yencarelli motioned to adjourn the meeting. Doris Woltman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.