

Kentucky School for the Deaf Advisory Board Meeting

March 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Walter “T” Hulett, Jennifer Harris, Clyde Mohan, Michelle Gadberry, Bryan Bowen, Tina Yance, and Anita Dowd

Members Absent: Sharon White, Debbie Haydon and Mike LaFavers

The meeting began at approximately 6:06 pm with a review of the previous minutes. Minutes were approved with that revision.

Presentations:

1. Jay Cloud presented on Education for Employment Program. He noted that data on employment of deaf adults shows a low employment rate overall and that Kentucky has one of the lowest rates. This program teaches the skills of craftsmanship, safety and communication and helps give students job skills that will translate into jobs after graduation. Two students who currently work in the program at Rocky Top Furniture talked about the process of getting their jobs and their experiences working. The students were very engaging and informative. Next year Mr. Cloud has agreements for students to work at Pioneer, Ephraim McDowell and Rocky Top. He is looking for other locations.

2. Walter T. Hulett presented information from the KSD Forum. Board members were given copies of notecards with questions from participants. There were over 300 people at the forum. School administration and deaf leadership gave presentations on various topics. Some of the big questions/comments discussed were:

- Use of ASL at all times
- Ratio of deaf to hearing staff
- Need for role models who are deaf for students
- Problems with facilities
- Public Relations – how do we “advertise” the school

T Hulett noted that he believes in a high ration of deaf to hearing staff and is working with the standards board on alternative methods for teachers to become properly certified. He noted that since the 1970’s there has been a decrease at KSD in students and staff and KSD competes more with the home districts. T stated that he would be meeting with legislators on March 20th to request 15 million for facilities upgrades. He agreed that there is a need to improve the facilities so students want to come to school at KSD.

Options such as getting ASL recognized as a foreign language for hearing students and adding preschool programming may help. T noted that the leadership, advisory board and caucus are all working on the same goals. Our goal is to provide opportunities to our students. We have to share, tell our story so people know why they should come to KSD. We (KSD) must give them the chance to explore career options.

There was some discussion regarding how to get bonding for upgrades and building. There is a facilities committee that will involve teachers and community members that will make those decisions.

A question was also broached about the Helipad. This is being looked into due to concerns about safety.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Gadberry, Secretary