

CAC

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE for Special Education

ADVISING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

General Membership Meeting: MINUTES

Date: December 10, 2009
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Mt Everest Academy Auditorium

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 7:13pm

The Chairperson, Joyce Clark welcomed the attendees and introduced CAC members, district staff (Sharon Popp, Interim Director Special Education), and parents. Chair reviewed the agenda, meeting format and structure, and process for providing input and asking questions.

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

Present Ex-Officio: Dr. Joe Fulcher, Susan Martinez

Quorum Established

CAC BUSINESS

No business due to presentations
Minutes deferred to January 2010

CAC Chair Report:

General announcements were made about community events

DISTRICT REPORT/PRESENTATION

Budget Presentation – Financial Planning Department

Mark Curtis, Yolanda Camacho, Debbie Foster

Reviewed handout- Budget Information Package (on file)
Schedule A- 2009/2010 Adopted Budget, Schedule B- Budgeted Special Education Teacher Positions,
Schedule C- Special Education Adopted Income Summary, Schedule D- 2008-2009 Actual Expenditures,
and Schedule E- Field Positions Summary 2003- 2009.

Questions about Budget Presentation

Q. What is the special education clerical support job description?

Joe Fulcher. These positions are mostly at Riley Center and New Dawn and IEP support

Q. The training budget (professional development) is not included. Do we have one?

Susan Martinez. This was already approved by Board of Education under separate document funded through the IDEA stimulus dollars.

Q. Why does Department of Defense (DOD) funding sources vary?

Mark Curtis. We submit a claim to the federal government and then we get our portion of the pie, depending on who else submits claims in CA.

Q. Are Integrated Life Skills (ILS) teachers reflected in TRACE line item?

Mark Curtis. This report reflects what has happened and what we think will happen. The ILS teachers primarily support TRACE students.

Q. What is the ratio of para educators to special education classroom teachers?

Joe Fulcher. There will be an audit to see how many para professionals are enough. Board members did not want to reduce para professionals; we may be able to maintain the staff we have already.

Q. Will the audit be done independently? Will the auditor have knowledge of different special education population needs? Will there be community input?

Joe Fulcher. We do not know the particulars right now.

Q. Is there still a hiring freeze?

Joe Fulcher. Yes, but we have exceptions for essential positions, such as SET's as stated on IEP's.

Q. Is special education growing or decreasing?

Joe Fulcher. We are up to 16,300+

Q. Are we claiming our entire special education student population properly to receive the highest dollar reimbursement?

Joe Fulcher. BRACE budget reduction looking at that question closely.

Statement. The medi-cal money generated by special education leaves the special education budget to general education functions such as: head start, general education office staff, nursing etc.

District Update – Extended School Year Services “Summer School”

Dr. Joe Fulcher made an announcement about special education summer school dates.

Kindergarten through 8th grade will only be offered July 26th through August 20th. Also, School Choice deadline if February 16th, 2010

Lengthy discussion ensued about specialty camps for students with disabilities and how those agencies San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation (SDASF), San Diego Park & Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Services (SDTRS), and San Diego Autism Society (SDAS), etc.) need longer than 6 months to coordinate camps (adaptive equipment, volunteers, permits through the city, etc).

Doreen Dias-Pesta motioned for CAC to vote on developing an official position/recommendation re: Extended School Year (ESY) (summer school) position, William Carey seconded, motion carries.

Motion: The CAC recommends the District provide ESY services for students attending traditional year schools consistent with past years schedules (4 week period June-July).

Statements will be forwarded to various District entities.

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

Questions/Comments (Written input – none)

Q. Special education transportation safety issues. What are the standard operation procedures (SOP) for a "must be met" designation?

Question was deferred to the Special Education Administration; Joe Fulcher and Susan Martinez; and the transportation department.

Chair, Joyce Clark recommended the CAC schedule an additional Executive Committee Meeting to further discuss transportation issues, concerns, policy and practices. Tentative meeting date considered January 7, 2010. The Chair requested District Administrators, Joe Fulcher and Susan Martinez to secure a representative from transportation to present to the CAC on January 14, 2010. The presentation should include contracts/policies by Unified Driver and First Student bus agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:03 PM

9:14pm Belquis Anders motioned to adjourn, William Cary second, motion carries.