

CAC

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE for Special Education

ADVISING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

General Membership Meeting: MINUTES

Date: April 14, 2011

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: Kate Sessions Elementary School 2150 Beryl St. San Diego, CA 92109

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

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, Joyce Clark, Bill Cary, Mary Conroy, Teresa Michel, Michelle Crisci, Raylene Dickinson, Dorene Dias Pesta, Stephanie Fimbres, Teresa Hilleary, Ellen Herron, Meghann Hughes, Mina Kern, Pam McKinney, Chris Pikus

Absent: Christy Scadden, Belquis Anders, Nancy Stevenson

Ex-Officio: Dr. Joe Fulcher, Chief of Parent Services, Susan Martinez, Executive Director of Special Education; Jody Bondurant-Strong, Director of Special Education

Quorum Established

Special Topic: Budget and Finance Report- Ron Little gave a report on the current budget and finances for the district.

Q: (Bill Cary) ADA dollars are they direct to the school? Why not? They (special needs students) are students in the school and this is a base line funding?

Q: (Moira Allbritton) what are all the exceptions to the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements?

Q: (Amy Perez) Will the transfer of revenue from the downtown school/library (CCDC funds) to reinstate teachers for 20112012 school year comport with the district's long range budget planning?

Q: How much money from the lottery goes to this budget and where does it go?

A: 1.5% of our funding comes from lottery money so we do get it, but some of it is restricted and goes to specific programs, i.e.: lower class sizes in K-3. Not a huge portion of the budget.

Public Input: Concerns about Budget relating to Special Education

Staffing issues and paraprofessionals

Q: (Cheri Cary) could we get an explanation of the reduction of staffing and do the rules of seniority apply?

A: Joe Fulcher-yes, seniority rules apply. We have tried to keep staffing cuts away from the classroom and have reduced only three mild/moderate teachers and the only reductions in

Para-educators are those who were funded by ARA money that will go away and there is a contingency plan to make sure we can staff school sites with appropriate supports.

Q: (Susan Wilding) Cohesive teams are being disrupted by staff shifting, this influences the continuity of service to my child. It appears this staff shifting benefits teachers and administrators at the detriment of the children. With all the cuts and changes I have great concern with the impact this has on the child?

A: Susan Martinez-this concerns us as well and we hear a lot of the concerns at the beginning of each year. We do not have control over who is assigned where, that is an HR concern. We only change the allocations of teachers/supports at a particular school site based on an increase or decrease in student needs.

Joe Fulcher-We do not like making changes to great teams that are working well at a particular site, but those changes happen every year and they will continue to happen. We try to make certain the services are in place to meet the needs of the students, but we cannot guarantee that a particular teacher won't be moved. We are required to abide by contractual rules.

Joyce Clark- Please get to know your school board members and take these concerns directly to them. The school board is in the position to set and approve contracts which the district must then abide by. Your personal stories are much more powerful and have weight when delivered personally to the board members, in addition to bringing these concerns to the CAC.

Q: (Cherri Cary) Susan Martinez said "we have no control over who HR assigns to what campus". How can we work to change the system to help give the people with better knowledge and understanding more input and control over these important discussions? HR seems frequently to be unaware of the needs and problems of people with boots on the ground.

A:

Q: (Meghann Hughes) budget- In 2008 a special education intern program was funded with millions of dollars in order to fill 40 vacancies. Why did the district then give out 127 layoff notices to credentialed special education teachers in March of 2011?

A: Joe Fulcher- These concerns aren't fully within the spectrum of special education, but I can ask and get a more complete answer from HR.

Q: Are schools where there is a concentration of a type of disability, likely to be affected by the budget/staffing challenges?

A: Schools where there is one type of disability, for example deaf and hard of hearing, can be clustered, because they have very specific needs with teachers needing very specific credentials/training.

Special Education Programs Division Report:

Dr. Joe Fulcher- The board and the superintendent went to Washington a few weeks ago, to try and get increases to the special education contribution from the federal government. They aren't getting full support, but they continue to advocate for these changes. Our comprehensive evaluation process was approved by the board several weeks ago which will be implemented in the next few weeks. EXCEED has hit some new snags and I think we are beyond those challenges. The pilot has begun and we expect to roll out the new system district wide in September 2011. We will be hiring one program manager to fill the vacated position for middle and high school and we will be hiring 10 to fill new positions that will be providing supports to schools, but the details of their jobs are still being developed.

Susan Martinez-Summer Institute-will be four days this summer. July 26th-29th, Lincoln High School. Registration will open once year-round school returns from break.

