

CAC

Community Advisory Committee For Special Education

Advising The Board of Education
San Diego Unified School District

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 8, 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 7:06pm.

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.

NOTE: CAC sub-committees met from 6:30pm-6:55pm this evening.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present: Moira Allbritton, Mary Conroy, Teresa Michel, Mina Kern, Bill Cary, Belquis Anders, Michelle Crisci, Raylene Dickinson, Meghann Hughes, Ellen Herroon, Nancy Stevenson, Chris Pikus, Christy Scadden, Susan Fanno, Nancy Kirkman, Caroline Kelner, Chris Pikus.

Absent: Joyce Clark, Dorene Dias Pesta (LOA), Teresa Hilleary, Pam McKinney.

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

Quorum established.

PRESENTATION : BUDGET & FINANCE - (Ron Little)

CA School Financing – A Fable (of sorts)

A history of public school financing laws was presented.

28% of funding comes from property taxes; the rest of comes from the State.

\$160m/year gap between what the State should be giving SDUSD than what it actually does.

SDUSD must borrow to cover that gap, and pay interest on that.

If the budget initiatives pass, that money will cover the gap from before, it does not give us more to spend. If it does not pass, then there will be a \$41 million loss at mid-year.

Ed Code mandates that school districts issue their budgets in March; the State doesn't have their budgets done until June so that is why there are pink slips issued but then rescinded.

Q&A

Q: The proposal for the weighted pupil formula. In the past SDUSD had problems with diverting funds from special ed. How do we keep that from happening?

A: Special ed comes from a different pot, those monies would be protected from the weighted pupil formula.

Q: Those decisions come from the BoE?

A: Yes.

Q: My daughter's classrooms went from 32 to 40; I question whether they could get out of the classroom in case of a fire.

A: When we adjust class size, we research them and evaluate them on a case by case basis.

Q: But some of those classes won't even fit a wheelchair.

A: We have Prop S to help address capacity and ADA requirements.

Q: It was recommended that 59 special ed positions be cut, how is that going to affect next year?

A: (Joe) The list needs to be reconciled, to make sure it is accurate. Any reduction will not have an effect on the special ed program. We are obligated to provide those services dictated by IEP's.

Q: How long does that take?

A: It shouldn't take that long. If you need a SCIA, that could take longer. If you have an individual issue, I can talk to you at the end of the meeting.

Q: How is it legal for them to under fund us?

A: They suspend the law. They at least are tracking what they owe us.

Q: How does this affect children that still need to be assessed?

A: In regards to Staffing? Yes. We have x number of days to assess and have an IEP.

Q: They haven't suspended special ed funding?

A: They still fund special ed, we are obligated to fund special ed.

Q: How does our per student spending compare? And what are outcomes?

A: \$8-9000/pupil per year. We need to work on spending versus outcomes. We have seen some growth in outcomes.

Q: Prop 13 said when a house sold it was reassessed right?

A: Yes, but Prop 13 says it can only increase by 2%. There are not enough properties sold to catch up.

Q: We can't tax senior citizens out of their homes though.

A: I am not advocating that.

Q: What is going on to change the system?

A: CA Forward is a group working for change. Reach out to your legislators. On sandi.net has a link that says "Make your voice Heard."

Q: Is there a specific person?

A: I don't know of any 1 person.

Q: Is there a limit how big a class size can get?

A: The ed code has limits specified. Once we've reached the limit we must make the class size smaller again.

PRESENTATION: AUDIT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, SCOPE & STATUS - (Phil Stover)

Mr. Stove shared his journey as the adoptive parent of a child with special needs.

BoE asked for an analysis of the special ed program. SDUSD's Ron Little did a comparison of our SELPA with El Dorado's. 6-8 weeks ago the BoE wanted an outside entity to do the

analysis. We don't know how this is going to be paid for, though we have not been officially authorized by the BoE to get it done, only to complete an RFP (Request for Proposals). Companies will be replying with proposals that include cost, we will then present it to the BoE and they can make a decision from there. Page 3 has 10 points that are the most important part of this document. We are doing this because it is imperative that all of our expenditures are used effectively and efficiently.

