



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)
Leadership Committee Meeting
6:00 PM, November 6, 2025
VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Cavalier, Bill Doolittle, Ann Fisher, Tika Hartsock, Jessica Heesh Mensack, Molly Merrell, Trenee Parker, Erika Powell and Jennifer Pulcinella

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Weir/Executive Director and Theresa Moore/Operation Support Specialist

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beth Mineo and Stefanie Ramirez

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Pam Weir confirmed there was a quorum. Molly Merrell made a **motion** to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Trenee Parker. The **motion was approved** with unanimous consent. Jen Pulcinella made a **motion** to approve the September 2nd meeting minutes with the changes Al Cavalier presented. Trenee Parker seconded the motion. The **motion was approved** with unanimous consent. Jennifer Pulcinella made a **motion** to approve the Leadership Committee meeting schedule for FY 25-26. Trenee Parker seconded the motion. The **motion was approved** with unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment tonight.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MOTIONS:

GACEC supports the invitation from the Redding Consortium to conduct a workshop to understand the impacts of each of the redistricting plans on students with disabilities and the need for guardrails which may mitigate risks.

Moved by Al Cavalier

Seconded by Jennifer Pulcinella

Members voting yes: Ann Fisher, Al Cavalier, Bill Doolittle, Tika Hartsock, Jessica Heesh Mensack, Molly Merrell, Erika Powell, Trenee Parker and Jennifer Pulcinella.

The motion passed

GACEC Leadership Committee endorses the intent of the ICMCE Ad hoc Committee's letter regarding Nursing and students with Complex medical conditions.

Moved by Al Cavalier

Seconded By Tika Hartsock

Members voting yes: Ann Fisher, Al Cavalier, Bill Doolittle, Tika Hartsock, Jessica Heesh Mensack, Molly Merrell, Erika Powell, Trenee Parker and Jennifer Pulcinella.

The motion passed

CHAIR REPORT:

By-Laws update.

- We have identified a need to clean up the way the GACEC operates/conducts meetings.
- Asked the committee for volunteers to help with the By-Laws clean up at the last meeting.
 - No one volunteered to work on the By-Laws clean up workgroup.
 - Bill Doolittle will draft a clean up to the By-Laws and bring back to Council and Leadership
 - Tonight, Al Cavalier said he would send Bill Doolittle some of the improvements to the By-laws he has been working on for the last couple of years.

Triage Protocols.

- All the Committee chairs are supposed to be at the Leadership meetings.
- Prefers the real work to be done by the Committee of Jurisdiction and brought to the Leadership Committee.

Redding Update.

- Had a brief meeting with Matt Denn.
- Planning to have a workshop on the impact of the district redistricting plans on students with disabilities in the first week of December.
- The plan is to get as many stakeholders, Special Ed Directors, Special Education Teachers, Advocates, Advocacy organizations and parents in the same room to discuss the impact on and needs of children with disabilities.
- Plan is to get the venue in New Castle County.

DISCUSSION:

The leadership committee met to discuss and improve meeting minutes format, with a focus on standardizing documentation and addressing ambiguous language in the records. The group discussed concerns about student capacity, disabilities representation, and redistricting plans, while also endorsing a letter regarding nursing services for students with complex medical conditions. The conversation ended with plans for future agenda items including OSEP funding updates, Infinite Campus issues, and determinations letter, along with discussions about teacher attrition and charter school special needs status.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:15 pm.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

- Staff: Schedule meeting to discuss meeting minutes format
- Pamela: Send out budget hearing dates to leadership committee
- Pamela: Work with Bill on reviewing and supporting Disability Rights Delaware's public comment on agency budgets
- Bill: Draft bylaws updates and send to leadership committee for review and comments
- Bill: Organize workshop on Reading redistricting impact on students with disabilities for first week of December
- Bill: Reach out to PIC, DSEA, and special ed directors to communicate about the Reading workshop
- Bill: Secure venue for Redding workshop, preferably hybrid and in New Castle County
- Bill: Work with Pamela on budget statement for November 20th budget hearing
- Al: Send notes on bylaws problems and ambiguities to Bill for consideration
- Jessica: Provide monthly update blasts for membership and ICMCE committees for board packages
- ICMCE Ad Hoc Committee: Send letter regarding nursing and students with complex medical conditions to technical groups, Dale, school health services, and Medicaid
- Dale: Provide updates at November DOE meeting on: OSEP funding reduction, DOE contracts, Infinite Campus comprehensive update, and determinations letter
- Staff: Maintain conference room equipment upstairs with Advantech to resolve technical issues before November meeting