

**National Association of the Deaf  
NAD Board of Directors Meeting  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
September 20, 2023**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023  
New Mexico School for the Deaf**

Board Members Present: President Jenny Buechner (2022-2024); Vice President Stephanie Hakulin (2022-2024); Secretary Milmaglyn Morales (2022-2024); Treasurer Michelle Cline (2022-2024); Region I Board Members: Jacob Leffler (2020-2024) and Nicholas Lalanne (2022-2026); Region II Board Members: Linsay Darnall, Jr. (2020-2024) and Kevin Ryan (2022-2026); Region III Board Members: Lisa Rose (2020-2024) and Michael Deuel (2022-2026); Region IV Board Member: James Christianson, Jr. (2020-2024); Affiliate Board Members: Dawnmarie Caggiano (2022-2026) and Tyese Wright (2020-2024); and Appointed Board Members: Vyron Kinson (2022-2024) and Kimberly Thornsberry (2022-2024).

Not present: Region IV Board Member: Laura Kim (2022-2026)

Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Staff: Lizzie Bloom, Director of Engagement; Chris Payne-Tsoupros, Education Policy Counsel; Sarah Honigfeld, Education Policy Specialist; and Claudia Giordano, Director of Youth Programs.

Visitors: New Mexico School for the Deaf Staff and students

President Jenny Buechner called the meeting to order at 12:37 PM after a visit of the New Mexico School for the Deaf earlier in the day.

President Jenny Buechner explained the agenda for the board meeting.

**Motion:** Jacob Leffler moved to ratify the motions made since the last in-person Board meeting. Seconded by Tyese. Carried.

**June 11, 2023**

**MOTION:** Linsay Darnell Jr. moved to approve the minutes with changes as read. Seconded by Dawnmarie Caggiago. Carried.

**August 7, 2023**

**MOTION:** Linsay Darnell Jr. moved to approve the NAD Team's Policy Procedure Manual. Seconded by Michael Deuel. Carried.

President Jenny Buechner led a discussion regarding our Accountability tasks that we have been working on since the board's training in January 2023.

Strategic Plan Chair Linsay Darnall, Jr. shared a report about the NAD strategic plan. Linsay, Howard, and Jenny are looking into hiring external consultants to help us move forward with developing a 3-5 year strategic plan. They have met with two consultants to learn about their services and costs. The board has agreed they will explore more options.

Membership Committee Chair Jacob Leffer shared his report on the decline of NAD's membership and ideas on how to address the concern. The Board asked the committee to create a proposed incentive program, and develop a timeline of dissolving the membership. The Board also agreed that the bylaws committee should start discussing the possibility of creating amendment proposals to reflect the dissolution of the membership.

President Jenny Buechner called for a recess at 2:42PM.

The meeting resumed at 2:58 PM.

CEO Howard Rosenblum shared an update about the development of the Interpreter Agency Accreditation. To complete the development, the NAD has contracted with a consultant. He also shared that once the program is in place, the NAD headquarters will hire a person to run the program. The Interpreter Agency Accreditation program will be completed by March 2024.

Governance Chair Lisa Rose shared an update on NAD's Board Policy Manual, which is undergoing a revamp. She also shared a draft of guidelines for the Disaster Relief Fund. The Board has agreed that the guideline will be reviewed. The Board also agreed that the announcement of the donations should be added to the guideline and the ASL version will be included.

President Jenny Buechner shared that NAD received a letter from a DC/MD chapter of the National Hispanic Latino Association for the Deaf concerning Hispanic Heritage Month and discussed it with the Board. She also asked the Board to review the NAD's proposed response letter.

CEO Howard Rosenblum shared an update about the NAD Headquarters' recommended first steps for archives.

President Jenny Buechner reviewed with the board a kick off event at the NAD Leadership Training Conference.

President Jenny Buechner convened an Executive Session.

President Jenny Buechner called for a recess at 4:42 PM.

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**  
**National Leadership Training Conference**

Board Members Present: President Jenny Buechner (2022-2024); Vice President Stephanie Hakulin (2022-2024); Secretary Milmaglyn Morales (2022-2024); Treasurer Michelle Cline (2022-2024); Region I Board Members: Jacob Leffler (2020-2024) and Nicholas Lalanne (2022-2026); Region II Board Members: Linsay Darnall, Jr. (2020-2024) and Kevin Ryan (2022-2026); Region III Board Members: Lisa Rose (2020-2024) and Michael Deuel (2022-2026); Region IV Board Members: James Christianson, Jr. (2020-2024) and Laura Kim (2022-2026); Affiliate Board Members: Dawnmarie Caggiano (2022-2026) and Tyese Wright (2020-2024); and Appointed Board Members: Vyron Kinson (2022-2024) and Kimberly Thornsberry (2022-2024).

Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Staff: Lizzie Bloom, Director of Engagement; Chris Payne-Tsoupros, Education Policy Counsel; Sarah Honigfeld, Education Policy Specialist; Claudia Giordano, Director of Youth Programs; Jacob Salem, State Legislation Manager; Jenilee Marques, Operations Manager; and Emily Addison, Content Coordinator.

Visitors: Lawrence W. Yates, Tiara Maatess, Clale H. Corogures, Michelle Bellmer, Meli Stamp, Tommy Minch, Rosemary Wanis, Tina Joiner, Tiasha Bera, Christopher A. Morris, Alicia Lane, Jason Schmidt, Cameron Symansky, Jennifer Mason, Adriana Gonzales, Chris Haulmark, and Amy Gomme.

The meeting resumed at 8:35 AM.

President Jenny Buechner explained the agenda for the board meeting.

President Jenny Buechner requested updates of the 2022 - 2024 priorities and sections.

**Dismantling Racism**

Board Liaison Vyron Kinson shared that the committee will host a webinar on September 28th with a focus on Health Care. He also said that the committee made a recommendation to hire a deaf interpreter to do ASL videos for Dismantling Racism Curriculum's terminology. The committee also will set up a canvas to set a course for the online training portion of the curriculum.

**Well Being of Deaf Youth**

Board Liaison Kim Thornsberry shared that she appreciated the board for allowing Kim to join in all region meetings. She also shared that Kim and her co-presenter Jennifer Harbaugh will present a workshop at the NAD Leadership Training conference. The committee also hopes to set up a meeting to invite all organizations to discuss what kind of programs they have to offer to

the Youth and their wellbeing and mentorship. Kim also shared that some committee members will attend CAL-ED and provide a workshop on Wellbeing Youth. The committee will meet again on October 16th to discuss this further.

### **Equity in Deaf Education**

Board Liaisons Laura Kim and Nicholas Lalanne shared that the committee met two weeks ago to debrief and will focus on the draft, including updates to the student life portion. The Student Life subcommittee will include a guide to better their programs in schools. The committee will meet biweekly to expedite the process starting on October 17th.

### **ASL Resources for Deaf Babies**

Board Liaisons Milmaglyn Morales and Michelle Cline shared an update about the work of the committee. They had a consultant to help guide them in figuring out what they can do to achieve this priority. They are working on getting possible grants to fund the work of the committee. Milmaglyn and Michelle are working on the ASL video for the release of the open letter to Professionals, open letter to Family, a technical paper, and a position statement on language deprivation.

### **Deaf Senior Issues**

Board Liaisons Dawnmarie Caggiago and Kevin Ryan shared an update on Older American Act and Community Living. Dawnmarie shared that she attended the Deaf Seniors of America conference and collected the resources to share for the NAD's Senior Citizens' webpage. She will present a workshop at the NAD's Leadership Training Conference. They also shared that Gallaudet University is offering an online course on caregivers in ASL.

### **Sections/Committees -**

#### **Deaf Interpreter Committee:**

Board Liaison Kevin Ryan shared an update about the data collection. The data collection was made by committee members from RIT and the committee feels unsatisfied with the results. They will develop the second phase that would need more data to better information on Deaf Interpreter/Certified Deaf Interpreters. The committee created a goal and the goal is to share the awareness of Deaf Interpreter nationwide.

#### **SAAC:**

Board Liaison James Christianson, Jr. shared that he met with all region representatives - Mike Schnook, Bryan Nedkemat, and Bryan Moss. They are in the process of revising the SAAC toolkit pages. He also shared that the goal to complete the toolkit will be in November. The board discussed the concerns of the stability of the SAAC and its ability to work on the toolkit, as well as the mentor program that was proposed in 2017. The board agreed to refer the mentor program to the Past Board Members Section for development and implementation.

**Bylaws Committee:**

Board Liaison James Christianson, Jr. shared that the chair is Jackie Correa-Alley, and members of the committee are: Taurean "Tar" Burt, and Tracy Ivy. The committee has made a recommendation to change from "Deaf" to "Deafhood". The Board discussed and has asked the committee to continue to work on it and will revisit "Deafhood" at the next board meeting.

**Internal Transformative Committee:**

ITC Chair Tyese Wright explained the purpose of the Internal Transformative Committee. She shared an update that the committee has a plan for January 2024 with a focus on microaggression, accountability, and racism. In addition, she shared that the survey for board members was completed and will share topics soon. She also shared that in April 2024, NAD will invite a local presenter from Puerto Rico to share their experience.

**Rapid Response Team:**

Chair Linsay Darnall, Jr. shared with the board that there was a request to the NAD regarding hosting a conference for Indigenous people in the US, as one is being planned in Canada. Conversations with individuals who identify as Indigenous need to be continued. At this time the committee has no recommendation to respond immediately, and will continue to monitor this.

