

## Minutes - ASL Advisory Board Meeting 1/12/09

Advisory Board members present:

VJ Advani (Deaf)  
Ana Jensen (Deaf)  
Linda Bontrager (Deaf)  
Peggy Lee LeFors (Deaf)  
Beth Chung (Deaf)  
Deborah ? (hearing)

EPS Employees present:

Susan Tapert (hearing)  
Ellen Carpentier (hearing)  
Lauren Hadley (hearing)

Interpreter:

Name??? (hearing)

4:30 Welcome / Introduction

Susan welcomed everyone, passed out copies of the agenda for the meeting and offered food and beverages which she purchased for the meeting (cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, carrot sticks, celery sticks, ranch dip, and water bottles).

Went around with introductions of all present (see names listed above).

Discussed concerns about only having one interpreter present to voice for all the Deaf Advisory Board

Members. The interpreter informed us she was not pleased to find that she did not have a second interpreter to team with as she had been told would be the case when she accepted the job. She informed us that she would only stay for one hour. Ellen and Susan stepped in to help the interpreter with all the voicing.

4:35 Review Ellen's portfolio (for articulation with SCCC) and provide feedback

Linda Bontrager said she would prefer to see Ellen teach a lesson in person rather than read through her portfolio. Ellen suggested that perhaps she could present a lesson at the April board meeting in order to get feedback from the Deaf Advisory Board members.

Peggy Lee shared that she believes SCCC and EvCC ASL programs have different objectives. She believes EvCC focuses on communication, while SCCC focuses on interpreting. Peggy Lee stated that she believes a hearing teacher cannot teach the same as a Deaf teacher can because hearing teachers have not lived the life like Deaf teachers have. She believes that a Deaf teacher knows in his/her gut if a student who has studied with a hearing teacher in high school really learned ASL as they should have in order to test out of beginning level classes at the college. She believes that rather than test out, these students should re-take beginning level ASL classes from a Deaf teacher.

VJ shared that he believes the real goal is to line up the learning objectives. He has taught in both the college and the high school setting and believes you cannot compare the two. College students are more mature. High school students are immature, have raging hormones, and present a greater challenge in the area of classroom management. Despite these challenges, high school teachers are expected to line up their teaching/ learning objectives with that of college level ASL classes if we are to be articulated.

5:00 What are the current issues in the Deaf community?

Peggy Lee mentioned a conference she attended where they discussed the three levels of Deafness:

1. Deaf 1 – Born deaf to a Deaf family, attended a residential school for the Deaf
2. Deaf 2 – Born deaf to a hearing family, attended a residential school for the Deaf
3. Deaf 3 – Born deaf to a hearing family, mainstreamed in a hearing school

VJ stated to Peggy Lee that this is “old news” to him. Times have changed. The discussion became tense. VJ suggested that we move on and keep things positive.

One board member mentioned -  
D.B.C. (Deaf Bilingual Coalition) vs. AGB (Alexander Graham Bell Association)

5:30 High School workshop – continue discussion from November meeting.

Ideas discussed were working with Barbara Hayes and Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick to offer a workshop

Ana shared that she got connected with Brian - not the right time to set this up with him as his wife is ill.

Discussion on this was cut short as the interpreter left the meeting at 5:30.

Lauren Hadley (hearing) and Deborah (hearing) who do not know ASL chose to leave the meeting since the interpreter was leaving.

5:50 Agenda items for next meeting

The next ASL Advisory Board meeting will take place in Ellen’s classroom at EHS April 27, 4:30pm.

Ellen left at 6:00pm.

Susan stayed to continue conversing with Deaf board members until 8:00pm due to the fact that she was unable to fully participate in the discussions during the meeting because her hands and eyes were occupied with taking notes. Susan shared that she would appreciate the school district providing a note taker for these meetings so she and Ellen can have their hands and eyes freed up to communicate in sign language as needed.