

CAC

Community Advisory Committee For Special Education

Advising The Board of Education
San Diego Unified School District

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 10, 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 7:00pm.

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: The Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony was held at 7pm during this meeting; the formal business portion followed immediately thereafter with a start time of 8:07pm.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present: Moira Allbritton, Mary Conroy, Teresa Michel, Mina Kern, Bill Cary, Michelle Crisci, Ellen Herroon, Chris Pikus, Christy Scadden, Susan Fanno, Caroline Kelner, Joyce Clark, Nancy Stevenson, Emiko Elizalde.

Absent: Belquis Anders, Nancy Kirkman, Dorene Dias Pesta, Terrence Bobryk-Ozaki, Kristin Gohlke, Maria Riedel, Leticia Rui-Mylenek, Raylene Dickinson, Meghann Hughes, Teresa Hilleary.

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

Quorum established.

ANNUAL CAC “ABOVE & BEYOND” AWARDS:

Honorees included:

Jazelle Aytes, student, Fletcher Elementary School
Michael Dominguez, Logan K-8 School
Dave Elmer, SDUSD Employee, Polinsky Children's Center
Meagan Hood, La Jolla Elementary School
Charles James, Morse High School
Norma Strickland, Special Education Early Childhood
Shelly Suggs, DePortola Middle School
Magdalena Tavasci, Bayview Terrace Elementary School
Daphne Terrell, Lindbergh Schweitzer Elementary School

PUBLIC INPUT:

Comment: The Head Start programs are enrolling now. Even if you may not qualify financially, you should still apply. We will try to find a center that will meet your family's needs.

Q: My daughter's teacher was out sick, the substitute had to be called out on an emergency; her class then had to piggy-back onto other 3rd grades classes bypassing the max students allowed.

A: HR is looking into how to not have that happen again.

Q: During testing a school site administrator told a special day class that they were to keep inside the library or outside because they were too noisy even though there was no testing going on in that classroom.

A: (Joe) See me later.

Q: (translator) Mom feels that her son's school is not prepared to address his needs, is there any way to change him to a different school so he can get the help he needs. How can he still be really below class level?

A: (Sonja) Please talk to me later.

Q: My son is in TRACE, he is 21, we have 1 month to do transition. Is there anyone here who can help us with his last month of eligibility? He is with Regional Center. Our only options are to choose a program.

A: Joyce Clark will help you look at some of the programs available. (Joe) We can help with setting up meetings.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT REPORT:

(Susan) Learning Centers are for students with difficulties learning to read. Students are bused there for about 2 hours every day. We are looking at building capacity at sites. Next year we are hiring 3 more reading specialists. These specialists will work one-on-one with teachers that have been sending kids to the Learning Centers, and helping schools develop their own reading programs. We're doing this so that kids aren't spending a half hour or hour on the bus traveling to and from the Learning Centers.

Q: Are they teaching resource teachers or classroom teachers?

A: The new reading specialists will be our resource teachers; they will be available to work with classroom teachers.

Q: But the Learning Center does LIPS etc.

A: Fast Forward has come out with individual licenses, so we can put that program at that particular site so it can be used at the site.

Q: My son's does the Learning Center now, so will his teachers be prepared and ready in the Fall?

A: Yes, we will figure out how to achieve the same results at his campus.

Q: When we do his IEP in June, what do we put down for the Learning Center?

A: We must identify the reading needs of each child, and then look at what worked.

Q: Will it be 1 on 1?

A: Yes, or small group. Credentialed teachers will be doing the reading program.

Q: (translator) My son's teacher was going to recommend him to go to the Learning Center, but we never received a response. He has been accepted into High Tech High, will he be able to continue?

A: Give us your information, and we will talk to you after the meeting.

Q: If the teacher can't explain the homework to me, then how is he able to teach my son?

A: Put all that information down and we will follow up on that.

Q: Who decides how the specialists are disseminated?

A: We haven't worked that out yet. Our project resource teachers know the basics, so they are available as well.

Q: I'm concerned that the programs won't follow the student.

A: We are looking at a more balanced literacy, not just necessarily a specific program.

Q: But some significant disabilities require some specific instruction. I think including them in the curriculum is great, but sometimes there is a need for specialized instruction.

A: We are not advocating for all children to be put in a general education classroom for reading instruction. There should be a lot of expertise in many different reading programs.

Q: What is the job description and minimum requirements of the people who would become the reading resource teacher?

A: It hasn't been posted yet.

Q: When will it?

A: When I talk to Joe about it.

Q: When will those people be in place?

A: Hopefully close to July 1st. There are training programs available in August.

Q: None of this training will be mandatory? The site must make the request?

A: It can come from a variety of ways. It could be a parent, principle, or my office while reviewing some of the data coming from the site.

Q: This 1 + 3 will be specifically at the elementary level?

A: A lot of the work will be at the elementary level but it's not specific to elementary, it can be expanded.

Q: So will you close the 4 Learning Centers?

A: The school at Whittier will remain open, but we are planning for the others to close.

Q: Will parents be notified of these closures and loss of services?

A: The service will not be lost, just moved.

Q: Will the Learning Center end on June 13th or July 21st?

A: It ends when school is out.

Transition Services – the group is meeting May 17th to work on the handbook. There have been 2 district meetings, inviting high school teacher/teams for their input. I don't know those dates.

Uniform Discipline Policy – Joe met with high school principals to develop a better suspension/expulsion plan. When I am done with the next draft, I will give you a copy (by next week) to provide input.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Mary motions to approve the April meeting minutes, Joyce seconds. Ayes:11, Nays:0, Abstain:1. The motion carries.

Chair report – Terry Pesta recommended for CAC membership. Moira addressed the BoE 3 times: #1 LEA plan, #2 to reform to transition services (age 16-21 y/o); the CAC did not respond well to the handbook, #3 the opportunity study was voted down 4-1.

New member orientation – There will be a meeting on June 21st to discuss the 4 objectives.

Changes to the bylaws – (informative only) Changes to Article 12 to change verbiage to reflect current federal law regarding definitions. No discussion.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Committee Meeting – Mina reported that on May 2nd there was a Community Forum held to discuss the current status of the D/HH program. The DHHEC

has now moved into 5 sub-committees: parent/student handbook, professional development, school/community involvement, assessment, and D/HH Cluster analysis.

Sat May 12th – Tiger teams 10am – Noon. Moira asks for at least one CAC member to represent the many students that are GATE and have IEP's.

May 24th CAC Exec meeting – Ron Rhode will be there for our feedback on LEA.

Q: The revisions that we sent to the LEA plan, what's happening with those?

A: Ron Rhode is deciding how to handle that.

Mary motions to adjourn. Michelle seconds.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mina Kern - Secretary