



# Idaho Council *for the* Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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## Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2024, from 10am – 12pm

Virtual Meeting over Zoom

*Transcripts available upon request*

### ATTENDEES

Council Members	Steven Birkby, Emilie Banasiak, Sonny Cabbage, Matthew McGraw, Valerie Player, Dr. Jacob Robison, Dr. Abe Vore <i>Absent: none (quorum = 5)</i>
Ex-officio Members	Brian Darcy (IESDB), Randi Cole (SDE), Kelli Toohill (Idaho TRS), Erin Olsen (ICG), Tabitha Edwards (DOPL) <i>Absent: Brett T. DeLange (AG), Terry Gammel (DOL), Miranda Nelson (ISB), Steven Snow (CDHH), Vacant (VR)</i>
Other Attendees	Jahaira Faber, Leah McElwee, Dawn Wells, Tara Adams, LaVona Andrew Carson (interpreter), Joelynn Ball, Brooke Hazen (student), Phoebe Caringella (student), Stephanie Leazer (student).

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council Chair, Steve Birkby called the meeting to order at 10:09 and welcomed everyone. Introductions and representations were made.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 19, 2023

April 19, 2024 minutes as drafted were reviewed and approved as corrected.

**MOTION** Sonny Cabbage moved to approve the April 19, 2024, minutes; Dr. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Steve Snow

Director Steve Snow is out sick and missing his first meeting in 17 years.

**MOTION** Emilie Banasiak moved to table the Executive Director report until the next meeting; Sonny Cabbage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

#### Brian Darcy, Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind

- New cottages have been approved, 1-2 depending on the budget. Currently our cottages have a waiting list which limits the number of students that can attend ISDB.
- All staff positions have been filled with the exception of 1 interpreter position.
- Raptor Manor Fundraiser: October 24-26 and Oct 30-Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7p-11p. Everyone knows the obvious choice is the old boys dorm but without fire sprinkler system, it isn't safe. There is a Harry Potter Experience since ISDB really is like the Hogwarts of Idaho

- Campus will get a new playground, 3 pickleball courts, and a new rubber track. The old track was taken down to the base which used to be old farm ground and didn't have any drainage so \$75,000 extra gave us sufficient drainage.
- Parking is limited so the front parking lot will be redone, and a new lot will be added north of the admin building.
- New bus barn to warm up the busses. It takes a long time to get them warm enough in the winter.
- 1,700 kids statewide of which 140 are babies. The Deaf Mentor program is doing well along with the Snapshot program which does not have the ASL component.
- Steve Snow is a new member of the IESDB board. He has been a member in the past and its nice to have him back.
- A Treasure Valley Pre-5<sup>th</sup> grade day school is now in exploration, which is driven by the local public, we need the parents to drive it so politicians will listen.
  - Many Treasure Valley parents wont send their kids to campus in Gooding.
  - Looking at location and money which is estimated to almost double the current budget
  - Treasure Valley already has a preschool program which has been in place about 30 years. It has been at Ponderosa Elementary but there are space issues.
  - Used to be a Kindergarten program that did well but we couldn't continue without space for the program.
  - Last spring all school districts were in favor except for Boise and West Ada but feelings are optimistic. If you build it they will come. Valerie Player commented, I wish it was an option for my son at the time, parents will come in droves!
  - There are 110 potential students in the Treasure Valley which would not impact campus attendance in Gooding.

### **Kelly Toohill, Public Utilities Commission/Idaho TRS**

Recently was the NASRA Conference which reconnects us with other state relays. The last one was 2-years ago. Items discussed:

- Nagish AI certified by FCC provides relay services completely run by artificial intelligence.
- Speech to Speech relay services, which Hamilton took the lead on
- Delegates from Japan shared their experiences in beginning their own relay 6 years ago
- Complaint report to FCC were due in January. Total of 6 complaints and they were all voice user complaints.
- Emilie's outreach work becomes very busy in the fall

### **Randi Cole, Idaho State Department of Education**

Budget request was submitted and Superintendent Critchfield is very hands on with the community.

- Special Education keeps coming up
- New formula for funding schools with students that have disabilities which almost doubles funding for each student.
- Checking in with special education instructors and directors to identify other needs
- North Idaho has a Parent Educator pilot program
- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) found our eligibility criteria needed updated. It was a good change making it easier to qualify students but awaiting spring legislature for final approval. With that change, it has been decided to open up the whole manual for updates for the first time in ten years.
- Statewide IEP platform up for renewal and a significant expense around 1 million so it must go through RFP for bids.
- Dispute Resolution has been very busy

### **Erin Olsen, Idaho Commission on Aging**

- Falls Prevention Awareness Month is halfway through and there are 3 more events to go.
- Erin met with Tara & Jahaira in person, on how hearing loss is a part of aging. We are coordinating our websites and adding ASL interpreters to our events.
- Its hard for the blind to learn ASL through traditional methods, something to work on for this niche.
- ICOA is working on a budget for ASL interpreters, trying to get leadership to preapprove the funding so we can eliminate that barrier.
- Deaf Grayhairs would be a good place to advertise ASL interpreters with Falls Prevention Seminars.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Joelynn Ball did not renew her term. Thank you, Joelynn Ball, for many years of service since 2012 and as Council Chair since 2016.
- Welcome Tara Adams to CDHH as the new Human Services Program Specialist.

**ADJOURNED**

Minutes recorded by Dawn Wells

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, November 15, 2024, from 10a -12p over Zoom

DRAFT