

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
November 4, 2019

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Ed House  
Jared Kittelson  
Lisa Yencarelli

**Members Absent**

Lisa Jackson  
Doris Woltman  
Julie Urban

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of August 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Lisa Yencarelli motioned to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2019 meeting. Jared Kittelson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**VRATE Presentation Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee had been asked to present at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE), which would take place on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kresmer stated the committee was scheduled to present on Saturday at 9:30 to discuss the Youth Summer Transition program and would distribute flyers and forms. Bob Kresmer stated that staff would be present from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and organizations such as Foundation for Blind Children (FBC), SAAVI Services for the Blind and Blind Inc. Bob Kresmer stated that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors and vendors would be

traveling throughout the state to promote the summer program. Bob Kresmer stated that RSA staff would assist in distributing the information to the Special Education Directors, school districts and the Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVI)s by mid or late November. Bob Kresmer stated that the information packets would include release forms so that a parent could sign a release, and the teacher could share information with RSA about the student. Bob Kresmer stated his hope that the enrollment process would be smoother and quicker. Lisa Yencarelli stated her hope that the process would increase participation. Bob Kresmer stated that teachers, students and parents would be given a deadline of early February to turn in the enrollment information so that teachers and counselors could work together to enroll students in the Youth Summer Transition program. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) campuses or co-operatives would be attending VRATE on Saturday. Mr. Kresmer noted that the VRATE Board hoped that by holding the event on a Saturday, more teachers and students would be able to attend. Lisa Yencarelli stated she had not heard about student participation at VRATE, although she would share information with the campus and co-operatives. Bob Kresmer stated he was unsure whether the VRATE Board had promoted the Saturday presentations, although he would follow up with the Board members. Ed House inquired regarding the date and time of VRATE. Bob Kresmer stated that VRATE was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-4:00 at the Glendale Civic Center, and more information could be found at <https://www.vrateaz.com/>.

Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the planning for the bachelor's level TVI program. Jared Kittelson stated that a group of Arizona State University (ASU) Advisors and Enrollment Counselors toured FBC and learned about the career of a TVI, so they could discuss the career with students. Mr. Kittelson stated that FBC staff attended the Educators Rising Conference and spoke to high school students that had expressed interest in Education and promoted the TVI program. Jared Kittelson stated the program was limited to students that had their Associates Degree and would start the program as Juniors. Jared Kittelson stated that FBC provided presentations to Paradise Valley Community College and hosted on-site classes and tours for students interested in the program. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the minimum number of students that needed to enroll in the program. Jared Kittelson stated ASU wanted at least 4 students to enroll and noted that 2 FBC staff had enrolled in the program. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the FBC staff would enroll in the program as Juniors. Jared Kittelson stated the FBC staff would begin as Juniors. Bob Kresmer stated that a student enrolling in the Masters TVI program was eligible for financial stipends and inquired whether students in the bachelor's program were also eligible for stipends. Jared Kittelson stated students enrolling in the bachelor's program were eligible for

the Teachers Academy Program, which would cover the tuition cost. Lisa Yencarelli inquired whether the classes were offered in person or online. Jared Kittelson stated the classes would be offered in person for the first cohort. Bob Kresmer stated the University of Arizona had received 1.25 million to stimulate the TVI program and another 1.25 million to encourage American Sign Language (ASL) education. Mr. Kresmer inquired whether those funds included teacher preparation training for working with deaf and hard of hearing students. Lisa Yencarelli stated her understanding that the funds were to be used for interpreters and not for teachers, although ASDB would follow-up on that. Bob Kresmer inquired whether committee members would be attending the upcoming VRATE Conference. Ed House stated that if his schedule permitted, he would attend Saturday morning. Jared Kittelson stated that he would not be attending, although 4-5 FBC staff would be attending.

### **ASDB Update**

Lisa Yencarelli stated that she had been out of the office recently, although the ASDB regional co-operatives continued to work on the statewide Braille project and staff were in place and received training on the equipment. Lisa Yencarelli stated that ASDB staff and students received training on HumanWare in Tucson and Prescott Valley. Lisa Yencarelli stated that ASDB would continue to address the teacher shortage and to develop recruitment and retainment processes. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the number of blind and visually students on campus and the co-operatives. Lisa Yencarelli stated that she would obtain that information and report at the GCBVI Full Council meeting. Bob Kresmer stated the council would also like to know whether all the teacher positions had been filled. Lisa Yencarelli stated the campuses were fully staffed, although she would obtain the number of vacancies in the co-operatives.

### **High Stakes Testing Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that there would be changes to the high stakes testing. Lisa Yencarelli stated that she was unaware of the changes, although she could inquire with Lisa Jackson. Ms. Yencarelli inquired whether the test would be changing. Bob Kresmer stated he had heard that there would be a reduction in the importance of the high stakes testing.

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

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be scheduled on January 13, 2020 from 1:00-2:00 in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ.

Agenda items are as follows:

- TVI Program Update
- ASDB Update
- High Stakes Testing Discussion

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Ed House motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Yencarelli seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.