



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175 TTY: (717) 737-0158 Fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org Website: parehabilitationcouncil.org

Full Council Quarterly Meeting February 12, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM APPROVED MINUTES

Council Members: Present (P) Not Present (NP)

Julia Barol (P)	Christie Cyktor (NP)	Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist (P)
Cindy Duch (P)	Kait Gillis (P)	Joan Myers Goodman (P)
Lynn Heitz (P)	Passle Helminski (P)	Mallory Irwin (P)
Twana Jones (P)	Jessica Keogh (P)	Michelle Mitchell (P)
William Paz De Melo (P)	Andrew Pennington (P)	Kara Donatucci Pham (P)
Julianna Rodrigues (P)	Susan Tomasic (P)	Kadie Trauger (P)
Rob Wallington (P)		

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Present: Ryan Hyde, Chris Harbert, Cheryl Novak, James Whitonis, Denise Verchimak, Audrey O'Connor, Dawn Sokol, Marci Katona, Jim France, Mara Wolfe, Susan Storm, Ralph Roach, Chris Cowan, Stacey Collins, Hillary Hubbell, Rob Hodapp, Tammy Burke, Anna Griffiths, Jessica Crum-Lasko, Jannathul Ayubkhan, Kim Robinson, Melissa Wert-Thrush, Chris Palmer

Stakeholders Present: Melissa Hawkins, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), Carole Clancy, Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education, James Martini, Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board, Robert Schramm Esq., Office of Chief Counsel, PA Department of Labor & Industry, Cathy Long, Harrisburg Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Sherri Rodgers, Pittsburgh Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Brian D'Amico, Reading Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Eric Orr, Centers for Independent Living, Mary Dougherty, Pennsylvania Workforce Development, Hannah Brown, Disability Rights of Pennsylvania, Dale Verchick, Disability Rights of Pennsylvania, Jeff Iseman, Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Peg Monaghan, Pennsylvania State Board of VR

PaRC Support Personnel Present: Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

Moderator of Zoom: Nichole Wade

CART (CAPTIONER): Michelle Brandt

Interpreters: Ashley Shenk, Laura Schupp

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS: William De Paz Melo, Chair

- Upon confirming a quorum, Mr. William Paz De Melo called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM and announced that the start time of the meeting was unexpectedly delayed due to an Executive Session that extended beyond its originally scheduled conclusion of 10:00 AM. Mr. Paz De Melo disclosed that the Executive Session was held to discuss an internal personnel matter concerning a member's on-going absenteeism and their failure to fulfill responsibilities outlined in the PaRC bylaws, however, no further action was needed.
- Mr. Paz De Melo inquired if there were any amendments to the agenda. There were none.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to accept the agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Passle Helminski seconded the motion. Mr. Rob Wallington abstained. The motion passed.

PaRC FISCAL REPORT (2nd QUARTER): Julia Barol, Member at Large

- Ms. Julia Barol shared the Fiscal Report for the second quarter of FY 2024-2025. Monthly expenses for the quarter were listed as October \$1045.39, November \$3668.89, December 1322.66, with a total budget of \$80,000.00 and the remaining balance of \$59,738.16.

Public Comment Requested on Proposed Rulemaking for State-Registered Interpreter and Transliterators Regulations

- Ms. Melissa Hawkins explained that Public Comment for the Proposed Rulemaking for State-Registered Interpreter and Transliterators Regulations are open until February 20, 2025. The Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) will decide on regulations after receiving comments. Revisions to this Legislation passed quickly from the House to the Senate and a final vote was held on October 31, 2024. During the process of regulation updates the law was changed and ODHH must now revise their regulations. This is a state law that requires all interpreters in Pennsylvania to register with ODHH. The Act has already become state law and comments will only be received for regulations.

OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ryan Hyde, Director

- Mr. Ryan Hyde reported that Governor Shapiro has included an additional \$5 million in VR funding for their proposed budget and acknowledged the importance of the Council's advocacy work.
- The Governor also included an additional \$1 million in funds for the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in their budget proposal.
- OVR is currently preparing success stories and county-based documents to inform and educate Legislators and stakeholders about OVR services and partnerships.
- OVR has not received additional guidance regarding Executive Orders from the federal level, OVR continues to draw funds from the federal accounting system and continues to operate normally.
- State Plan amendments were requested by January 1, 2025, however there were delays due to requests for clarifications and corrections from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The revisions were submitted immediately, but the Order of Selection (OOS) and related trainings cannot move forward until OVR receives approval for the State Plan amendments from RSA.
- Mr. Hyde provided additional information regarding OVR's cost containment strategies, Sub-minimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) and Pathways to Partnership grants, VR statistical highlights, flat funding concerns, OVR partnerships, and advocacy efforts.
- Mr. Jeff Iseman inquired how OVR would utilize the 2025-2026 additional state funds being proposed. Mr. Hyde explained that funds would be used to help replace money lost from the loss of the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA).
- Ms. Michelle Mitchell inquired about additional cost saving measures aside from program cutting. Mr. Hyde explained that OVR is strategically filling positions with consideration for caseload management, providing guidance for overtime restrictions when appropriate, and may allow leases to expire for office space.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION / SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Joan Myers Goodman, Chair

- Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month.

CAREERLINK COMMITTEE: Andrew Pennington, Chair

- Next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025, and the Committee will be discussing FY 2025-2026 goals and potential vote for Committee Chair.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Susan Tomasic, Chair

- Ms. Susan Tomasic reviewed the revisions to the PaRC Member Handbook.

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski for the approval of Member Handbook revisions. Ms. Michelle Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Ms. Tomasic reviewed the PaRC Mentor Program policy and procedures.

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol for approval of PaRC Mentoring Program Policy and Procedures. Ms. Passle Helminski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Ms. Tomasic explained that several members are up for reappointment, including some newly appointed members since they are completing the remainder of their predecessor's term.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rob Wallington for approval of submitting Ms. Cindy Duch's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council. Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rob Wallington for approval of submitting Ms. Passle Helminski's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Julianna Rodrigues for approval of submitting Ms. Michelle Mitchell's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council. Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski for approval of submitting Mr. Rob Wallington's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council. Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Ms. Tomasic explained that an additional member is up for reappointment, however, the Governance Committee is not recommending their reappointment due to their direct violation of the PaRC Bylaws including ongoing issues with attendance. This member offered their verbal resignation, however, Ms. Tomasic inquired if the Council should wait for a written resignation letter or vote for

removal which requires a two thirds majority vote. Mr. Robert Schramm explained that it is up to the discretion of the Council.

- Mr. William Paz De Melo recommended a vote for removal based on the Governance Committee's review of records and conversations with the member however, the recommendation for removal will not move forward if the member does submit a letter of resignation.

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz to submit the Council's recommendation to remove a member due to on-going attendance issues and violation of the PaRC bylaws should the member not submit a resignation in writing. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. With two-thirds of membership in favor, the motion passed.

Results of Roll Call vote:

Julia Barol - **yes**
Christie Cyktor – **absent**
Sylenthia Dent - **yes**
Cindy Duch - **yes**
Kait Gillis - **absent**
Joan Myers Goodman - **yes**
Lynn Heitz - **yes**
Passle Helminski - **yes**
Mallory Irwin (**non-voting member**)
Twana Jones - **yes**
Jessica Keogh - **absent**
Michelle Mitchell - **yes**
William Paz De Melo (**non-voting**)
Andrew Pennington - **abstain**
Kara Donatucci-Pham - **yes**
Julianna Rodrigues - **yes**
Susan Tomasic - **yes**
Kadie Trauger (**non-voting member**)
Rob Wallington - **abstain**

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski to not recommend the reappointment of a member due to attendance issues and failure to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the PaRC bylaws. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. One member abstained and all others were in favor. The motion passed.

- Mr. William Paz De Melo stated that, as Chair, he had previously removed the member from the Committees since the absence was affecting quorum, however,

the member is still a voting member of the Full Council until the Governor accepts the Council's recommendation.

- Ms. Tomasic requested a motion to accept an applicant to fill the Veteran Category on the Council.

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski for approval of submitting Mr. Dorian Rhodes' application to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the Veteran category. Mr. Rob Wallington seconded the motion. One member abstained and all others were in favor. The motion passed.

- Regarding an applicant that was approved at the November 2024 Full Council meeting, Ms. Tomasic explained that OVR was informed that a second representative for the category of Young Adult is not currently being sought, therefore, suggested the Council recommends Ms. Elizabeth Bish to fill the position that has recently become available for the category of representation for a person with a disability.

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski to recommend Ms. Elizabeth Bish to fill the open category of a person with a disability. Ms. Joan Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Ms. Tomasic reported that OVR has been advised that USQ (Until a Successor is Qualified) is not recognized at the federal level and therefore does not apply to the PaRC. The next Governance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Passle Helminski, Chair

- Ms. Passle Helminski reported that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2025.

