

CAC

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE for Special Education

ADVISING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

General Membership Meeting: MINUTES

Date: October 8, 2009
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: 2375 Harold J. Ballard Center, Auditorium
Congress St, San Diego, CA 92110

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm

Chairperson, Joyce Clark 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, Belquis Ander, William Cary, Joyce Clark, Mary Conroy, Michelle Crisci, Pansy Hilliard, Meghann Hughes, Mina Kern, Pam McKinney, Christy Scadden, Nancy Stevenson

Absent: Maleia Christian, Dorene Dias-Pesta, Stephanie Fimbres, Teresa Michel

Ex-Officio: Dr. Arun Ramanathan, Susan Martinez, Executive Director; Dr. Joe Fulcher

Quorum Established

CAC BUSINESS

CAC Chair Report:

- Chair reviewed Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (9/24/2009 – minutes on file)

Highlights:

- IDEA Stimulus Proposal was disseminated to CAC members via email. The proposal focused on three priority areas identified in the Hehir Report and is supportive of the recommendations. National experts on education policy commended the plan in terms of the potential in providing quality education for students with disabilities through the implementation of Universal Design for Learning principles and capacity building professional development. Dr. Ramanathan reviewed the proposal with members and answered questions. The Executive Committee unanimously voted to support the proposal. The proposal was presented to the Board of Education on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. The Chair submitted CAC recommendations to the Board of Education. CAC recommendations were disseminated to CAC members.
- Involved Exceptional Parent Day Conference tentatively scheduled for March 13th and will focus on education and Universal Design for Learning. The IEP Day Committee is seeking to work with Districts to co-present workshops. The Chair shared this information with Susan Martinez.

- Down Syndrome Association of San Diego plans to recognize CSEA, San Diego Paraeducators, Chapter 759 contributions to the Buddy Walk, and for their support of children with Down syndrome and other disabilities.
- Fiesta Educativa: Parent Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 7th at Southwestern College.
- Chair reported on membership application review. Nominees will be submitted to Board of Education pending confirmation of attendance requirements.(Melissa Nakamura &Teresa Hillleary)

District Report/Presentation

District Presentation: Darryl LaGace, Chief Information and Technology Officer - 21st Century Classroom- Prop S Technology Integration

- Wireless internet access at all school sites
- Wired infrastructure
- Switch up-grades at all schools
- Technology for all students – notebooks, smart boards
- Central data center (where students will log on and save files)
- Data Center at Sera High School is available for students to learn multiple pathways, as technical career training
- Professional Development (39 hours this school year) and includes 21st Century Classroom Technology

Community Presentation: Lucas Keller, Project Ambassador - Center for Emerging Leaders (CEL) California's State Youth Information, Training, and Resource Center "Peer to Peer Mentorship By and For People with Disabilities"

CEL assists individuals with developmental disabilities to develop leadership skills. The Ambassador and Peer Mentor program consists of young adults (ages 18-30) with developmental disabilities who are paid employees of the Center. They work in integrated community employment settings with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Ambassadors and Peer Mentors share their knowledge, insight and experience in self advocating for the things they have wanted or needed and give information about services that are available to help individuals with developmental disabilities to become more independent and better included in their communities.

Dr. Arun Ramanathan

- Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) - David Rose, will provide 10 of the 40 hours of Professional Development per year
- Principals will receive 8 hours of Professional Development per year
- Classified staff will also be trained on new technology

Dr. Arun Ramanathan announced his resignation and shared information about his new position as Executive Director for Educational Trust West, a state wide advocacy and policy organization. CAC Chair and members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for his work with special education reform and effort to pursue quality instruction and maintain high academic standards for students with disabilities.

- **Re: District Website:** Concerns were voiced about the new site, calendar and accessibility of CAC information. **District Response:** Jody BonDurant-Strong, Parent Services, will follow-up and work with CAC. District is in transition process and D. LaGace will bring web page concerns back to Chief District Relations Officer, Bernie Rhinerson.

- **Re: Connect Ed:** CAC request to access phone messaging systems to inform parents of meetings and presentations. **District Response:** *Arun Ramanathan will follow-up and assured this issue would be resolved.*
- **Re: Assistive Technology:** How do you receive an Assistive Technology Assessment? **District Response:** *Information and Technology Dept. and Assistive Technology (Special Education) Dept. have merged, Ann Calles is responsible for responding to requests for AT assessment. The process remains the same. Parent and/or teacher submits a request for assessment.*
- District is in transition process and D. LaGace will bring web page concerns back to Bernie Rhinerson.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM: Q & A

- **Re: Staffing ratio for Mira Mesa HS – Teresa Hileary:** **District Response:** *Joe Fulcher responded: Classrooms where students with moderate to severe needs are served have 2 para-educators typically, some with SCIA support will have more. The process is to fill out the form to be completed by principals, Cluster Support Teachers will go to site and count heads, look at supports already in place and determine if they can be used differently.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December CAC meeting will be at alternate site
- Please confirm meeting locations on sandi.net, most General Membership CAC meetings will be held at the Harold J. Ballard Center
- April and June CAC meeting will be Town Hall meetings. Locations pending.
- Supervised Play (child care) has been established for CAC meetings starting in January 2010
- Compass Center Conference scheduled for October 24th at University of San Diego.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM

Mary Conroy motioned to adjourn meeting. Christy Scadden second - motion carried.