



June 27th, 2016

Dr. Beth Purvis
Secretary of Education
100 W. Randolph, JRTC Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601-3220

Dear Dr. Purvis

We the members of Jacksonville Chapter Illinois Association of the Deaf (JIAD) want to share with you our concerns on the lack of appropriate communication with IDHHC and other state agencies involving the search for ISD superintendent. The last straw came when the *Communication Matters* was sent out via the IDHHC list serve. In that article, it contrasted from the letter originally sent out on or around May 19 regarding John Miller's appointment as a "tour listener" to gather recommendations from various sources for the superintendent search.

You have failed in communication with several organizations of, by and for the deaf who can provide better input and insight on the superintendent search. Why? You have not contacted any of us, especially Jacksonville Deaf Individual that plays an important part in the community and since Illinois School for the Deaf is in our community our organization would like to have a part in helping with the search. JIAD has always been a very big supporter of Illinois School for the Deaf as well as the Deaf community at large.

At first we were okay with the selection of John Miller to do the "listening tour" this summer, but after the naming of four people to be on the steering committee to assist John Miller, we felt that we had been slighted by the bureaucracy with no one representing the Jacksonville Deaf community. What do these three outsiders know about the issues and our goals for the new Superintendent and cherishing the future of our deaf/hard of hearing children? Change the steering committee or add more Jacksonville deaf community and employees of the Illinois School for the Deaf to it.

Thank you,

Paul Pyers, Secretary/Treasurer for JIAD

cc: Kris Smith, DHS/DRS
Secretary Dimas, DHS
Jerry Covell
Corey Axelrod, IAD
John Miller, IDHHC
Paula Chance
Susan Weiss, ISDAA