

MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at the Communication Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSDHH), 1175 Revolution Mill Drive, Greensboro, NC at 9:43 AM.

Present were:

President – Craig Blevins
Vice President – Donnie Dove
Secretary – Jaime Marshall
Eastern Regional Representative – Linda Nelson

Guests:

NCAD Conference Chairperson,
Laura Herman

Not Present:

Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid
Central Regional Representative – Meredith Kaplan
Western Regional Representative – Vacant

With the approval of the board members present, President Blevins acted as Chairman of the meeting and Secretary Jaime Marshall recorded the minutes.

Meeting Minutes from the last board meeting (8/28/19) was reviewed.

Motion by: Rep. L. Nelson

Seconded by: Vice-President Dove

Vote Count: Majority

Presidents Report:

President Blevins discusses “letter correspondence”, starting with a letter addressing concerns that was initially sent to Interim School Director, Mr. Steve Watts, at NC School for the Deaf on October 31, 2019. After not receiving a response from Mr. Watts for two weeks, the letter was then shared with Barbria Bacon, Superintendent of Education Services for the Deaf and Blind, who did not respond for an additional week. Finally, the letter was forwarded to Beverly Emory, Deputy Superintendent of District Support and CCed to Mark Johnson, State Superintendent of NC Department of Public Instruction. President Blevins received a response within 24 hours. Beverly Emory asked for some time to investigate.

NCAD's initial letter (10/31/2019) will not be included in the Meeting Minutes as it covers sensitive information about students at NC School for the Deaf. President Blevins received a formal response from Beverly Emory on November 20, 2019. In response to Beverly Emory's letter, President Blevins sent another letter on December 5, 2019.

Note: Mr. Mark Patrick is currently the new school director at NC School for the Deaf in Morganton. He began presiding the school on January 6, 2020.

Former Interim School Director, Mr. Steve Watts, has returned to his position: Facility Manager.

President Blevins expresses concerns that the NCSD Administration was restricting visitors from visiting the school campus and not allowing their students to observe state meetings and attend community events.

NC Interpreters and Transliterators Licensing Board held meetings at the Main Building's Auditorium (NCSD campus) over two days in which NCSD students did not attend.

FORUM (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC): Thursday, November 21 at 6 PM

BOARD MEETING (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC): Friday, November 22, 10 AM - 4 PM

The students missed wonderful opportunities to meet Board Members and community leaders who attended both meetings as they were Deaf/Hard of Hearing role models. The students could have been better informed about the Interpreting Licensure and Interpreting laws here in NC.

Morganton Regional Center (NC DSDHH) hosted a Community Appreciation Party on November 21, 2019 at the Hoffmeyer Hall (NCSD campus) and again, the students were not allowed to attend.

President Blevins also discusses there was some resistance shown by the interim school director, Mr. Steven Watts, to display NC Association of the Deaf's info-posters on campus.

Note: Secretary Marshall emailed Mr. Watts on November 7, asking NCAD's info-posters could be displayed next to the "existing NC Disability Rights info-posters" on campus. Follow-up emails were sent, and no response was received.

President Blevins shares that Jan Withers, Director of NC DSDHH, and Marcia Fort, Director of NC EHDI, will be invited to the next board meeting to discuss the existing law, House Bill 317 (Session 2013-119): An Act to Improve Educational Outcomes for North Carolina Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

A special recognition goes out to our 2019 NCAD Conference Chairperson, Laura Herman of Marion. NCAD applauds Laura Herman for doing an exceptional job as our conference was quite successful.

Vice President Report:

Vice-President Dove, who represents NCAD on the NC Interpreters & Transliterators Licensing Board, expresses concerns that “too many renewal extensions” are being given to provisional licensees. Several provisional licensees had their extensions renewed for 7, 8 years when provisional licensees are to have a limit of 3 years.

NCITLB has been working on an additional method on how Deaf/Hard of Hearing consumers can file a complaint. Currently, consumers may snail-mail or e-mail their complaint. The board is seeking a third option for consumers to submit their complaint via video in ASL.

NCITLB plans to update their ASL version on their website: “How to File a Complaint.”

Secretary Report:

Secretary Marshall expresses a serious need for advocacy services. NCAD is providing the same type of services that Beginnings, Early Intervention and Hands & Voices provide. In addition, we advocate all deaf/hard of hearing citizens from cradle to grave. NCAD needs more “manpower” and a full-time secretarial position and a full-time advocate.

Vice-President Dove agrees to start seeking grant writers to find money for advocacy services.

Secretary Marshall shares that she has been putting in a lot of hours, working with Theresa Moss on starting up NCAD’s monthly E-Newsletter. The first issue went out on the first of December. NCAD has over 300 subscribers and finishing the database has not yet been completed.

Social Media Coordinator Report:

Theresa Moss shares that Holidays cards have been mailed out to all conference participants, conference sponsors, NCAD members, DSDHH employees and some community leaders.

NCAD monthly E-newsletter was created by a program called Constant Contact which keeps stats on who has opened their email. The first issue went out on December 1st and will continue to do so on the first of every month.

NCAD Conference Chairperson Report:

Laura Herman, NCAD Conference Chairperson, reports a profit of \$2,298.92 from the 2019 NCAD Conference and \$2,750.00 from sponsorships. Laura Herman agrees to chair the next conference in 2021 and has already started checking on possible locations.

AGENDA TOPIC: 2021 NCAD Conference

Motion: NCAD will have the 2021 Conference alone instead of joining another organization.

Motion By: Rep. Linda Nelson

Seconded By: Theresa Moss

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: SDHHDC

Motion: NCAD sponsors SDHHDC (Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Davidson County) of \$150 for their NYE Party on Dec. 31, 2019

Motion By: Vice-President Dove

Seconded By: Theresa Moss

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: Budget for Social Media Coordinator

Motion: A budget of \$500 for the Social Media Coordinator for the year 2020

Motion By: Rep. Linda Nelson

Seconded By: Vice-President Dove

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: Constant Contact Contract

Motion: NCAD pays \$168.00 for 12-month contract with Constant Contact for our monthly E-newsletters

Motion By: Rep. Linda Nelson

Seconded By: Secretary Marshall

Vote Count: Majority

Meeting Adjourned: 1:33 PM