

**Illinois Gifted Advisory Council Meeting**  
**April 21, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**V-Tel Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

**Illinois State Board of Education**  
**Alzina Building**  
**100 North First Street**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, V-Tel Room**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

**Illinois State Board of Education**  
**James R. Thompson Center**  
**100 West Randolph**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Floor, V-Tel Room**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**WELCOME &  
ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Beltchenko called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. All Council members were present along with Marci Johnson.

**Gifted Advisory Council Members Present in Chicago**

Ms. Laura Beltchenko, Chairperson  
Ms. Diane Beedy

**Gifted Advisory Council Members Present in Springfield**

Mr. Rob Dorman  
Mr. Terry Mohaupt  
Ms. Diana Rea  
Dr. Sally Thomson  
Dr. Sally Walker

**Others Present in Springfield**

Ms. Marci Johnson

**APPROVAL OF  
THE MINUTES**

Ms. Beltchenko moved that the Illinois Gifted Advisory Council hereby approve the minutes for the January 15, 2015 meeting. Ms. Beedy seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**GIFTED  
ENDORSEMENT  
UPDATE**

Ms. Johnson informed the Council members that the Illinois State Board of Education now has a new superintendent; his name is Dr. Anthony "Tony" Smith. Dr. Smith will assume the position of State Superintendent of Education on May 1, 2015 after Dr. Christopher Koch leaves the position on April 30, 2015. We also have a new State Board Chairman, James Meeks, and four new State Board Members: Lula Ford, Craig Lindvahl, Eligio Creda Pimental and John Sanders.

Ms. Johnson updated the Gifted Advisory Council members on the Gifted Education endorsement. She noted that as of March 20, 2015 there were 3,922 endorsements applied for; keeping in mind that some people applied for two or more endorsements. A total of 1,097 endorsements were issued; 1,979 are deficient but that does not mean they are not qualified, it means they were reviewed before all the seminars and institute information was loaded into the system. There are 837 that need to be reviewed to find out which ones are actually deficient. Most of these deficiencies could be because of tests not taken or people do not have junior high or middle school endorsements. Ms. Johnson shared a breakdown of the number of endorsements applied for per area.

To date 1,085 have passed the test, 31 have failed it, and 2,860 have not taken the test but still have a year to do so.

**STATE OF GES  
(GIFTED  
EDUCATION  
SEMINAR)**

Ms. Diane Beedy updated the Council on the Gifted Education Seminar Trainer Training. Training is continuing through the summer by webinar. The trainers must do the webinars in order to be kept on the list of approved trainers. The webinars will come to them live or by recording and we will be able to track who has checked out the recorded version. The trainers should have the next two months to complete the webinars so that they can be completed before school starts.

Ms. Beltchenko and Ms. Johnson reminded the Council members to be thinking of ways to communicate the webinar information directly to the teachers.

**ED LEADERS  
NETWORK (ELN)  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
PRESENTATION  
BY ARLIN  
PEEBLES**

Ms. Johnson introduced Arlin Peebles, Online Professional Development Director from the Illinois Principals Association. Mr. Peebles stated that the Illinois Principals Association has partnered with the Illinois State Board of Education to provide access to the Ed Leaders Network (ELN) for all Illinois public school administrators. ELN's mission is to provide educators the professional development content and capacity building professional network needed to do what's best for students and learning community.

Mr. Peebles gave a demonstration of how the ELN Network can be accessed and the 263 different content items it contains. He explained that the network contains content on the Learning Standards, Classroom Management and more Teaching Instructional type content.

Mr. Peebles pointed out several features and ways in which the ELN could be used:

- ELN can be used for state mandated training by staff in the districts.
- ELN will allow us to put professional development related to gifted education out to all administrators and staff receiving priority services.
- ELN access is also provided to all staff within school districts receiving priority services through the Statewide System of Support. ELN access will continue to be provided to these groups through 2017, pending annual appropriation.
- Everyone from Illinois completing an ELN video will be required to complete an ISBE evaluation. After completing the evaluation, they will receive in their e-mail evidence of completion, but at this time the school districts are issuing the ISBE approved certificate of completion.

Mr. Peebles commented that ISBE Licensure and the IPA are still working on getting the completion information they have received from teachers to the ELIS system.