MOTION was made by Ms. Michelle Mitchell for approval of the VR funding letter with state specific language and sharing the template of the VR funding letter with other State Rehabilitation Councils and VR Programs. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

POLICY COMMITTEE: Lynn Heitz, Chair

Financial Needs Test (FNT) Policy revision update: Audrey O'Connor, VR Specialist

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) 2024-2028 State Plan 2-year modification – Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist

- Mr. James Whitonis reviewed the process and details of the 2-year modification for the 2024-2028 State Plan. A timeline was shared on the process, the Council will need to review their recommendations included in section (a) of the Plan, OVR responses may change, OVR will meet to review and update the strategies section of the Plan, and a meeting will be scheduled with the Council to review. There will be a new performance indicator to report on the effectiveness of serving employers.
- Ms. Audrey O'Connor reported that the Financial Needs Test (FNT) policy had 2 Public Comment periods. The policy has been approved by PaRC's Policy Committee and Executive Committee.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz provided Public Comment on the policy on behalf of the National Federal of the Blind (NFB) of Pennsylvania and shared that there are a couple of things she does not agree with on the FNT policy including that there are no provisions for individuals currently employed that experience a disability which may result in a customer paying 10% of their income minus exemptions listed on the FNT form. Ms. Heitz shared that she understands there is a waiver but has concerns with services being provided due to funding and staffing issues that may push back the customer's timeline. Ms. Heitz shared concerns that someone who is gainfully employed and experiences a disability may have to wait to receive an accommodation from their employer or receive a response from an OVR District Office that is understaffed. Ms. Heitz explained that a recommendation was made during the policy's Public Comment period that hearing aids be exempted from cost services and that bilateral hearing aids can cost \$12,000 or more. Ms. Heitz shared concerns that exempting cost services for a particular disability is discriminatory against other disabilities and as the President of the NFB of Pennsylvania knowing individuals that experience vision loss at an older age, she does not feel the policy should be passed.
- Mr. Andrew Pennington provided comment as a member of the public and explained that the Client Assistance Program (CAP) has advocated and spoken about the need for notice requirements regarding the waiver to be included in the FNT policy. The counselor and the customer need to be informed when OVR will follow through with the waiver process and shared that there should be clear and transparent lines as to when to enter that threshold to determine if a waiver is necessary based upon a person's finances. It should also be made clear when that distinction is made so that both parties understand what is required of them and what they must do in order to submit and/or justify the potential for a waiver. This information is not currently included, there is waiver language, but more specificity

is needed so that the VR counselor, supervisors, District Administrator, and customers understand.

- Ms. Joan Goodman explained that she is concerned about working Pennsylvanians with disabilities who experience issues while they are employed. Her research indicates that a blue-collar worker is making slightly less than \$50,000 and in general the overall average income in Pennsylvania for employed people is just under \$60,000 and as a single person would be subject to the FNT. Ms. Goodman explained that she understands the situation of flat funding, but the Order of Selection (OOS) excludes working Pennsylvanians and during Public Comment previously requested that these working individuals also be excluded from the FNT. Ms. Goodman shared concerns regarding the timing issue as employees have a limited amount of sick time and may have exhausted their paid leave resulting in the loss of their job, a need for Vocational Rehabilitation services, and a need for other Government services. Ms. Goodman stated that she understands the policy seems to address the needs of a 25-year-old but does not feel it addresses the needs and circumstances of working Pennsylvanians with disabilities who worked and paid taxes for multiple years contributing toward VR services but could potentially receive a bill for 10% of the cost of their own services. Ms. Goodman explained that she has provided this statement so that the counselor and public understand why she will be voting no.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz explained that when a person with a disability loses their job and applies for Social Security Disability there is a 5-month waiting period and that they may not receive income for 5 months.
- Ms. Cheryl Novak explained that the policy was approved by the PaRC Policy Committee and Executive Committee. OVR has made adjustments to the policy and associated forms based upon the feedback they previously received from members of those Committees. OVR does have guidance for job retention cases and people that are currently working. OVR does have guidance to serve customers who need services because their job is in immediate danger. OVR is able to do any type of needs assessment and provide any type of services that can be provided directly by OVR staff without consideration of the FNT.
- Ms. Heitz shared concerns regarding customers potentially receiving a bill for something that is required for them to remain independent and explained that the job retention policy is not mentioned in the FNT policy as it is something totally different.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic for approval of the Financial Needs Test (FNT) Policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist. A roll call vote was conducted. With the majority in favor, the motion passed.

