



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**6:00PM, October 18, 2022**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Al Cavalier, Ann Fisher, Tika Hartsock, Jessica Mensack, Jennifer Pulcinella, Erika Powell and Erik Warner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Weir/ Executive Director and Kathie Cherry/Office Manager

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Trenne Parker

- I. **Call to order:** This meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm by Chair, Ann Fisher. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present, which represented more than 50 percent of persons with a disability or parents of children with disabilities.
- II. **Administrative Actions:** Erik Warner **made a motion** to approve the October Board of Directors meeting minutes with the suggested edits. Al Cavalier seconded the motion. The **motion passed** unanimously with Tika Hartsock abstaining.
- III. **Microsoft Teams Update:** Pam announced that there are still some GACEC members that need to log into their state email addresses. At the retreat, it was discussed that staff will send an email for members to reply if they are unable to log into Teams by December 15. We hope to fully transition to Teams by January 1, 2023. Al suggested that rather than GACEC staff, Committee Chairpersons begin encouraging members to engage in using the Teams space. We will continue to work on resolving issues that members may be having. GACEC staff would like to start uploading the informational emails into Teams for members to view. Al Cavalier recommended that the Board create an organized way to house this information in Teams.
- IV. **Retreat Feedback:** Erik Warner commented that he appreciated all aspects of the retreat. Pam informed members that the final install of the technology package was completed just two days before the Retreat. A DTI representative came out to address the lack of bandwidth we had during the retreat and will be installing a portal for us to hardwire into the internet, so that should not be an issue in the future. Pam asked for feedback regarding the roundtable discussion with the Exceptional Children Research group (Dale Matusevich, Barbara Mazza, Susan Veenema and George Tilson). Tika enjoyed the conversation and felt like it was a change of energy. She

appreciated the transparency and felt it was a step in the right direction that will create better outcomes for children. Erika Powell added that she felt like this was the first time that the ECR workgroup was relaxed and open for feedback. Erik thinks that we have turned a corner and we are ready to work collaboratively. Al Cavalier was impressed that Dale seemed genuine and open to collaboration. Ann Fisher agreed and stated that we should be able to depend on one another to have each other's backs. Al appreciated the conversation with Susan Veenema but felt we may have distracted her from the path she originally intended to share, such as the deep dive of Indicator 4. Jessica agreed with Al's point, but still felt the conversation was a great starting point to build on moving forward. Jennifer Pulcinella appreciated the candid conversation and willingness to jump right in and move forward. Tika thought that Susan may have been given the directive to be responsive to us and allow us to lead the conversation. Pam will be following up with Dale and George to debrief. Jessica suggested it would be helpful to have a one pager that briefly describes each Indicator and how it is broken down, so they are more easily understood for providing advisement. Discussion ensued regarding how we can better support newly appointed GACEC members. Erika Powell would like more information about the work that each issues committee does to stay informed. There was conversation around ways to improve that communication.

- V. **November General Membership Agenda Items:** The Bylaws Revision Ad hoc committee is reviewing the written feedback the Council office has received regarding the GACEC Bylaws revised draft. Ann stated that the committee is authorized to incorporate changes that both improve the operation of the Council and the clarity of the document. At the November meeting, Al Cavalier will highlight the new changes and entertain any questions about those changes and the document as a whole. After the November Council meeting, staff will send out the updated draft with the changes highlighted. Council will vote on the new updated Bylaws at the January General Membership meeting. Al Cavalier **made a motion** to present the revised Bylaws along with some changes prompted by members' written feedback to the Council at the November GACEC meeting to be voted on at the January meeting. Erik Warner **seconded the motion**. The **motion passed** unanimously. Tika would like to have Dale talk about summer learning opportunities at the November meeting. Ann asked that Tika reach out to Pam to further discuss this issue.
- VI. **Teacher Shortage Issues:** Pam noted that she spoke with Dale regarding teacher shortage issues. Dale said that DDOE is working on solutions, but he didn't get to speak on it at the retreat. Creating an ad hoc committee is a possibility to look further into this.
- VII. **Lead in Delaware School's Drinking Water:** Pam will send an email out about this issue so we can decide what we would like to do in support.
- VIII. **Adjournment:** Chair Ann Fisher adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

### **New Action Items:**

- Reach out to GACEC members who have not yet logged into their state email and continue to work through technical issues with Teams- GACEC Staff
- Update the Board of Directors on debriefing with Dale and George regarding the retreat- Pam Weir
- Obtain one pagers that briefly describe each Indicator- GACEC staff
- Improve plan for supporting newly appointed members- GACEC Board of Directors/GACEC Staff
- Find ways to increase communication regarding updates of each Issues Committees- GACEC Board of Directors/GACEC staff
- Prepare updated by-laws revision to present at the November GACEC meeting- By-laws ad hoc Committee
- Email Board members to decide how to address teacher shortage issues and lead in Delaware school's drinking water- Pam Weir

### **Action Items Carried Forward from Previous Board Meetings**

- Email the Transition Taskforce brief to Board of Directors?
- Work on the prison education piece of our mandate- Pam Weir and ATS Committee
- Disseminate membership survey once finalized- further discuss what format the survey will be sent in- Membership Committee
- Establish an official policy that clarifies what is expected during a public comment period- formulate a blurb to be read prior that describes our role as the GACEC and that we are not able to assist with individual cases and give the time allowance for speaking- Pam Weir and Ann Fisher