

**COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**January 15, 2022  
Orlando, FL**

**(Approved April 9, 2022)**

**1.0 Call to Order and Official Items**

**1.1 Call to Order**

President Danielle Kovach called the regular meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children Board of Directors to order at 9:04 a.m. ET.

**1.2 Record of Attendance and Determination of Quorum**

Executive Director Chad Rummel called the roll. A quorum of the following Directors was present:

Danielle Kovach  
Angie Jasper  
Dennis Cavitt  
Yvonne Bui  
Tisa Aceves  
Joy Banks  
Tachelle Banks  
Ben Hicks  
Will Hunter  
Laural Jackson  
Cindy Perras  
Charmion Rush  
Ben Tillotson

Not present: Kareem Thompson, Mitch Yell\*

\* Joined after adoption of Consent Agenda.

**1.3 Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Dennis Cavitt moved to adopt the Board Business Meeting Agenda. Laural Jackson seconded.

**Motion passed.**

## **1.4 Consent Agenda**

### **1.4.1 Minutes**

1.4.1.1 November 6-7, 2021, Meeting

1.4.1.2 December Online Voting

### **1.4.2 Committee Year-End and Interim Reports**

1.4.2.1 Finance and Audit Standing Committee (Year-End)

1.4.2.2 Honors Committee (Year-End)

1.4.2.3 Policy Steering Committee (Year-End)

1.4.2.4 Professional Standards and Practice Committee (Year-End)

1.4.2.5 Publications Committee (Year-End)

1.4.2.6 Representative Assembly Committee (Interim)

1.4.2.7 Student and Early Career Committee (Interim)

1.4.2.8 Yes I Can Committee (Year-End)

1.4.2.9 Division Relations Committee (Year-End)

### **1.4.3 Jane West Elizabeth Farrell Presidential Citation**

**MOTION:** Cindy Perras moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Angie Jasper seconded.

**Motion passed.**

## **Convention Update**

Executive Director, Chad Rummel, provided the following information:

- Despite cancellations due to COVID, both in-person and virtual conventions are still over budget.
- There will be over 100 onsite exhibitors. About two dozen have been lost due to COVID cancellations.
- As early as this morning, a number of presenters cancelled. A few of the Deep Dive sessions have been filled with alternates.
- ClearMask (<https://www.theclearmask.com/>), has donated fully transparent, FDA-cleared and CE-marked masks for attendees – a \$10K value.
- The Opening General Session, hosted by CEC President, Danielle Kovach, and Past President, Bill Bogdan, will highlight the impact of CEC over the years
- ReadySign, which has developed a cloud-based electronic signature software, and is a CEC Partner Solutions Directory member, is presenting CEC with a check for \$61,000 as an anniversary gift.
- There have been a few cancellations for the Legacy Leadership Luncheon on Monday.
- Nine of the Yes I Can award recipients are attending.
- The CEC Hub has been placed behind the registration area so that attendees have to walk through it to access the exhibit hall. It is open same hours at registration. There are opportunities to learn about member benefits or join.
- There will be cards for attendees to complete to learn about what they need more information on. These will be used for the one drawing being held this year.
- Items to purchase in the store include graduation cords, buttons, backpacks, and t-shirts.
- A Wellness Pavilion has been sponsored by Namaste.
- CEC partnered with our Innovation in Special Education Technology division for the Technology Pavilion. It is much larger this year, with items brought in from local universities, including the University of Central Florida and the University of South Florida.
- Divisions have space in one booth. Two divisions chose to purchase their own booth space.

## **2.0. Strategic Plan Success Metrics (Rummel)**

The board split into two groups to develop success metrics for two of the four goals (below) each. This includes what success will look like when we have accomplished this. They were to include something measurable and a data target. Staff will then operationalize the discussion outcomes.

