

CAC

Community Advisory Committee For Special Education

Advising The Board of Education
San Diego Unified School District

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2012
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Location: Lindbergh-Schweitzer Elementary – West Auditorium, 4133 Mt. Albertine Ave. (92111)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm.

The Chairperson, Moira Allbritton, welcomed attendees and introduced CAC members, district staff and administrators, and acknowledged parents. The Chair reviewed the agenda, meeting format and structure, and process for providing public comment.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present: Moira Allbritton, Mary Conroy, Mina Kern, Teresa Michel, Joyce Clark, Belquis Anders, Meghann Hughes, Ellen Herroon, Bill Cary, Michelle Crisci.

Absent: Dorene Dias Pesta (LOA), Teresa Hilleary, Pam McKinney, Chris Pikus, Christy Scadden, Nancy Stevenson, Raylene Dickinson, Chris Pikus.

Ex-Officio: Dr. Joe Fulcher – Chief Student Services Officer. Susan Martinez – Executive Director of Special Education.

Quorum established.

PRESENTATION: Choice Options & Transportation (Sandy Robles & Maurice Barbour)
Choice Options: Proof of address for home school. Feb 15th deadline to apply for outside your home school; April is when you will be notified if you have been accepted. Application is available online. 10k apps received so far, another couple K's expected by deadline. You can change options till Feb 15th. A variety of programs are available. VEEP is almost gone. Charter schools handle their own applications; by law they are supposed to have a public lottery. Families should visit the perspective schools, most have tours available. Magnet schools are run by the district, charters are not. Unbiased selection process, IEP's/race etc are not considered. Those with the greatest economic need are considered for transportation. Feeder patterns show the automatic matriculation for each cluster. Children whose home school is a program improvement school and with the highest need have the first opportunity for transportation.

Transportation: Both general and special ed are transported. The budget colors everything that transportation does. Before, if you wanted it/needed it, then you got it. But that is not the case

anymore. Special needs students are mandated to receive transportation. The transportation website has a list of all the buses that are running more than 20 minutes late that day. The website has been down the last two days, but it should be up and running tomorrow. 130 drivers were laid off because of the budget; also 3 dispatchers also and 3 information clerks. All those layoffs affect customer service. You have to live 5 miles outside the school. Minimum riders went from 15 to 25 riders. Parent pay-in is going up \$80/school year to \$500 next year.

Q&A

Q: Don't you have to be tested in a magnet school?

A: No, only SCPA has a 9th grade audition.

Q: How long does it take to fix scheduling issues?

A: Generally it takes 3 weeks for a basic change (like moving). If it's an emergency then we try to move that process along, but there are many people to be notified.

Q: They are almost late everyday because of a new student that has been added to the route.

A: The scheduling dept is trying to be creative.

Q: But they are arriving late every day.

A: I will speak to you one on one.

Q: If they choice to a different school, doesn't their FAPE follow them?

A: That student receives transportation to their school of residence or to a place that the IEP team decided is a better placement. If you choice your student, they lose their transportation.

Q: When and how are children transported to CA Children Services (CCS)?

A: There is nothing in writing that says specifically when. 1:30 is when we are doing our services for all the other students. That's when buses are released to go do their transportation for the rest of the day.

Q: (translator) The case manager made an error and my son has never received transportation services.

A: Please fill out a form and we will deal with your personal issues.

Q: I received a bill that said I had to pay the entire amount up front at the beginning, with only a 4 day notice.

A: The notices were very late last year.

Q: But you knew in June and billed us in August. It's a tough thing to throw at families, especially when it is a pay all up front

A: The Board made their decision late. We tried to work it out with everyone that called in for help.

Q: Did you lose a lot of children when you changed the 5 miles radius?

A: Not really.

Q: What is the deal with busing for ESY this year?

A: Most of the times, the information we get is inaccurate. We don't know what the sites are or how long the rides will be.

Q: I am offering you kudos for being so responsive to issues that have come up.

A: Thank you.

Q: Why do we even have choice? We need to have a paradigm shift and try to improve our local schools rather than let children change schools.

A: The Board has adopted a 5 year plan to bring a quality school into every neighborhood. There is an integration court order in effect since 1977. There must be an unbiased selection process.

Q: But there are 58 elementary schools that are under program improvement.

A: Right now that is the federal law because of no child left behind, though there seems to be a shift in how best to administer that law.

Q: If you really want to change schools, your only option is open enrollment and you are stuck if you don't get your choice?

A: 70% of the children got their first choice last year. Most of our schools have openings; going to a new school does not always solve the problem.

Q: Can you choice into a different school district?

A: Yes, you request an inter-district permit with SDUSD. Then you must apply with the other district and be accepted there. There are about 5k children in this district that qualify. Inter-SELPA (special education local planning area) is a separate process that you must apply for. No transportation for inter-district, but maybe for Inter-SELPA.

