

**COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Minutes**

January 18, 2022  
Orlando World Center Marriott  
Orlando, FL

**(Approved March 18, 2022)**

**Unofficial Business: William “Bill” Heller Courtesy Resolution**

In 2021, the Board of Directors passed a motion to change how we present the Courtesy Resolutions, moving them away from the Representative Assembly (RA). CEC is currently working with the Pioneers Division to decide how to present these special honors. However, a courtesy resolution was approved prior to that for the 2021 RA meeting, which did not happen due to COVID.

William “Bill” Heller, a longtime CEC member and Florida resident, passed away in September 2020. The Resolution honoring Dr. Heller was read by Kathy Randolph on behalf of the Teacher Education Division, Charmion Rush on behalf of North Carolina CEC, Jeanna Chandler on behalf of Alabama CEC, Karen Ramlackhan on behalf of Florida CEC, and Past President Diane Johnson on behalf of the CEC Pioneers Division.

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Danielle Kovach, Presiding Officer of the Representative Assembly, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. President Kovach recognized Executive Director Chad Rummel, the members of the Board of Directors and the CEC Past Presidents serving as meeting monitors.

**2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

RA Committee Chair Jennifer Katz-Borrin moved to adopt the agenda. Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was necessary. The agenda was adopted as printed.

**3.0 Working Session: Operationalizing CEC’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan**

Kovach reminded representatives that, in order to maximize the time for the working session, her written report and the Leadership Development Committee’s 2021 Annual Report were posted in the RA’s online community.

Executive Director Chad Rummel provided an overview of the Board-approved Strategic Plan.

**CEC’s Core Values**

Core values inform and are embedded into all of CEC’s work

Visionary Thinking: Demonstrated by forward-thinking and courageous decision-making dedicated to excellence and influence in an evolving environment

Integrity: Demonstrated by ethical and responsive behavior, transparency, and accountability  
Inclusiveness: Demonstrated by a commitment to diversity, caring, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals

### **Operating Principles**

How we ensure the operations of CEC are structured to support the Strategic Plan

Nimbleness: History is valued; continuous improvement is encouraged; governance structures are designed to be adaptive and representative of CEC members

Organizational Effectiveness: Commitment to implementing efficiencies, developing leaders, planning for long-term financial success, and using data to drive decision-making

Valued Partnerships: CEC Divisions, Units, Chapters, Caucuses, Community Organizations, and Corporate Partners are valued contributors to CEC's strategy

The vision, mission, goals and objectives are the public-facing portion of the Strategic Plan.

### **CEC's Vision**

What we desire to see in the world.

High-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities.

### **CEC's Mission**

CEC's role in making our vision happen.

Cultivating, supporting, and empowering education professionals who work with individuals with disabilities by:

- Advocating for education professionals and for individuals with disabilities, and/or gifts and talents;
- Advancing professional practice and scholarly research;
- Promoting diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility;
- Building networks, partnerships, and communities.

### **Goals & Objectives**

Goals are high-level aspirations, while objectives provider a closer breakdown of how we will get there

#### **Goal 1 & Objectives**

Develop and support an effective and diverse workforce of special education professionals

- Provide high-quality support to the pipeline of pre-service and early-career special education professionals
- Define the standard for highly effective special education professionals to inform and guide special educator preparation programs
- Support the retention of effective and diverse special education professionals
- Increase awareness of and provide access to current research and strategies for application

## **Goal 2 & Objectives**

Increase the impact of CEC's policy agenda for education professionals and for individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents

- Provide resources and content expertise to the White House, Department of Education, and other federal agencies
- Maintain a strong legislative footprint with Congress
- Convene and actively participate in education and disability coalitions
- Develop and support a grassroots network of informed advocates

## **Goal 3 & Objectives**

Intentionally embed diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility within CEC

- Ensure internal systems position CEC to be a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible organization free of bias
- Embed diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility in all public-facing work
- Develop and support a diverse CEC membership
- Deliver resources and tools to assist education professionals in serving a diverse body of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents

## **Goal 4 & Objectives**

Establish CEC as a globally recognized leader in the field of special education

- Broaden CEC's position as a premier partner organization
- Enhance CEC's value to current and potential members
- Elevate and promote the work of education professionals who work with individuals with disabilities
- Showcase and celebrate the diversity and expertise of CEC members

The vision, mission, goals and objectives are the public-facing portion of the plan. Internally, there are one-time success metrics determined, which define what success looks like as progress is made on each objective. Annually, an operations plan developed at the Board's July meeting, outlines initiatives and tactics for staff to ensure the metrics are met, and resources are positioned to support the plan through board approval of the Program Plan and Budget at the November meeting.

Representatives were asked to imagine that CEC had no financial restraints, no human resource restraints, and no competing interests and to brainstorm concrete actions that CEC could take to make each one of the goals and objectives come true.

90 minutes was provided for this activity. At the end of the working session, each table was asked to select their top one or two ideas for each goal area. These were transferred to easel pads and posted for representatives to indicate their preferred idea for each goal. This input will be used by CEC to determine initiatives and tactics.

## **4.0 For the Good of the Order and Adjournment**

Kovach thanked the representatives for their ideas and their dedication to the important work that was done.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.