- Develop and support an effective and diverse workforce of special education professionals
- Increase the impact of CEC's policy agenda for education professionals and for individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents
- Intentionally embed diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility within CEC
- Establish CEC as a globally recognized leader in the field of special education

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.

## **3.0. Governance Items**

### **3.1 President's Report**

CEC President Danielle Kovach shared the following:

#### **Convention**

- She recognized staff for their hard work preparing for the convention, especially with so many last-minute changes.
- A few last-minute changes due to COVID had to be made to the Opening General Session (OGS) and Legacy Leadership Luncheon. The planning committees brain-stormed solutions to the problems. Jane West, long-time policy consultant for the Teacher Education Division, will be replacing Judy Heumann at the OGS. CEC will present her with the citation voted on earlier in the meeting. She recognized Chad Rummel, Associate Executive Director for Professional Affairs, Laurie VanderPloeg, and her co-host, Past President Bill Bogdan, for their work on the OGS and Luncheon.
- She thanked the board for filling in where needed on presentations.

#### **President's Newsletter**

- The first one will be published after the convention.
- It is to be used as a vehicle to connect our members, divisions, and units. Monthly announcements, CEC news, webinars, etc. will be shared. "100 Stories" will feature teachers.

#### **100 Stories**

- Publishing and contacting teachers slowed the month before convention but the stories will continue until our anniversary in August.
- We are almost at our halfway point with stories that have either been published, are in the queue, or need to be edited.
- At this point, there are only 12 states that did not submit: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Louisiana, Maryland, Washington, Wyoming, Mississippi, Montana. Luann Purcell has been reaching out to states. While every state may not have a teacher highlighted, our goal is to have a submission from every state and province.

## Goals for 2022

- Work toward the goals in our strategic plan. Embed the mission and vision throughout all of our work.
- Celebrate our 100th Anniversary and use this as a platform to grow our name and presence across the country (and internationally).
- Build our membership and focus on teacher membership and teacher leadership. Make sure we are providing the resources they need,
- Focus on the value of CEC and help build on what we offer to better help our members.
- Listen with intent. She encouraged board members to come to her with comments or suggestions from what they are seeing in the field, in their divisions and units, and in their life. Everyone is at this table for a reason. They had a goal or goals in mind when they said, “I want to be on the CEC board.” She wants to make sure they are fulfilling that goal.

## 3.2 Executive Director’s Report

- Membership is up 2.25% for the year, including in all divisions except one.
- CEC is working on breathing life back into student chapters. There will be a Faculty Advisors breakfast Tuesday, follow by Q&A session for chapters.
- Working on campaign to give free membership to students during their semester of student teaching.
- CEC's Exceptional Teacher Resource Repository (<https://exceptionalchildren.org/teacher-resources>) is ready to launch.
- New Operations Manager, Jake Minor, is working on increasing the profitability of publications. The Publications Committee is on how we should solicit authors, market new publications, etc.
- His goal for 2022 is to connect CEC with general education and have conversations to get our content out to help general educators learn more about how to support special education students. For example, why is there no special education content at math educators conference, etc.

He asked Laurie VanderPloeg to report on the work around Attract, Prepare, Retain. She reported that CEC is working with the with the CEEDAR Center (<https://ceedar.education.ufl.edu/>) and other national organizations to develop a twelve-part webinar series on successful strategies to mitigate the Educator Shortage, including how to design and implement identified exemplar models and innovative practices to help attract, prepare, and retain an effective and diverse workforce, as well as build a sustainable system of support. These webinars will be free to attend, thanks to the Department of Education. The targets are stand and local education agencies and institutes of higher education.

## 3.3 President Elect’s Report

President Elect Angie Jasper reported the following:

Her priorities for the next two years will include:

- sustaining CEC’s legacy through local/student chapters and caucuses and she has shared some ideas with Danielle and Chad;
- increasing membership and support for early career teachers and students; and
- increasing diversity within membership and leadership.