Results of Roll Call Vote:

Julia Barol - **yes**
Christie Cyktor - **absent**
Sylenthia Dent - **yes**
Cindy Duch - **abstain**
Kait Gillis - **absent**
Joan Myers Goodman - **no**
Lynn Heitz - **no**
Passle Helminski - **abstain**
Mallory Irwin (**non-voting member**)
Twana Jones - **abstain**
Jessica Keogh - **absent**
Michelle Mitchell - **yes**
William Paz De Melo (**non-voting**)
Andrew Pennington - **abstain**
Kara Donatucci-Pham - **abstain**
Julianna Rodrigues - **no**
Susan Tomasic - **yes**
Kadie Trauger (**non-voting member**)
Rob Wallington - **abstain**

- Following the vote, Ms. Audrey O'Connor provided further clarification that during the PaRC Policy Committee meeting OVR agreed to update the FNT form with a statement that is directly above the customer's signature line acknowledging the customer has been informed that if they have a financial contribution toward OVR cost services which present a financial hardship, they may discuss pursuing a financial hardship waiver with their OVR counselor who will also sign the FNT form. OVR is not officially updating the FNT form until the FNT policy is passed to ensure the form is based upon the approved policy. This information will be included in OVR staff trainings as well.
- **Mr. Andrew Pennington acknowledged that the information Ms. O'Connor shared addressed the request he made earlier and stated, for the record, that he would have voted yes to approving the FNT Policy rather than abstaining if he had known this prior to the vote.**
- Mr. Paz De Melo reiterated that the Policy has passed.

TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Julia Barol, Chair

- The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2025.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - OVR HEARING OFFICERS / MEDIATORS: Andrew Pennington, Chair

- Mr. Andrew Pennington reported that the last meeting was postponed due to the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) and OVR not providing the requested written policy. The committee was informed that they are working on completing that document and Mr. Chris Harbert, OVR will follow up so that the Committee may review prior to their next meeting. The Full Council will be informed when the document is received.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - STUDY ROLES OF PaRC & STATE BOARD - Michelle Mitchell & Lynn Heitz, Co-Chairs

- Ms. Michelle Mitchell reported that the Committee developed a comparison chart which includes the goals and responsibilities of the Council and State Board. There is a lot of overlap between the two and a lot that can be done in collaboration. In an effort to help utilize the work of the Council and to increase collaboration, for the next 6 months PaRC will provide State Board of VR members with invitations to attend Full Council and PaRC Committee meetings. Based upon engagement during the 6-month period, a retreat between the 2 entities may be looked at in conjunction with an in-person meeting.

OVR REPORTS

Bureau Director Reports: Marci Katona, BVRS Director and Dawn Sokol, BBVS Director

- Ms. Marci Katona provided report on the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (BVRS) current priorities including staffing, customer engagement, rapid engagement, fiscal responsibility, operations and programming, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre ETS), Assistive Technology, accessibility, collaboration with the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS), summer programs for students, and partnerships with the Department of Labor and Industry.
- Mr. Andrew Pennington inquired about rapid engagement and what is in place for BVRS and BBVS to ensure that a counselor does not use a blanket statement to delay service provisions including supervisory review and meeting RSA requirements. Ms. Katona explained that their agency requires monthly supervision from all levels to include timeliness and ensure extensions are not wide-ranging. OVR provides training and guidance on eligibility determination to ensure the process is not being delayed unnecessarily.

- Ms. Dawn Sokol reported that the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) will forward their brochure which has information on all their programs for new members to review. BBVS work since November 2024 has included meeting with all the directors of Pennsylvania's Associations of the Blind and district managers to discuss recurring themes such as agency programming, equipment purchasing, and OVR provision of services documents. Ms. Sokol also provided report on BBVS outreach efforts, attendance of the NFB of PA Conference, Business Enterprise Program (BEP) updates, training programs, Independent Older Blind Program, National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) funding advocacy letter, student summer programs, Business Services Representatives, BBVS and Department of Human Services (DHS) Summer Academy, My Work program, paid work experiences, and speaking at the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conference.
- Ms. Passle Helminski inquired about the Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructor position. Ms. Sokol reported that the position is continually posted but BBVS has not received interest from qualified applicants. Outreach for the position includes working with schools such as Pittsburgh University and other schools that graduate O&M instructors to discuss paid internships.
- Ms. Sokol reported that for the next Council meeting they will be providing materials for a Low Vision policy and revisions.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES

Client Assistance Program - Andrew Pennington, Deputy Director / Steve Pennington, Director

- Mr. Andrew Pennington explained that the Client Assistance Program stakeholder report was planned to provide comment on the need for transparency regarding the FNT policy. This topic was previously discussed and there were no further updates.