Q&A:

Q: ESL and African American children are being over-identified, are they supposed to be there in the first place?

A: We are not addressing that in this proposal. We had a report done several years ago about that particular topic.

Q: Why would we ask an outside agency to tell us what the LEA is going to say about our instruction practices?

A: We are looking at whether we are using our Para's in the most effective way.

Q: If you change the supports, then you change the outcomes.

A: That's a very real probability.

Q: Is it true that 20% of special ed monies are going to be used on general ed? Like school psychologists are paid by special ed but also do GATE testing.

A: We've gone to an 80/20 so we are not using special ed money. (Joe) It's more like 15%.

Q: What do you mean by funding equity?

A: I don't know. (Joe) It has to do with "encroachment" that the BoE believes may be happening.

Q: Item 3 & 4, are they required to have a sampling?

A: Yes.

Q: You should have a minimum data sampling you are looking for. Best practices is not defined, who is the authority that defines that? I would be careful with that term.

A: (Susan) There are districts throughout the nation that have good outcomes.

Q: You can use case studies to accomplish this too.

A: Thank you.

Q: Will charter schools be included?

A: No. That is not the intent.

Q: Where can we send our questions?

A: pstover@sandi.net. Please CC: to the CAC Chair and Joe by Wed.

OPEN FORUM:

Q: Who do I escalate my child's IEP issue with?

A: Dr. Joe Fulcher or Susan Martinez.

Q: Problems with how Nursing is addressing health reports in IEP's, there could be serious consequences.

A: Please provide me with more information later.

Q: Why is there such a problem of communication between myself and the aides?

A: Please fill out a form for your specific issue.

Q: Can the district please inform all parents of when ESY will be this year?

A: We did send one flyer out to all the teachers.

Q: Can we make reverse phone calls to let people know when? What are the sites?

A: We have not decided on the sites yet.

Q: Not all students with IEP's will qualify for ESY, is that true?

A: Yes. It's an IEP team decision.

Q: What does ESY stand for?

A: Extended School Year.

Q: What is the appropriate action for an IEP that is not being implemented?

A: First case manager, then principal, then program manager, then file a complaint of non-compliance. The procedural safeguards do address this. And there will be someone at the CAC meeting in April who can answer these questions. You have the right to take this further.

Q: IEP day is when?

A: March 17th.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS DIVISION REPORT:

SELPA – Special Education Local Planning Area.

Annual service plan – supports and services that the SELPA provides (not necessarily at every school). Our plan goes before the BoE on March 27th.

Christy motion to table this for CAC exec board to discuss; Michelle seconds. Discussion followed. Ayes:12, Nays:0, Abstain:0. The motion carries.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Mary motion to approve minutes, Ellen seconds. Ayes:11, Nays:0, Abstain:2. The motion carries.

Chair report – Feb 27th

Feb 28th 3 new members

Subcommittees were active today before the general meeting.

Mary Conroy is Chair of Bylaw review.

Joyce is Chair of Nominating Committee.

Exec Committee has recommended 4 more applications for BoE appointments.

Above and Beyond Awards – those apps are coming out next week. May 10th is when we will have the ceremony.

New Tiger Teams being formed; register on Saturday, March 10th at the Ballard Center.

Caroline and Michelle attended a focus group for program improvement last night. Caroline gave a synopsis of the meeting. Tomorrow at 10am in Annex 2 Art Darren from West-Ed will be having a meeting about special ed. The district will be receiving about \$10 million to try and get out of program improvement. ISS – inventory of support and services for special ed. We will be suggesting that principals need to include a goal of improving outcomes of children with special needs.

Q: Can you post that for those can't be at the meeting?

A: We can post it on the CAC website.

Mina gave an update of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Committee meetings. An open forum will take place sometime in May.

The lack of CAC attendance at LEA meetings was because some of those meetings already taking place at very inconvenient times for parents.

Please like us on Facebook!

Thank you to Jody for bringing the resource table.
Mary motions to adjourn; Christy seconds.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:06PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mina Kern - Secretary