

CAC

Community Advisory Committee
for Special Education
ADVISING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

Date: October 27, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Wiggin Center Room B-1, 4350 Mt. Everest Blvd, 92117

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. Present were Executive Committee (EC) members Moira Allbritton, Mary Conroy, Teresa Michel, and Joyce Clark. Quorum was established. There was no public input. No announcements were offered.

OLD BUSINESS

Mary Conroy moved to approve the draft minutes from the September 23 Executive Committee meeting; Joyce Clark seconded. Motion passed.

Debrief from the October general meeting- Continued microphone use recommended. Joyce to convey gavel. For an upcoming Town Hall, the CAC “primer” was mentioned as a presentation topic. It was also recommended that the CC plug our vacancy for “student representation” in December.

The CC noted that the CAC is not being copied on Open Forum responses, even though requested by presenter. A summary of Open Forum unresolved issues was decided by EC to be included in each Chair’s report to reinforce the accountability of the Open Forum process.

The EC reviewed the minutes from the October 14th general meeting; minor corrections were made to the details of an announcement. The CC will forward the minutes to general membership after the corrected version is received from Secretary.

Raylene Dickinson’s appointment was approved by the Board of Education on October 26th. The EC discussed how to orient/support its two new members. Mary offered to support Raylene; the CC will approach a member to mentor Ellen.

Wrt topic of member binders, Joyce can supply two binders. Joyce, Mary and Moira will work together via e-mail to ensure that a current copy of all binder contents is forwarded electronically to all members to update binders. (Among the items suggested: Updated member roster; Constitution/By-Laws; Brown Act; Robert’s Rules of Order; CAC Powerpoint presentation; Updated annual report; Hehir Reports/recommendations; and the Resolution going to the Board of Education once finalized). The CC will scan the signature page of the Constitution ASAP to forward for Secretary’s records.

Joyce reminded the EC that we need to develop a Conflict of Interest policy; the CC will add to next month's EC meeting agenda.

The CC reported receipt of a letter of resignation from the CAC by Maleia Christian. Proclamation Update- Board of Education will take up this matter at its November 30th meeting. SDUSD has agreed to original language with minor changes. The CC will notify membership of the importance of CAC members attending this meeting. The CC will also e-mail Board Services Office to request a time-certain placement on the Board's agenda, if possible.

The CC will remind members whose terms will expire in the next year to please submit their applications so that we may discuss them as an EC at our Dec. 2nd meeting for submission to the Board in January 2011.

Mary reported on her participation as a CAC representative to the A-G Taskforce. Joyce will give notebook from last year's A-G group. The EC discussed how there is not a "vocational equivalent" of A-G, the difficulty in recommendations reaching implementation in light of budgetary constraints, and the fundamental challenge of incorporating students with disabilities who are pursuing a diploma in the A-G process.

Mary reported on her participation as a parent invited by Jody Bondurant-Strong to participate in the "Challenging Conversations" workshop as well as the Solutions Panelist training. It was noted that two CAC members and one newly-appointed member were present for all five-days of the training; Mary Conroy, Nancy Stevenson, and Raylene Dickinson attended. Approximately 200 people attended the broad ADR workshop while about 20 people attended the Solutions Panelist training. No Spanish speakers were part of the latter and several "community members" were thought to be retired District personnel. Mary provided a detailed overview of the trainings and ADR process, as it currently has been explained to panelists; the specifics of converting the mediated agreement into the IEP process seemed to be vague and perhaps not finalized. Mary stated that panelists committed to attending "refresher training" once every 8-weeks or so. The EC briefly discussed overarching concerns about roll-out, such as: How would the District explain the process to parents? How would staff be trained about the process? Would panelists recuse themselves if the participants or disagreement was too familiar?

NEW BUSINESS

The November 4th general meeting draft agenda was reviewed; the EC offered suggestions that will be incorporated into the final version. Speakers and presentation topics were discussed and agreed upon; the CC will work with District POCs to schedule winter presentations from Finance/Budget and SEEC.

The By-Law Committee will meet to conduct the mandatory annual review in March prior/following the EC meeting. Stephanie Fimbres will be asked to serve on that committee.

The EC discussed the tepid response by members to Above & Beyond Awards. It was agreed that a positive initiative as well as an opportunity to reinforce positive outcomes is an important function of the CAC. In addition, it is seen to impact staff morale. The CC will recruit for a member to chair this ad-hoc committee as well as solicit a Program Manager to act as District liaison. The CC will revisit the scheduling of the June general meeting to see if Lindbergh-Schweitzer would be available for June 2nd, 2011. If not, it is felt we would move the Awards ceremony to May 12th meeting.

The CC reported that Membership and Newsletter workgroups would meet prior to the Nov. 4th Town Hall meeting, beginning at 6 p.m. She will provide a light dinner and will notice meetings with Board Services Office as soon as possible. There was discussion of a need for a refresher for membership on the Brown Act. The CC will follow-up with membership via e-mail.

The CC reported on several CAC business items, including:

- Delays in getting requested information posted on Parent Services site;
- The need for updates to CAC brochures;
- CAC cell phone; and
- Possible spring presentations from SDSU on Transition Study as well as possibly a Town Hall presentation from a general ed science teacher on “changing a teacher’s position on inclusion”. CC and Vice Chair to sit in on CST training to preview the presentation.

The CC reported on concerns relating to special education, including:

- Outstanding requests for information about the ADR process;
- Changes in SEEC assessment process;
- The Governor’s elimination of funding for school-based mental health services;
- Information that CA funding formulas may serve as a disincentive to special education students being listed on general education rolls and incentivize (contrary to civil rights legislation) segregated settings by funding segregated settings at a higher rate;
- The possibility that CA’s additional authorizations for credentials may increase the segregation of students by disability.
- Budget concerns related to paraprofessional staffing levels across the District;

Unfortunately, there was little time to discuss these issues in detail or to hold a “roundtable discussion”; the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Moirá Allbritton
October 31, 2010