Department of Education – Carole Clancy, Director, Bureau of Special Education

- Dr. Carole Clancy provided updates regarding the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) efforts to combat staff shortages. Dr. Clancy reported that Pennsylvania was recently recognized for best practices in all 4 transition-related indicators including graduation, drop-out rate, transition opportunities, procedures, practices, and post-school outcomes. Dr. Clancy also provided information about inclusive curriculum, work-based learning models, conferences, development of an intermediate learning pathway, paraprofessional programs and grants, and celebrating the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) collaborations.

- Ms. Michelle Mitchell inquired about the most critical element that needs to be addressed for individuals with disabilities coming up through the educational system and target areas of advocacy. Dr. Clancy explained the hand-off between the school system and adult system needs to be strengthened. Staff turnover has made it difficult to keep everyone informed from the state level to the regional level. Another challenge is that the employment workforce is not prepared to continue supporting students and people with disabilities when the school systems and job trainers are not present.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz inquired if there is any movement to increase the amount of Braille taught in schools to students that are low vision or no vision. Dr. Clancy explained that Ms. Heitz and the National Federation of the Blind of Pennsylvania continues to provide advocacy, and this information has been provided to their staff to figure out how to make this one of their main priorities to incentivize more people to become teachers of Braille.
- Mr. Paz De Melo explained that the task force efforts should include providing information to families about IDEA, OVR transition services, and improving the relationship between OVR and local schools and parents.

Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing - Melissa Hawkins, Director

- Ms. Melissa Hawkins reported that the purchase order for the final 2-years of the Support Service Provider (SSP) program supporting people who are Deafblind was renewed and that they would like to see this become a permanent line item on the State Budget. Materials may be provided for Council advocacy efforts. The Pennsylvania Advisory Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) is scheduled to hold their quarterly meeting on March 14, 2025.

Statewide Independent Living Council – Susan Tomasic, SILC Board Chair / Matt Seeley, Director

- Ms. Susan Tomasic reported that the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is finishing up the latest revisions for their State Plan to be submitted to the portal. This information will be made publicly available upon it being released by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). SILC has received funding for their contract with OVR that began on October 1, 2024, and is looking into producing an Independent Living Conference for the Fall of 2025. Planning for the conference is in its preliminary stages but will include other groups such as the Pennsylvania Centers for Independent Living (PCIL).

State Workforce Development Board – James Martini, Executive Director

- Mr. James Martini reported that last quarter the State Workforce Development Board (WDB) approved recommendations from their Barrier Remediation Committee related to competitive integrated employment which were vetted through OVR and included the launch of a public awareness campaign for the transition to CIE from sheltered workshops, provide state funding for transitional support, develop multiyear phase-out plan of 14 (c) Certificates, and ensure all employers receiving workforce funding through state agencies are participating in training that fosters inclusive practices and improves accessibility. The WDB Barrier Remediation Committee will be meeting with the Employment First Oversight Commission to hold discussion regarding ways to collaborate and integrate workforce systems, OVR systems and ensure those seeking services in Pennsylvania are not sent in multiple directions. The next WDB meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025, and members are welcome to attend.
- Mr. Pennington informed members that Mr. Martini and others from Workforce Development regularly attend the PaRC CareerLink/WIOA Committee meetings and provide tremendous insight and information.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

PDE 2025 Conference Report – William Paz De Melo, Julia Barol, Michelle Mitchell

- Mr. William Paz De Melo alerted members that elections for the Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Member-at-Large positions will be held during the May Full Council meeting.
- Mr. Paz De Melo, Ms. Julia Barol, and Ms. Michelle Mitchell attended the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference and provided a report about the conference and sessions which were well received. Members shared concerns regarding the placement of vendor tables in low traffic areas during the conference. Members reported that they did have the opportunity to network and share the message of what the PaRC does and discuss the importance of the Council's initiatives to teachers and others present during the conference. Members also suggested holding more sessions for families and the promotion of transition and OVR services.
- Mr. Paz De Melo reminded members that the next Full Council meeting on May 7, 2025 is hybrid with option to attend in-person or virtually. Mr. Paz De Melo requested that all members attend in-person unless an accommodation is requested to attend virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

ADJOURN

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to adjourn. Mr. Rob Wallington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.