Mental Health-school districts are potentially going to be responsible for mental health services starting July 1. We have created two teams, one to determine how to handle assessments, the other to design and handle alternative settings and ongoing supports for those students, who need services and supports, but do not need a full in-house program.

SEEC students going to kindergarten-these decisions about this transition is up to the individual team for the needs of that student. If you or others are running into challenges related to this, please contact the special education department.

ESY- (Jody Bondurant-Strong) 490 students are taking advantage of year round intersession going on right now. Summer ESY- each teacher/case manager is responsible for verify the desire for a student to attend ESY and it is up to the case managers to then send in work samples to the summer school teachers. ESY questions send them to esy@sandi.net

Q: (Meghann Hughes) How will ESY look for students since there will be no general education summer school. If students are receiving resource services for a few hours a week what should they do for summer school, attend part time or what?

A: Jody Bondurant-Strong-There is a power point on the district website that details the purpose of the ESY; please check that to get a detailed explanation of whom and how students will be served.

Q: (Caroline Kelner) - teacher layoffs- Of the 127 pink-slips, does this include the CST's (cluster support teachers)? If not, it should. The CST position is a waste of money. School site principals should have the knowledge and authority to conduct IEP's and support teachers without the pseudo-support of CST's. Hopefully, the useless CST's are not going to be "re-shuffled" into "new" positions.

(Moirira was getting feisty, trying to keep to the time schedule)

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM: Q & A

Q: (Nimo Omar) Harriet Tubman School-My student was on a special education program due to his seizures. When his seizures ceased, his special ed. was discontinued. I believe he needs the services. He has some motor skills issues especially when writing and grasping the pen.

Q: (Antonia Mojica)(translation)-Golden Hill-My student had leukemia is not doing as well and the parent wants to know if the student needs to be moved to get services, assessments, etc.

A: Susan Martinez-We will address your answers specifically once I receive your form.

Q: (Connie Gearhart) -What is the reason for funding of assistance of r medically fragile students? They are currently there 4-5 hours and students are at school 6 hours. Most students are in wheelchairs and can't all get to buses on time.

A: Susan Martinez-If the specifics of this site need reassessing, we will look at it.

Q: (Joyce Clark)-Ongoing parent concern- There is a concern with special education students being release early from school to load buses etc., and while we appreciate the challenges it isn't right, parents are concerned about missed school time, losing the last half hour of each day.

Q: (Terrence Bobryk-Ozaki) special ed. DHH infant program-Why was DHH infant program shifted and thereby change the age at which infants start from 18 months to 2 years. I would rather it be on a per child basis. How does it benefit the system to wait? For my child at 18 months he is truly learning behavior and surroundings. I think it should be what benefits the child

Q: (Terrence Bobryk-Ozaki)-5 years to start kinder for DHH-How does this law affect a DHH preschool student from entering kinder due to a birthday? Does this mean they remain in the DHH preschool site another year? How does this affect a DHH student's progress?

A: Susan Martinez-The student will remain in the preschool program, until they are able to attend kindergarten.

Q: (Teresa Hilleary)-Technology in TRACE, Mira Mesa- At one of the first CAC meetings in the fall, the I.T. person stated that each TRACE program would be getting at least one "ipad". When is the "ipad" coming to Mira Mesa TRACE? My call to I.T. went unanswered.

Q: (Dorene Dias Pesta)-Tdap mandate effect on special ed. students- What plan is in place for Sept. 2011 when special ed. students show up on the bus out of compliance with Tdap? They

are not to be on campus without Tdap, a large majority rides the bus, and do we force bus drivers to take them home? Or place a hold on bus transportation?

Q: (Ellen Herroon)-Fletcher-We have had a sub all year and my son is not expected to meet 50% of IEP goals this year. While I am working with the school, I don't know what our rights are. He was also supposed to be included for science and was not.

Q: (Susie Horta) I have noticed that special ed. students (especially in self-contained special ed. classrooms) don't have reading, math, or other curriculum. I have requested math curriculum for years to no avail. I think it is important to progress through the subject matter in a structured, systematic way. My student's teachers buy Costco workbooks+ "pull stuff of the internet". Why can't my son have a math and reading curriculum? Do the special ed. teachers know how to use these materials?

Q: (Debra Zapp)-Program cuts/transition programs-C.A.T.S. program was told by TRACE principal, Bob Morris, that all 9 certified and 9 non-certified personnel would be cut. Why cut the most cost effective program already giving direct service to high school?

