

Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent decisions and actions from the CEC Board of Directors. The following is a summary of key outcomes from online votes in May, June and July, and the July 9-10 and July 20, 2022, Board of Directors meetings.

Affinity Groups

The board approved CEC Affinity Groups. The goal of Affinity Groups is to help members connect with other members that have similar backgrounds or interests. The intent is to engage these members to have a deeper understanding of CEC and continued membership.

Affinity Groups are defined as groups of individuals that share a particular identity (e.g., specific demographic or socially defined segment of membership). Membership within an Affinity Group is voluntary and based upon an individual's identification with that identity(ies). Examples include race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, language, ability, etc. The intent of Affinity Groups is to provide a space for individuals who share a common identity(ies) to bond and feel more connected. Affinity Group efforts may include, but are not limited to, networking opportunities, resource gathering/sharing, developing strategies to address the collective concerns of individuals within the group.

Further information will be available on the CEC website in the near future.

New CEC Impact Award

The CEC Impact Award recognizes an individual or community/corporate organization that has had an impact on CEC's strategic work.

Nominations can be made year-round and may be submitted by anyone, including CEC board members and staff, through a letter (500-word limit) to president@exceptionalchildren.org outlining the nominee's contributions to CEC, its mission, and/or the field. This letter must include to nominator's relationship to the nominee.

The Board of Directors will determine the recipients of the award, the number of awards that it may grant in any given year, and the appropriate time/place/event for recognition of the recipients.

Strategic Plan

Executive Director Chad Rummel provided the board with the new operational plan, which includes initiative by quarter from 2202 Q3 through 2024 Q3 and indicates which of those have associated costs. He also shared, and the board discussed, success metrics by goal area. These metrics will be provided to the board quarterly.

Governance

President Elect Appointment

The board appointed Kareem Thompson to the position of President Elect (Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2023). Mr. Thompson received a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (Varying Exceptionalities) from Florida Memorial University; a Master of Science in Administration and

Management of Educational Programs and Educational Specialist from Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and an Educational Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership at Lynn University.

He is a prominent leader in the field of education and works for the School District of Palm Beach County, where he serves as Assistant Principal at Congress Middle School in Boynton Beach, Florida. Mr. Thompson serves as Administrator for Sixth Grade Discipline, Science, ESE and Choice Programs. He has served in several prior positions, from Inclusion Teacher, ESE Coordinator and Response to Intervention Facilitator to a District Compliance Specialist.

Most notably, Mr. Thompson served as Graduation Coach at Palm Beach Lake Community High School over two school years from January 2011 to November 2012 founding the "Opportunity Academy," a night program allowing students that dropped out or were off track for graduation an opportunity to earn needed credits, guidance, and support. For the past six years, Mr. Thompson has served as an adjunct at Palm Beach State College teaching the Introduction to the College Experience course.

Board Thought Leader Appointment

The board appointed Kurt Hulett as the first Thought Leader on the Board of Directors (July 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2023). Dr. Hulett will bring a strategic angle to how we think about marketing and branding CEC, as we continue to elevate the organization into being a global leader. While he has degrees in special education, and experience at many levels of education including administration, he also has years of involvement with Texas CEC, vast knowledge of the nonprofit space, and currently serves as Vice President of Special Education Services for Let's Go Learn.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

The Board approved the following motion, which would require revising CEC Bylaws. Members can [submit comments](#) on the proposed revisions by **11:59 pm Eastern, August 29, 2022**. [Read the proposed revisions.](#)

The Board of Directors voted to amend the Bylaws as follows:

ARTICLE V Board of Directors

Section 1. Composition.

a. The board will consist of ~~no fewer than 12~~ **16** members and ~~no more than 15~~, including the four officers (specifically, the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, and Treasurer). In addition, the board may appoint up to three voting Thought Leaders to serve on the board each year, as needed. ~~The board has the authority to determine annually the number of board members necessary to fulfill the mission of the organization based on a needs assessment performed by the Leadership Development Committee.~~ The CEC Executive Director serves as a non-voting member of the Board.

NOTE: Board members who start their term prior to 1/1/2023 will continue to be eligible for up to two three-year terms.

Section 3. Selection of Members of the Board of Directors.

b. The President Elect shall be either an existing board member and ~~have served as a member of the board for a minimum of two years~~ be in his/her/their last year on the board, or will have served on the board within the past ~~five~~ seven years, at the time of application. The President

Elect will be appointed by simple majority of the board from a slate of at least two candidates developed and presented by the LDC.

c. The Treasurer will be appointed by simple majority of the board from a slate of at least two candidates developed and presented by the LDC.

Section 4. Terms of Office and Succession.

a. Length of Term.

(1) The term of office for members of the Board of Directors shall be ~~three~~ four years. The terms shall be staggered on a fixed-cycle basis according to an established schedule so that, as nearly as possible, one-third of the members are elected each year. The term of a director shall expire at the end of the period for which he or she was elected or appointed.

(2) Thought Leaders will serve a minimum of one year, with a limit of up to three consecutive years.

~~b. Restrictions.~~

~~(1) A member of the Board of Directors who was elected to and has served a full three-year term on the board is eligible to apply for consideration by the Leadership Development Committee for re-election to a second full term immediately upon completion of the first term. A third consecutive elected term is not permitted. However, a person who has served two consecutive elected terms may apply for consideration for slating through the LDC following a one-year break in service.~~

~~(2)~~ (3) A member of the Board of Directors who is appointed to another post on the board shall be eligible to accept it, effective upon termination (either by expiration or resignation), of his/her/their present term of office.

Leadership Development Committee Appointments

The following individuals were appointed to a three-year term (Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2025) on the Leadership Development Committee.

Jen Katz-Borin	Director of Student Services, School Administrative Unit # 20 (NH)
Cassie Frost	Assistive Technology Specialist, Stevens Point Area (W) Public School District
Nichole Moore	Director of Special Services, Walled Lake (MI) Consolidated Schools
Natasha Veale	Dean, School of Social Sciences and Education, Greensboro (NC) College

Finance

In addition to the Treasurer’s quarterly financial report, the board received an update from CEC’s investment advisor at Morgan Stanley.

Questions? Contact Executive Director [Chad Rummel](#).