

**National Association of the Deaf
NAD Board of Directors Meeting
Orlando, FL
June 29, 2022**

**Wednesday, June 29, 2022
Hyatt Regency - Orlando**

Board Members Present: President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2020-2022); Vice President Amy Gomme (2020-2022); Secretary Jenny Buechner (2020-2022); Treasurer Michelle Cline (2020-2022); Region I Board Members: Milmaglyn Morales (2020-2022) and Jacob Leffler (2020-2024); Region II Board Members: Linsay Darnall, Jr. (2018-2022) and Kevin Ryan (2020-2024); Region III Board Member: Lisa Rose (2020-2024); Region IV Board Members: Laura Kim (2020-2022) and James Christianson, Jr. (2020-2024); Affiliate Board Members: Justin Cha (2020-2022) and Tyese Wright (2020-2024); and Appointed Board Members: Kirsten Poston (2020-2022) and Stephanie Hakulin (2020-2022).

Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Staff: Lizzie Sorkin, Director of Communications.

Visitors: Susan Mather, Alicia Lane, Tina Joyner, Robert Harris, Nicolyn Plummer, Benro Ogunyipe, Patty Saar McFadden, Charles McFadden, Mitchell Levy, and several other unnamed NAD Conference attendees.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for the meeting to begin at 2:41 pm ET.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk explained the agenda for the board meeting.

The board discussed the proposed Foster Care and Child Protective Services model bill. It was agreed that there needs to be additional language regarding cultural and linguistic needs for the children and how that should be addressed.

MOTION: Michelle Cline moved to approve the model foster care and child protective services bill with inclusion of cultural considerations and language. Seconded by Amy Gomme.
CARRIED.

The Internal Transformative Committee proposed changes to the Diversity Statement of the NAD.

Diversity Statement

The National Association of the Deaf embraces equity, diversity and inclusiveness as core values in achieving its mission. The NAD believes that diversity encompasses a wide range of abilities and perspectives which also requires providing the accessible tools that are of the best fit to each individual.*

The NAD is committed to building and maintaining an equitable and inclusive environment where differences of opinions, beliefs, and values are respected, valued, listened to, and discussed widely. Through inclusiveness, the NAD is committed to continuously strive for active participation, and elevate individuals that reflect the diversity of the deaf community (including Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened) in the United States. The NAD also acknowledges that equity plays an important role in achieving inclusiveness.

The NAD pledges to enhance its policies and practices so that these adhere to the highest standards of equity, diversity and inclusiveness, and to work closely with its state and organizational affiliates to further this commitment.

MOTION: Kirsten Poston moved that we approve the new diversity statement as written. Seconded by Jacob Leffler. CARRIED.

The board reviewed the Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Values of the NAD.

MOTION: Lindsay Darnall, Jr. moved that we insert Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened in our Mission Statement, Vision Statements, and Values. Seconded by James Christianson, Jr. CARRIED.

Mission

The mission of the National Association of the Deaf is to preserve, protect and promote the civil, human and linguistic rights of Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened people in the United States of America.

Vision

The vision of the NAD is that the language, culture, and heritage of Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened Americans will be acknowledged and respected in the pursuit of life, liberty, and equality.

Values

The National Association of the Deaf embraces core, legal, and community values, as follows:

Core Values

- Language. We value the acquisition, usage, and preservation of American Sign Language.
- Culture. We value the right of Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened Americans to share similar beliefs, sense of belonging, and experiences as a signing community.

Legal Values

- Civil Rights. We believe in equality, dignity, and justice for all Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened Americans.
- Human Rights. We believe that acquisition and use of American Sign Language is an essential human right.
- Linguistic Rights. We believe that American Sign Language must be preserved, protected, and promoted.

Community Values

- Diversity. We value Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened Americans with diverse perspectives, experiences, and abilities. We are committed to the elimination of audism, linguicism, racism, and other forms of discrimination.
- People. We value advocates and allies as the builders of the American Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened community.

The board reviewed and updated the Standing Rules for Caucuses, Forums, and the Council of Representatives.

President Melissa Dragnac-Hawk called for a recess at 4:23 pm ET.

The meeting resumed at 4:38 pm ET.

Board Member Michelle Cline led a brief training session on De-escalation and Conflict Resolution for the conference.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk reviewed the agenda for the Council of Representatives.

Board Members Laura Kim and Linsay Darnall, Jr provided updates on the Awards for the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Buechner
Secretary