Q: Does it matter when you apply, in relation to the deadline?

A: No it does not, it's all random.

Q: If you choose 3 schools and they all have openings, will you be accepted to all 3?

A: No, only your first choice. You have 2 weeks to decide. If you decline, you don't get any other choices.

Q: (translator) If my child went to a charter school would he still receive special ed services and could I still attend these meetings?

A: SDUSD provides special ed services for 14 charter schools. Your child's IEP will follow them.

Q: Will transportation affect the SEEC program? Will there be 6th graders on the same bus?

A: There is a possibility. The SEEC go home separately. But there are a few buses with SEEC with grade school aged children.

Q: Is there a maximum time for a student to be on the bus?

A: We try to keep it as close to 60 minutes, but sometimes it goes longer.

Q: Is there a priority even if you choice-in?

A: Yes, if you choice-in a school already then the child follows that matriculation.

Q: Does every bus have a bus monitor?

A: No, they need to be written into an IEP.

Q: Why does my son have a bus monitor some days but not others?

A: It depends on the routes, or perhaps the needs of other riders.

OPEN FORUM:

Q: I have a child with vision problems and am looking for more information.

A: Please put down your information and we will get you in contact with someone.

Q: Why is Lindbergh-Schweitzer on the program improvement list?

A: (Lindbergh-Schweitzer's Principal) We missed 2 targets for English language learners. It's a strange law.

DIVISION REPORT:

(Joe) - \$3 million budget cuts, no programs will be cut only vacancies will not be filled. There is an audit being scheduled for the Special Ed department. Requests for bids are expected in a couple months. Feb 28th there will be a presentation at 930 Room 2226 mainly to compare our SELPA with El Dorado's. Jim Wood and some of the other program managers would like to come back next month in response to the presentation put on by Jason Naranjo several months ago. Dr Naranjo is moving but the grant is staying here, John Johnson will be taking over. We

are identifying 3 middle schools that will receive a grant to improve the literacy of those schools. Implement a UDL framework. Roosevelt, Louis, and Innovations are the 3 middle schools identified. We are piloting a new intervention system to support students, focusing on UDL and literacy that will be implemented in 5 schools.

ESY – there is only 1 for high school June 25th Aug 3rd. Elementary/Middle July 23 – Aug 17th. A student's IEP will determine if the student will receive ESY. Only 25-30% of students that were eligible for ESY showed up last year.

Q: Will we receive more than a 4 day notice for the sites that ESY offered unlike last year?

A: You should know more than a few weeks in advance this year.

Q: That would affect how many kids could/would show up for ESY.

A: We didn't know until the last minute last year, hopefully with the extra weeks break it will give everyone more time.

Q: Do you know when the students will be entered into the database for ESY?

A: Sometime in April. Please talk to your case manager if you want your child to have ESY.

Q: How does the family let you know their child will be attending?

A: Teachers are expected to go into our database and let the district know if that child is expected to attend ESY or not.

Q: So it's up until the day of?

A: We are relying on the case managers, but those that don't say it is a last minute decision because we don't want to assume.

Q: I don't know who my child's case manager is?

A: Your child is in SEEC, it is their teacher. Outside of the SEEC program, it is a more general term.

Q: At the beginning of the school year, I would like to know who is who!

A: We will try to provide that list to you.

Q: What specifically are your cutting budget-wise?

A: There are several counselors we are not filling. Director of Special Ed was cut. There are some program changes, shifting of organizational structure.

Q: When is the audit being performed?

A: We are at least 2 months before the beginning of the audit; it probably won't be completed by the end of the summer.

Q: Is this audit happening instead of the CAC meeting with the district for cost cutting measures?

A: The scope has been changed, but it is separate from the CAC.

Q: What exactly is being audited?

A: Charters and staffing are 2 of the 4 areas that are being audited.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Joyce motions for the January meeting minutes to be approved. Michelle seconds. Ayes: 9, Nays 0, Abstain: 1. The motion carries.

Local area plans will be available by the next meeting. English Language Learners and Math still need CAC members for LEA.

Mina, Teresa, Raylene, Chris all volunteer for Above and Beyond Committee.

Nominating committee will be tabled for a later date.

Mary and Bill will do bylaw review.

The Chair had been summoned by Trustee Barnett, but that meeting was canceled.

Subcommittee meetings will be held on March 8th at 6:15pm.

Feb 28th there will be several people up for CAC membership approval by the BoE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb 28th 930am – Room 2226 BoE workshop

March 4th 9-1 - Sib Shop

March 17th IEP Day – iepday.org

Parent resource library is available during CAC general meetings

Feb 22nd -

Q: Is transitional kindergarten being canceled?

A: There has been no official announcement that it won't be funded.

Q: My son is 5 but not ready for regular kindergarten, what are his options now?

A: You need to sit with your IEP team to make that decision.

Mary motions to adjourn; Ellen seconds.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:54PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mina Kern - Secretary