

CAC

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE for Special Education

ADVISING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

General Membership Meeting: MINUTES

Date: November 12, 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 Anders, William Cary, Michelle Crisci, Dorene Dias-Pesta, Stephanie Fimbres, Meghann Hughes, Mina Kern, Teresa Michel, Nancy Stevenson

Absent: Maleia Christian, Mary Conroy, Pansy Hilliard, Christy Scadden

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

Quorum Established

CAC BUSINESS

Review/Approve Minutes:

September 2009 CAC general meeting membership minutes approved; William Cary motioned, Moira Allbritton second, motioned carries, vote unanimous

October 2009 CAC general membership meeting minutes approved; Christy Scadden motioned to approve, William Cary second, motion carried unanimous, with correction of Meghan Hughes being marked present.

CAC Chair Report:

Executive Committee Summary (October 22, 2009)

Parent Education Survey:

- The process for parent education requires a systems approach utilizing new methodologies and processes aligning with Hehir recommendations
- Parent training/education opportunities need to align with general education initiatives i.e. math night, literacy night, science night, fine arts

- Many of the topics proposed are addressed in community trainings and opportunities-District could play a role in connecting families to community resources and training opportunities through the website and other means
- Topics should reflect educational issues relevant to student instruction
- Parent responses to surveys may not fully reflect needs based on individual experience and perspective...how do you know what you don't know?

IEP Survey:

There was an overall concern that the survey questions did not adequately address the issues related to parent/teacher concerns with IEP process. Parents are not always aware or knowledgeable of what the "process" should look like or include which may skew responses.

- The survey did not appear to address content issues to determine quality factors i.e. is the IEP appropriate in terms of goals, services, instructional methodologies and measuring progress?

CAC members were provided a copy of the surveys and input was provided to Ms. Bon Durant-Strong. Ms. Bon Durant-Strong has been receptive toward feedback and further discussion.

Meeting with Dr. Fulcher/Susan Martinez:

- Community Forum for Community Agencies
- Confirmed access to Connect Ed for CAC meeting Notifications
- Agreed to schedule meetings to continue discussion pertaining to SAI
- Agreed ongoing and effective communication re: program updates with staff/parent community essential
- Commitment to support IEP Day Conference/Fiesta Educative

San Diego Regional Ctr. Update:

Vendors and parents attended recent board meeting to provide input on service cuts and impact on clients. Board meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Tuesday's of the month at 12noon. It is important for families to get involved and remain informed on service changes and budget cuts.

CAC Meeting Schedule Update reviewed. Supervised play has been arranged for meetings. CAC Holiday Dessert Social is scheduled for December 10th at the Mt. Everest Academy.

District Report/Presentation

Budget Presentation – Bernie Rhinerson: Outlook for 2010/2011 (no handout/ppt. available on sandi.net)

Reviewed previous expenditures and projected increase of cost. Suggested reductions in 2010 would include staff, salary, programs, staff benefits and increase in class size.

Mr. Rhinerson urged parents to contact Sacramento regarding eliminating district financial penalties for increasing class size (maintenance of effort), encouraged individuals to submit recommendations re: budget recommendations to the District and review the blogs via website.

Dr. Joe Fulcher stated next months presentation to CAC would include a detailed cost analysis for special education funding.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM: Q & A (8:10pm)

Questions/Comments

RE: Resources for Students with Autism (RSA) – Have services been collapsed into another department? Who will meet the unique educational needs of students with autism?

Susan Martinez: RSA is alive and well. Targeted Extra Classroom Supports (TECS), Resources for Students with Autism and students with emotional disabilities have been combined into the behavioral support unit under the management of Amy Sage.

Can students access the behavioral support unit for Autism services if they are not exhibiting any socially inappropriate behavior?

Susan Martinez. "Yes" Learning is a behavior. Supports for Autism services can be accessed.

ADA Non-Compliance RE: Lincoln HS

Lincoln High School ADA non compliant access issues have not been fixed. Elevator does not work; no keys to elevator have been issued to staff.

Joe Fulcher: Sally Tucker in the 504 Department has been notified and Joe will follow-up.

Status of Superintendent Search - When will we have a new superintendent?

Bill Kowba will remain interim superintendent through March 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- San Diego Autism Society offers parent to parent support the 3rd Tuesday of every month.
- Down Syndrome Association 1st Wednesday of the month parent presentations. This month is Universal Design for Learning. Meetings held at Harold J. Ballard Center

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:03 PM

Motion to adjourn meeting made by William Carey, seconded by Nancy Stevenson.