# Minutes

# Iowa Commission for the BlindSeptember 21, 2021

1. Call to order and determination of quorum. The quarterly meeting of the Iowa Commission for the Blind was called to order at 12:00 p.m., by Sandi Ryan, with the following members present: Sandi Ryan, chair, Geneva Jacobsen (12:35 p.m.), member, and Ryan Brems member, which was a quorum. Others in attendance: Emily Wharton, Janice Eggers, Caroline Barrett (AAG), Tyler Swett, Kim Barber, Karly Prinds, Keri Osterhaus, Helen Stevens, Kathy Roat, Cheri Myers, Shawn Mayo, Kathy Roat, Connie Mendenhall, Laura Vargus, Lisa Schneider, Lori Berglund, and Thomas Topping.
2. Public Comment— none.
3. Approval of the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Brems moved and Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
4. Approval of June 8, 2021 board minutes. Mr. Brems moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
5. Table the Board Meeting Calendar for 2022. Mr. Brems moved to table the board meeting calendar until later in the meeting. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
6. Agency Director Report - Ms. Wharton shared:
   1. Any questions on any of the written reports in the packet from the leadership team? Commissioner Brems asked if there was any more information from RSA. Emily stated she had heard from the liaison and were told the report should be out in two weeks
   2. ASK – we were flat funded last year, FY21 and were not able to give any increases. This year SFY22 we were granted our ASK giving us the ability to offer increases and additional funding for our 7th IL teacher, Alyssa Munstermann who is in the OC training center now. For SFY23 a much smaller ASK around performance based increases for staff, construction projects and to keep the budget level. Commissioner Brems had a few questions about the budget. Director Wharton and CFO Myers discussed the SFY budget expenses and how they were determined. Commissioner Brems would encourage more advertising and public relations moving forward, like was done pre-pandemic.
   3. New Orientation Center Program Administrator, Karly Prinds joined the leadership team. Karly introduced herself and outlined the work going on in the center.

Commissioner Jacobsen joined the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

1. Approval Budget Request ASK for SFY23. Mr. Brems moved approval of the budget as presented. Ms. Jacobsen seconded. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of Board Meeting Calendar for 2022 as presented. Mr. Brems moved approval of the Board Meeting Calendar for 2022 as presented. Ms. Jacobsen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Consideration of Closed Session. Ms. Ryan had Ms. Eggers read paragraph 1a from the Code of Iowa, Section 21.5(1)(a) Ms. Jacobson moved to adjourn to closed session. Mr. Brems, seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote: Ms. Ryan, yes; Mr. Brems, yes; and Ms. Jacobsen, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned into closed session at 12:54 p.m. The meeting entered into closed session at 12:57 p.m.

Mr. Brems moved to reconvene into open session. Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting entered open session at 1:36 p.m.

1. Closed Session –
2. Mr. Brems moved that request Item #087, from closed session, be approved a loan. Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Brems moved that request Item #089, from closed session, to approve as a grant. Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brems addressed the committee stating he will continue as a commissioner until April 20, 2023 and finish out my term. My family moved to Florida in August 2021. Thank you for allowing me to continue serving on the commission board.

1. Adjournment – Mr. Brems moved the meeting adjourn. Ms. Jacobsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandi Ryan, Chairperson

Commission for the Blind

Janice EggersSecretary to the Commission/ Executive Secretary

Department for the Blind

/jce