**NAD History Taskforce:**

Board Liaison Linsay Darnall, Jr. shared that the NAD history on the NAD website is missing some information after 2008 and will need to invite people to join the committee to work on this project. The committee will include Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Nancy Bloch, and the NAD team including Lizzie Bloom and Howard Rosenblum. Linsay and Jenny are working on identifying and inviting other individuals to join this taskforce.

**DeafBlind Section:**

Board Liaison Tyese Wright shared that the committee has agreed to focus on accessibility, including the website and printed materials. The next committee meeting will be next month.

**Deaf History and Culture Section:**

Board Liaison Linsay Darnall, Jr. shared that he will meet with the chair of the committee next week. He explained the history of Deaf History Awareness Month. The board has discussed the difference between Deaf Awareness Month (September) and Deaf History Month (April). He clarified that September is to raise awareness on all sign languages in the world, not Deaf Awareness Month. The board has agreed that the committee should list the recommendations with the help from the NAD team to clarify the misconceptions. Also the board has agreed that we will wait until next year to do a public release but will need to have a plan ready.

**Past Board Section:**

Board Liaison Laura Kim explained the history of the Past Board Section. She shared that Steve Lovi is continuing as chair of the section. They want to host a fundraising event at the NAD 2024 Biennial Conference. The Chair Steve Lovi is asking for one more person to work with. The board discussed the Council of Representatives' Mentorship program, led by the Past

Board Section at the NAD 2022 Biennial Conference and will continue to use the program at the NAD 2024 Biennial Conference.

**Education Section:**

Board Liaison Michelle Cline shared an update about the National Deaf Education Conference. She also shared that the committee is considering the possibility of not continuing the NDEC as a section with the NAD but as a program.

**Interpreter Section:**

Board Liaison Milmaglyn Morales shared that the committee will be responsible for providing CEUs for NAD workshops and webinars, including those provided by the Dismantling Racism Committee. This topic will be discussed in depth at the next meeting on October 10, 2023.

**LGBT Section:**

Board Liaison Jacob Leffler shared that Tommy Minch is the chair of the section. The section committee will plan their luncheon for the NAD conference.

**Senior Citizens Section:**

Board Liaison Kevin Ryan shared that the section committee will plan their luncheon for the NAD conference.

**NADYS:**

Board Liaison Michael Deuel shared that the committee meets quarterly. The officers meet monthly. The committee sent 4 representatives to the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section Conference. He also shared that DeMarco Pittman is the chair for the NADYS Youth General Assembly. The committee is in search of a treasurer and Region III Representative. The committee also discussed the selection process for delegates and fundraising.

**Public Policy:**

Board Liaison Jacob Leffler shared that the position statements on mental health, emergency preparedness, and medical are currently being reviewed by subject matter experts for updates, as well as from a racial lens. Updates will be shared with the board when available.

**Past Priorities Updates -**

**2018 VR Priority:**

CEO Howard Rosenblum has no report.

**2018 Interpreting Priority:**

President Jenny Buechner shared that the CPC committee chairs will complete the project at the end of the year. She also shared that she is working on having a focus group to review the proposed draft of the Interpreting Standards paper. The goal for completing the Interpreter Standards is before the April Board meeting and have it ready to share with the Council of

Representatives at the 2024 Biennial Conference. The committee has a plan; inviting people for the focus group to review the CPC and the feedback will be gathered.

President Jenny Buechner called for a recess at 10:50 PM.

The meeting resumed at 11:07 AM.

President Jenny Buechner led a discussion on - how the NAD can support Jr. NAD, as well as ensure they can be done by State Associations or others outside of Deaf Schools. The Board has agreed to continue this conversation/discussion to the next Board meeting. The board also discussed how we can support State Associations in addition to current resources and programs being developed. The board discussed reaching out to State Associations, providing support, mentoring opportunities. The board is eager to provide online training for State Associations and NAD members who are interested in leadership roles.

### **Board Reports**

President Jenny Buechner shared an update about the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Exceptional General Assembly which will be held on October 21st to discuss its current protocols for bids to host future WFD conferences.

Vice President Stephanie Hakulin did not have any updates to the report already submitted.

Secretary Milmaglyn Morales has asked the Board to complete their Board reports.

Treasurer Michelle Cline shared the financial reports and explained that the revised FY24 Budget and FY25 Proposed Budget will be discussed at our next Board meeting in January 2024.

Region and Affiliates Board Members shared their reports in writing and did not have any urgent matters to discuss in person.

CEO Howard Rosenblum did not have any updates to the report already submitted.

Governance Chair Member Lisa Rose wanted to discuss a chapter regarding Memoriams in the Board Policy Manual. There are examples of individuals who are hearing but have been active in the deaf community who may be recognized, however both examples are white men. Lisa would like to have other examples to ensure that this is an opportunity for all activists regardless of race, gender, and identity.

President Jenny Buechner reviewed the board's schedule for the NAD Leadership Training Conference for the rest of the day.

President Jenny Buechner adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.