



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)**  
**Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**5:30 PM, November 14, 2024**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Al Cavalier, Bill Doolittle, Ann Fisher, Molly Merrill, Trenee Parker, and Jennifer Pulcinella.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Weir/Executive Director, Theresa Moore/Operations Support Specialist.

**MEETING NOTES:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm. Bill Doolittle made a motion to accept the agenda. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Pulcinella. The motion passed. Jennifer Pulcinella made a motion to approve the August minutes and was seconded by Trenee Parker. The motion passed.

1. Pam informed the Leadership Committee that the State Board of Education approved the changes to Regulations 922, 923, and 925. She expressed concerns about the Department of Education's (DOE) lack of transparency and communication with the State Advisory Panel (SAP). They would not meet with the SAP during public comment or even after public comment had closed. Also concerning is the lack of access to the proposed updates before DOE presented them to the State Board of Education for approval. Bill Doolittle suggested that the Leadership Committee focus on ensuring this doesn't continue with the new administration. As the SAP, there should be a more collaborative relationship with DOE. He also suggested sending a letter of concern to DOE stating that the GACEC is concerned about the changes and non-compliance with the law. Al Cavalier brought forth an idea of possibly meeting with a couple of Legislators who support the mission of the SAP to voice our concerns that the DOE ignores our recommendations. Molly Merrell suggested that each Council member personally invite their Legislator to a meet and greet, where they could get to know the SAP and help turn DOE around to collaborate with us better, as they should.
2. Council discussed ways to improve the feedback process from members. One suggestion was to ask specific members with expertise on the topic to provide feedback instead of a blanket email to the Council.
3. The Leadership Committee discussed the SAP vacancies and the need to fill these positions. The transition process with the newly elected officials affected the application process to obtain new members. Bill suggested that we have regular meetings with the Education Policy Advisor once they are appointed.

4. Pam suggested that the members choose a few things to focus on and become better subject matter experts. Members were receptive to the idea and noted different focus areas for the coming year: Prison Education, DelDHub, the transition piece, and Indicator 4 were some of the options discussed during the meeting. Pam asked members to email staff with suggestions of where to focus to be more effective. They were receptive to creating professional development and eager to learn more to enhance advocacy efforts and knowledge.
5. Pam shared a new format for the Annual Retreat. With the world evolving, we must adapt and provide a better, more accommodating format. The staff has worked on different options, and Lacie will send a proposal to the Leadership Members. Staff would like feedback on the members' options or other suggestions for the Annual Retreat.
6. Pam discussed the need for a set schedule for the Leadership Committee meetings in the future. The staff has been sending out a lot of Doodle polls and trying to schedule meetings, but there has been little response from members. The staff has been working on a set schedule and will be sending that out next week to the Leadership Committee. A confirmed set schedule would give everyone advance notice for meetings so they can plan accordingly and, if needed, choose a designee to take their place.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ann Fisher officially adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm.

#### **NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Council members will send two to three focus areas or indicators for the Council to prioritize by November 22nd to the staff.
2. Pam will contact Legislators to gather information on their priorities and ongoing initiatives.
3. Pam will request a meeting with Governor-elect Matt Meyer and his team to discuss the Council's role and membership process. This meeting will also include the Leadership Committee members.
4. Pam will send the Committee the outline she presented at the Retreat for creating professional development around IDEA. Pam asked Council members to consider their expertise and passions and contribute as subject matter experts to create a professional development plan, including training, materials, and possibly webinars. This plan could be used for Council members' and legislators' education on IDEA.
5. Provide feedback on the Annual Retreat proposal from staff.
6. Staff will send out the proposed Leadership Meeting schedule next week for feedback.

#### **OLD ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Pam is working to draft a plan to work with the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education. That plan will develop as new State leadership is put in place.
2. Bill suggested that we set up an opportunity for the Registrar of Regulations to come and present to the Leadership Committee. We want to be clear on the statutory process.