CAC BUSINESS

Approve CAC meeting minutes (action) Joyce Clark made the motion to approve the March general meeting minutes. Dorene Dias Pesta seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

Nominating Committee (action)-Joyce Clark presented the nominating committees submission for the June 2011to July 2012 slate:

Chairperson: Moira Allbritton Vice Chairperson: Mary Conroy

Secretary: Mina Kern Treasurer: Teresa Michel

Members-at Large: Dorene Dias Pesta, Joyce Clark, William Cary

Stephanie Fimbres made the motion to approve the slate. Motion was seconded by Ellen Herron. Motion passed and slate is approved.

Bylaws Review Committee (action)-Joyce Clark -The Bylaw committee convened on March 23, 2011 for the annual review of bylaws. Public input was offered without commentary. The committee proceeded to review the bylaws and it was determined the Article IX, Standing Committees and Subcommittees, required amendment. The bylaws Committee recommended that the Newsletter Committee be renamed to the Public Awareness and Outreach Committee. The rationale behind this recommendation would expand the committee scope or work and marketing strategies beyond the traditional print newsletter, utilizing multiple modalities and current technological advances. *The District is no longer providing direct mail as an option for newsletter dissemination, and there is a need for a variety of marketing tools and methodologies to effectively outreach to parents and community.*

ARTICLE IX

Standing committees and Subcommittees

Constitution

The CAC shall maintain three standing committees, a Bylaw Review Committee, a Membership Committee and a ~~Newsletter~~ Public Awareness and Outreach Committee.

The Chairperson may form additional subcommittees as needed.

ARTICLE IX

Standing Committees and Subcommittees

Bylaws

9.01 The CAC shall maintain the following Standing Committees:

9.01.1 Bylaw Review Committee;

9.01.2 Membership Committee;

9.01.3 Public Awareness and Outreach Committee

9.01.3 ~~Newsletter Committee~~

The motion to approve the amendment of the Bylaw was made by Dorene Dias Pesta. Bill Cary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Schedule for 2011-2012 General Membership Meetings (action)

Moira Allbritton presented the schedule of meetings for the 2011-2012 year, (the locations will be presented next month):

15 September	12 January	10 May
13 October	9 February	7 June
10 November	8 March	
8 December	12 April	

Michelle Crisci made a motion to approve the proposed schedule. Stephanie Fimbres seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Above and Beyond Awards-Raylene Dickinson –Nominations forms are available on the district website, please get them out to schools, etc. Deadline is April 28, 2011. Raylene requested volunteers for five readers to Chris Pikus, Mina Kern, Teresa Michel, Amy Perez and Christy Scadden.

Chair Report: Moira Allbritton had a meeting with the superintendent and discussed ongoing concerns with in special education, in particular the concerns with compliance in a “leaner environment”. Mr. Kowba was also invited to our “Above and Beyond Awards”.

Moira read the response from Ron Rode, concerning the SARC waiver.

Thank you for your patience preceding this reply. District staff has met to discuss the CAC’s SARC waiver response, which was included verbatim in our waiver application submitted to CDE. As you know, the changes in support from CDE placed an extra burden on district staff to generate required data; however, the processes/programming done this year will expedite future work and we committed to completion of SARCs by the mandated deadline.

As you indicated in your comments, there is still an issue with the SARC deadline (or time of posting) and our district deadline to submit school choice applications. We, including the superintendent, are committed to examining district processes to provide as much separation between the two events as possible. The school choice application deadline is backwards planned to work with other deadlines to build master schedules and plan for staffing in the next school year. And, as you acknowledge, continued staffing reductions affect our ability to compress schedules that are resource intensive.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we appreciate the thoughtful comments of the CAC and, despite continued resource challenges, that we will be mindful of the issues raised as we plan for next year. Thank you. –Ron

Announcements:

Tiger Team meetings at The Ballard center auditorium on 16 April 1:00-3:00.

San Diego Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is having its third annual Kevin Starks Memorial Scholarships Award. They will be competitively awarding four \$1,000 scholarships to selected San Diego County students with disabilities as defined under California and/or federal law. The due date is April 22nd. For more information go to www.sdcepd.com and click on scholarships.

College bound week long summer program for students with developmental disabilities from junior in high school through age 22 offering college preparatory classes at Point Loma Nazarene University July 10-15. This is a grassroots effort with multiple supports of organizations. The focus is more on living in a dorm and campus life.

19 April Autism Society of San Diego is having their annual appreciation meeting for teachers/caregivers, etc. If you have someone you would like to honor please submit an RSVP by tomorrow.

The next CAC general meeting will be 12 May at Bell Middle School.

Michelle Crisci made the motion to adjourn. Joyce Clark seconded the motion.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:09 pm

Respectfully submitted by the secretary,
Mary Conroy