

**COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Representative Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 11, 2014
Philadelphia, PA**

1.0 Call to Order and Parliamentary Items

President Robin Brewer called the Representative Assembly (RA) to order at 12:39 p.m. and introduced Treasurer James Heiden and Executive Director Alexander T. Graham.

Monitors for the Assembly meeting were introduced by the Presiding Officer: CEC Past Presidents Bill Bogdan, Hellen Bogie, Parthenia Cogdell, Mary Ruth Coleman, Marilyn Friend, Mike Grimes, Jerry Hime, Jamie Hopkins, Diane Johnson, Linda Marsal, and Kathy Puckett.

1.1 Report of Documented Representatives and Alternates

112 representatives and alternates from 67 divisions, units and the student representatives were registered. The credentials report was adopted without objection.

1.2 Seating of Additional Representatives and Alternates

Four representatives from 4 units were seated in addition to the documented representatives and attendees. Three additional representatives were seated, for a total of 116 representatives.

1.3 Roll Call

One representative from each unit and the student membership reported their unit and student representatives present. President Brewer then recognized members of the Board of Directors.

1.4 Determination of Quorum

President Brewer reported that a quorum was present.

1.5 Adoption of Standing Rules

Maureen Burness (CA) moved to adopt the Standing Rules. The Standing Rules were adopted as printed.

1.6 Adoption of the Agenda

Cindy Perras (ON) moved to adopt the agenda. The agenda was adopted as printed.

1.7 Presiding Officer Remarks

President Brewer encouraged participation in this and any other RA discussions throughout the year. She advised that, at this meeting, the RA will be led by a professional facilitator and will work in small groups with board members and CEC past presidents serving as small group facilitators. The groups will discuss assumptions about the future and identify member needs in order to inform the Board's work on CEC's 2015-2017 strategic plan.

2.0 Information Items

2.1 Necrology

During the past year, CEC was informed of the passing of the following members:

Rose Ato	Chicago, IL
Talbot L. Black	Carrboro, NC
Diana G. Bohl	Erie, PA
Diane Braddy	Florence, MS
Joseph Cappello	Ewing, NJ
Ann B. Carr	San Francisco, CA
Karleen Ellis	Fredonia, AZ
James J. Gallagher	Chapel Hill, NC
Donald Golden	Montrose, PA
Connie Griffith	Madison, IN
Eleanor Guetzloe	Clearwater, FL
Leroy Kaplan	Deerfield, IL
Janette Klingner	Littleton, CO
Sondra Lettrich	Greensburg, PA
Thomas Lovitt	Seattle, WA
Bernard Marley	Oakland City, IN
Myrtle F. McGinnity	Toms River, NJ
Stacie J. McPail	Hickory, NC
Rita Mulholland	Egg Harbor Township, NJ
Andrew L. Reitz	Arvada, CO
Gene Valles	San Diego, CA
Mary Walsh	Jacksonville, IL
Jamae Warren	Raleigh, NC
Owen White	Redmond, WA
Anita Weintraub	Staten Island, NY

The following names were submitted as additions to the necrology:

Lawrence “Larry” Coleman	Toledo, OH
Judith LaPierre	Simcoe, ON
Martha Mason	Cleveland, OH

The Assembly observed a moment of silence for these members of the Council’s professional community.

2.2 Governance Reports

2.2.1 President’s Report

President Brewer reviewed highlights of her written report which was included as a part of the agenda materials. President Brewer also outlined the actions taken during the Board of Directors meeting held during convention week.

2.2.2 Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer James Heiden reviewed the Financial Status Report, which included information on the FY 2013 financial audit, including income statement and statement of financial position; and status of the FY 2014 Program Plan and Budget. The Treasurer’s Report will be presented for audit.

2.3 Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Alexander T. Graham thanked CEC’s officers, board members, Past Presidents, state/provincial units, divisions and professional staff for a warm welcome.

Graham noted that many professional associations are facing a time of transition. He referenced new staff hired in Membership, Marketing and Communications and Professional Development Services, as well an interim Chief Financial Officer who likely will be in place until the fall. These new staff will be important in helping to move the organization forward.

Graham acknowledged that the organization is facing challenges, as it has in the past, but that there is a plan in place to move the organization out of a deficit environment. The support of members and volunteer leadership is critical in making the transition successful. Graham invited representatives to contact him directly to provide input at any time.

He expressed his appreciation in advance for representatives’ participation in the upcoming strategic discussions.

2.4 Call for Nominations – 2015 Board of Directors

On behalf of Immediate Past President and Nominations Standing Committee Chair Christy Chambers, President Brewer reported that the Nominations Standing Committee was soliciting nominations for the following positions on the Board of Directors: President Elect, Member-at-

Large, Classroom Ranks (1), Member-at-Large Non-Designated (3), Member-at-Large Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups (1), and Student Member. Representatives were encouraged to contact committee members with the names of potential nominees.

