



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Online Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 25, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM [EST]

Special Board Meeting Called by the Evaluation & Certification Director

ASLTA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Special Meeting

Time: Aug 25, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97254188676?pwd=VFBRSwNqD1MwMHDheE0blltHC6Glr9.1>

Meeting ID: 972 5418 8676

Passcode: 530720

1. Roll Call

Matt Andersen, President

Katie Moore, Professional Development Director

Alli Bloom, Vice President

JB Begue, Evaluation and Certification Director

Sabrina Vasconcelos Boyer, ASLHS Director

Annie Welch, Communications Director

Absent:

[VACANT], Conference Director

Rhonda Jennings-Arey, Secretary

Jason E. Zinza, Treasurer

2. The meeting was called to order by President Andersen at 6:35 pm EST

3. Evaluation & Certification Director's Report

Please review the MOU and suggest with the appropriate language to use in MOU	☐ Memorandum of Understanding DRAFT
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document	Still needs some language clean-up so JB wants us to help with that and make sure the language matches the needs of the MOU. Once that's final, then please let JB know for next meeting to vote to approve. Will hold on this for now until completed for vote.
To prevent confusion and streamline the process for the Evaluation and Certification director: There is ambiguous language in the Background Knowledge section of the certification application. Please remove the words 'or taught' so candidates clearly understand that these required documents must be submitted before they start GoReact Portfolio	https://aslta.org/certifications/apply/ There have been a few times where people have been confused when applying for certification because it says "or taught". They will check it and then discover that there's an issue with the application. We will split it on the website and create a separate portion underneath that applicants can check to confirm that they've taken the course, and the separate one for if they've taught the course. Matt will also separate the bottom "I agree" paragraph into lines to be checked so it is clear that applicants are agreeing to the terms.
Regarding Step 2 (ASL Proficiency Assessment) of the application: Scores older than 5 years may result in an application being rejected by our evaluator. However, a candidate applying for Level I who graduated from the University of Northern Colorado's Teaching ASL (TASL) program is asking if their degree can serve as an exception to waive the ASL proficiency assessment requirement.	https://aslta.org/certifications/apply/ *this is not listed on the recertify page, so not needed* Referring for more discussion.
Currently, we do not have an established timeline or deadline policy for portfolio extension requests. How long of an extension should candidates be granted upon paying the extension fee (e.g., 30 days)? For example, a candidate applied for Level II in July with a three-week submission deadline of July 4, 2026. After missing the deadline, they requested an extension on August 20 (about 8 weeks later). We need an explicit policy defining whether late extension requests are	On the bottom of the certification application form Section #4 (Acknowledgement and Agreement), it states that candidates must communicate with the Director if they need a time extension, while understanding that an extension is not guaranteed. If an applicant is in GoReact, they use up a seat that others could potentially use. The timeline for working in GoReact is 3 weeks for application. Will double check to see if

accepted and how many days candidates have to complete their portfolio after paying the fee.	can tell when someone is in GoReact or not. Will discuss more later, need to add in how long extensions if allowed, etc. Will work on policies.
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MOTION #2026-129: I, JB Begue, move to amend the Background Knowledge section of the certification application by adding the words 'taught' as a separate section to require candidates to provide recorded documentation proving they have taught the individual courses at least 6 units for each course (e.g., ASL Literature, ASL Linguistics, and Deaf Culture). This change ensures that candidates submit all required documentation, such as official record of instruction from institution prior to applying for the GoReact portfolio, streamlines the evaluation process, and carries no financial impact.

Seconded: Katie Moore

Voted: Passed

MOTION #2026-130: I, Katie Moore, move to roll over unused funds from the 2025-2026 PD budget of \$9,000 to use in the 26-27 fiscal year for a PD retreat.

Seconded: Alli Bloom

Voted: Passed

MOTION #2026-131: I, Katie Moore, move to go ahead and purchase Thinkific before August 31, 2026, to start moving courses to that platform with a cost of \$82 a month to come from PD account.

Seconded: Alli Bloom

Voted: Passed

MOTION #2026-132: I, Katie Moore, move to add a second Zoom paid Pro account for the use of Professional Development with a cost of \$14.16 a month.

Seconded: Annie Welch

Voted: Passed

MOTION #2026-133: I, Katie Moore, move to set January 2027 Symposium pricing at \$156 for members, non-members \$260, student at \$104, and RID CEUs add on for \$58.

Seconded: JB Begue

Voted: Passed

MOTION #2026-134: I, Katie Moore, move to set ASLTA K-12 Summit costs at \$75 for members, non-members \$150, students at \$60, and RID CEUS add on for \$58.

Seconded: JB Begue

Voted: Passed

Vice President

1. Trademark and Intellectual Property- Legal Counsel Update

- The Board received an update from legal counsel regarding the use of ASLTA National's trademarks and intellectual property following the disaffiliation of local chapters. *(I emailed the legal counsel's summary to everyone this morning; please let me know if you did not receive it.)*
- Legal counsel advised the Board regarding ASLTA National's rights and available options for protecting its intellectual property.
- Does the Board want to authorize Karen Hawkes, Esq., to proceed with the following next steps on behalf of ASLTA National?
 - Sending cease-and-desist letters to disaffiliated local chapters regarding continued use of ASLTA National's intellectual property and trademarks; and
 - Filing a new trademark application for the ASLTA word mark.

MOTION #2026-135 I, Alli Bloom, move that ASLTA authorize legal counsel to send cease-and-desist letters regarding unauthorized use of ASLTA National's intellectual property and trademarks by disaffiliated local chapters, and to file a new trademark application for the ASLTA word mark. ASLTA authorizes a \$5,000 retainer to be applied toward legal fees and expenses related to this work. The estimated financial impact includes a minimum of \$850 for the trademark application, plus legal fees at \$535/hour. Total expenses cannot exceed the preestablished \$10,000 cap without additional Board approval.

Seconded: Katie Moore

Voted: Passed

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 pm EST

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Moore, PD Director, and others' help :)

Future meetings: ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 6:30 PM EST

September 27, 2026

October 11, 2026

November 8, 2026

December 13, 2026