

Minutes of the meeting of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Search Committee.

Meeting held April 6th, 2026 at 5:30pm.

Meeting was held remotely via Zoom and posted to the agency YouTube page.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Sienko called the meeting to order at **5:34 PM**

Commissioners present via Zoom: Commissioner Kidd, Commissioner Madsen, Commissioner Scarboro, Commissioner Sienko, Commissioner Swenson, Commissioner Bolmarcich, Commissioner Venkatesh, Commissioner Williams

Commissioners absent: Thompson, Goodstein

Staff Present via Zoom: Nikki Soukup, Lillian Gilmer, Victoria Vaughn, Ricky Gonsowski, Chyla Dalton-Nava

AAG: Elise Phalen

Buck Rogers- Agency Appeal

Chair Sienko opened the discussion on the appeal of Buck Rogers case after the Board voted to revoke his interpreter's license because he lost the required national certification. Agency AAG Elise Phalen explained to the board that an informal settlement was held for information gathering, but it cannot proceed any further until the Board votes to authorize a staff member, ideally Nikki Soukup, to act on its behalf to attempt a settlement or move toward a hearing. This vote is urgent because a deadline with the Office of Administrative Hearings is quickly approaching on Monday. A board vote to allow Nikki to be authorized to conduct business on the board's behalf would allow Nikki to contact the appellant and file an update on the case status by Monday. The current situation is similar to a previous appeal, which was handled by the now-retired Carmen. **Commissioner Kidd moves to appoint Nikki Soukup to act on the Board's behalf in the Buck Rogers case; Commissioner Williams seconds, the motion carried unanimously.**

Board Meeting Dates and Locations

Chair Sienko continued with the next agenda item, on meeting dates and locations. The Board typically meets quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as needed for special situations. The proposed dates for the upcoming quarterly meetings are May 21st, August 20th, November 19th, and February 18th of 2027. She asked if the board had any comments on meeting locations, whether the Board wanted to continue meeting virtually, or if the Board would like to maybe consider some in person options. A discussion followed, with some commissioners expressing concerns about meeting times. Nikki Soukup recommends prioritizing the dates and voting immediately, due to the likelihood of

losing quorum at 6:00 PM , as one of the commissioners will need to leave the meeting. Chair Sienko agreed on prioritizing the dates, and explained that meeting times could be decided at a later time. **Commissioner Kidd moved to accept the dates of May 21st, August 20th, November 19th, and February 18th of 2027; Commissioner Madsen seconded, the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Kidd Moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 PM; Commissioner Sienko seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM.**

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 9th day of April, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.