### **3.4 Immediate Past President's Report**

Past President Dennis Cavitt thanked board members for their support during his presidential year. He is looking forward to continuing to liaise with the Leadership Development Committee.

#### **3.4.3 Leadership Development Committee 2021 Annual Report**

The 2021 Annual Report was received.

### **3.5 Treasurer's Report / November Financials**

CFO Craig Evans reported the following financial statement analysis for year-to-date ending November 30, 2021.

#### **Key Highlights**

- Operating Cash = \$1.69M
- Investment Reserves = \$1.05M
- Net Assets = \$482K – up from last year by \$279K (137%)
- Operating Net Surplus = \$419K – ahead of budget by \$770K (219%)
- Revenue from:
  - Membership = \$1.9M – ahead of budget by \$321K (19%)
  - Convention = \$992K – ahead of budget by \$347K (53%)
  - LCE = \$418K – ahead of budget by \$55K (15%)
  - Publications = \$508K – lagging budget by \$28K (5%)
  - Strategic Partnerships = \$123K

### **3.6 Student and Early Career Committee Recharter Application**

**MOTION:** Angie Jasper moved to recharter the Student and Early Career Committee as per the recommendations contained in the Committee Recharter Application.

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

### **4.0. Organizational Items**

#### **4.1 Position Statements**

##### **4.1.1 Position on Assessment and Accountability**

**MOTION:** Kareem Thompson moved to adopt CEC's Position Statement on Assessment and Accountability.

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

#### 4.1.2 Position on Charter Schools

**MOTION:** Ben Tillotson moved to adopt CEC’s Position on Educating Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools. Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

#### 4.1.3 Position on Funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

**MOTION:** Laural Jackson moved to adopt CEC’s Position Statement on Funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

#### 4.1.4 Position on Secondary Transition

**MOTION:** Cindy Perras moved to adopt CEC’s Position Statement on Secondary Transition Services.

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

### 4.2 Specialty Sets

#### 4.2.1 Deafblindness

**MOTION:** Angie Jasper moved to approve the Initial Specialty Set: Deaf blindness.

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

#### 4.2.2 Deaf-blind Intervener

**MOTION:** Ben Tillotson moved to approve the **Initial Specialty Set: Deaf- blind Interveners.**

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

#### 4.2.3 Inclusion Specialist

**MOTION:** Cindy Perras moved to approve the Advanced Specialty Set: Special Educational Inclusion Specialist.

Because this was a motion from a committee, no second was needed.

**Motion passed.**

### **Strengthening Units Within CEC**

The board discussed a proposal from the Executive Director and Director of Component Relations on “Strengthening Units Within CEC.”

**MOTION:** Laural Jackson moved to increase dues by \$2 to be returned to units.

Cindy Perras seconded.

**Motion passed.**

Some of the outcomes of the discussion that will be implemented are:

- Increased communication between CEC International and Units through intentional, routine communication;
- Regular/Quarterly town halls with each region of the country and Canada to discuss issues and provide resources/training;
- The hiring of an additional staff person specifically tasked with nothing but supporting Units and providing some direct management to our struggling Units; and
- Increased Unit dues from \$8 to \$10, effective January 1, 2022. The increased funds may be used however a unit would like, but they are encouraged to consider how the money could be used to support attracting new teachers and supporting early career teachers.

**MOTION:** Laural Jackson moved to allocate funds to create a staff position to strengthen units through managed services.

Charmion Rush seconded.

**Motion passed.**

### **4.2 Project 20/20 White Paper**

**MOTION:** Laural Jackson moved that the committee that wrote the white paper put it through a public comment process and consider input.

Kareem Thompson seconded.

**Motion passed.**

**MOTION:** Kareem Thompson moved that a process for creating white papers be designed.

Dennis Cavitt seconded.

**Motion passed.**

**5.0. New Business**

There was no new business

**6.0. For the Good of the Order and Adjournment**

Without objection, President Kovach adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. ET.