3.0 Discussion Items

3.1 Strategic Planning

President Brewer introduced professional facilitator Paul Meyer of Tecker International Consulting. Meyer facilitated the larger meeting to help the Board take advantage of the leadership and subject matter expertise present within the RA to gather information and feedback to inform the development of CEC's 2015-17 strategic plan. The RA worked in small groups, with Board members and the Past President RA facilitators serving as small group facilitators.

Meyer provided a general Introduction to the strategic planning process. The small groups discussed two separate topics: "Creating Assumptions about the Future" and "Identifying Member Needs". After the time allotted for each topic, Meyer called upon random tables to report out.

The notes from each group were collected at the end of the discussion sessions and the assembly was reminded that a report will be made for the Board of the conversations to be used to help CEC leaders in developing the strategic plan. He also provided an email address if anyone wished to submit additional notes or ideas.

3.2 Emerging Professional Issues

President Brewer opened the floor for emerging professional issues.

Judy Shanley (DCDT)

DCDT has concerns about the recommendation in the Professional Standards Workgroup report to do away with division representation within the Knowledge and Skills Subcommittee (K&S) and the consistent time that division representation is part of the subcommittee. DCDT feels the elimination of the K&S work and voices of division representation is not in the best interest of CEC. The process is transparent and democratic and always has been. The mission of CEC is to represent the voices and vision of special education. The Board and Executive Director must consider consistent ways to get the voices of the divisional representation into the standards.

No name given (DPHMD)

This is an exciting time of transition for CEC as it welcomes a new Executive Director, rolls out a new membership model and the review of the organization's effectiveness in serving individuals with exceptionalities and their families, as well as the teachers and other service providers that work with the population. DMPMD encourages the Executive Director, President and Board to consider the impact of the K&S within the process of the Professional Practice and Standards Committee. Regardless of how the

Board decides to restructure the PSPC, DPHMD encourages the Board to ensure that each division is represented in the development of quality knowledge & skills sets and that the process remains collaborative across divisions, and even potentially outside organizations, consistent and cohesive in order to ensure the continuity and quality of these knowledge and skills sets over time.

Sandra Irby (CEDS)

CEDS is also concerned about representation of members on the K&S work committees and encourages continuation of representation on the K&S.

The discussion will be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

3.3 Member Needs and Concerns

President Brewer opened the floor for emerging professional issues.

Barbara Wilcher Norton (OH)

Need for more partnership for mental health support with schools as children's needs become more and more emotional as they face different concerns in the school district. Need to have facilities in the schools to help the students, the teachers and, in some cases, the parents who sometimes don't have the means to get the services they need.

Connie Nielsen (MO)

There are many of districts within their state – and others – that are rural and they are hoping that these co-op districts can take advantage of the 5-member organizational membership within the new tiered membership categories.

Leah Oom (MI)

Michigan is concerned that students were not included in the Representative Assembly this year as they have been in the past. Representative Assembly is a national position for students on their state boards. What is the role of students if they cannot participate in the RA?

4.0 New Business

4.1 Motions and Resolutions

None.

4.2.1 Citation Resolution

Mary Lynn Boscardin of the Council of Administrators of Special Education read the courtesy resolution honoring Anna Henderson. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

4.3.1 – 4.3.4 Courtesy Resolutions

CEC Past President Mary Ruth Coleman read the courtesy resolution honoring James Gallagher. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Jonté Taylor of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders read the courtesy resolution honoring Eleanor Guetzloe. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

CEC Board Members Claudia Rinaldi and Anne Sloboda read the courtesy resolution honoring Janette Klingner. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

President Brewer read the courtesy resolution recognizing the 2014 Convention and Expo. The resolution was adopted unanimously. She then invited Dr. Klingner's daughter's to the head table to receive copies of the resolution and Klingner's Board of Directors name badge.

5.0 For the Good of the Order

5.1 Formal Recognitions by the Presiding Officer

President Brewer recognized Immediate Past President Christy Chambers for her leadership and service as President of the Council in 2013.

She also recognized Russell Gersten, 2013-2014 Program Chair; Laura Receveur, Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Nick Polcini, President of Pennsylvania CEC; members of the Local Arrangements Committee and the Program Advisory Committee; and all the convention volunteers.

On behalf of the CEC Representative Assembly, the Presiding Officer thanked the members of the Representative Assembly Committee, the facilitators and CEC staff for their support and assistance with the meeting.

5.2 Assembly Online Evaluation Form

Representatives were encouraged to complete an evaluation of this meeting, which will be opened following the Convention.

6.0 Announcements and Adjournment

President Brewer indicated that anyone interested in serving on the Representative Assembly committee should submit their name, unit, telephone number and email address to her attention. She also reminded the Assembly that the "Yes I Can" Awards ceremony will take place approximately 30 minutes after the end of the RA Meeting and encouraged representatives to attend to show their support for the award recipients.

Without objection, the Representative Assembly Meeting was adjourned by Presiding Officer Robin Brewer at 5:02 p.m.