Mr. Peebles informed the Council members that September and October would be available to do a one hour gifted webinar if they were interested. Ms. Johnson asked that the Council members to think strategically about what professional development information on gifted they would like to put on the ELN website.

**BREAK/  
RECONVENE**

Ms. Beltchenko announced that the Gifted Advisory Council members would take a short break at 11:20 a.m. Dr. Thompson, Dr. Walker and Mr. Mohaupt departed at this time to testify at a hearing at the Capitol. The remaining Gifted Advisory Council members returned at 11:30 p.m. and continued with the meeting's agenda.

**“GIFTED ACROSS  
THE STATE”  
POWERPOINTS  
PRESENTED BY  
GIFTED COUNCIL  
MEMBERS**

Ms. Johnson explained that during our October 15, 2014 Gifted Advisory Council meeting the Council members agreed to pick a category and determine from the responses in questions #18 and #19 of the Illinois Gifted Education Survey which category for gifted students' best identifies their needs.

The members agreed to have their summaries ready for today's April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Below are the categories chosen by each Council member that best identifies the needs of gifted students?

**Categories for Identifying Needs of Gifted Students**

**Identification - Mr. Terry Mohaupt**

Mr. Mohaupt's summary included that districts identify students in different ways and in different grade levels. Some districts do not identify as gifted but as high level learners

**Curriculum and Instruction – Ms. Diana Rea**

Ms. Rea's summary included the following findings concerning Curriculum and Instruction: Who completed the Illinois Gifted Education Survey, what subject gifted students are most often identified in and what types of Instructional Delivery Models districts provide. She also identified by whom most gifted instruction is designed and the different types of gifted professional development that is provided by the districts.

**Program Delivery Model – Ms. Diane Beedy**

Ms. Beedy's summary identified in order the top Instructional Delivery Models from all districts in Illinois, as well as, the top Instructional Delivery Models in Illinois with gifted plans.

**Teacher Selection - Ms. Laura Beltchenko**

Ms. Beltchenko identified the instructional roles that gifted teachers are elected/employed from, and the types of training gifted teachers have received.

**Finance - Mr. Robert Dorman**

Mr. Dorman was able to identify from the survey that 23% of the participants in the survey were concerned about funding

**Evaluation - Dr. Sally Thomson**

Dr. Thomson identified in her summary the different ways in which districts are evaluating their gifted programs.

**Professional Development - Dr. Sally Walker**

Dr. Walker in her summary she was able to identify the lack of professional development in the districts, what types of professional development is needed and the training opportunities that are available for gifted teachers.

**BREAK/LUNCH**

Ms. Beltchenko announced that the Gifted Advisory Council members would take a short break (12:10 p.m.) so that the members returning from the Capitol could get lunch. The Gifted Advisory Council members returned at 12:30 p.m. and continued with the meeting's agenda.

**CONTINUATION  
OF MORNING  
AGENDA**

Ms. Johnson introduced Ms. Amy Jo Clemens, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Improvement who Ms. Johnson had asked to join the meeting.

**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOR EDUCATORS**

Ms. Johnson reviewed with Council members the results of the Gifted Professional Development Survey from the Illinois Association for Gifted Children (IAGC) Conference. The purpose of the survey was to determine what needs gifted educators may have for additional professional development beyond the Gifted Education Seminar (GES).

The Council members decided that a Blendspace would be a good way to get the results of the Gifted Professional Development Survey out to the public. Ms. Beltchenko said she would create a Blendspace collaborative and then share it with the members so that they could create accounts and post items to the Blendspace, as well as links to other useful gifted education websites. The Blendspace would only be available to Council members until they are ready to release it to the public. Ms. Rea suggested that we use the headings that were on our survey. The Council members also agreed to do a webinar.

Ms. Johnson commented that because funding has been cut so much she recommended that the Gifted Advisory Council only meet three times a year. The dates chosen were September 21, 2015, January 11, 2016 and May 2, 2016. If January weather does not permit, the meeting will become a Go-To-Meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Dr. Thomson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Mohaupt seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING  
DATE**

The next Illinois Gifted Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 21, 2015 in v-tel.