

# Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education Minutes

**Date:** 10/16/18

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** PUSD District Office, 15250 Avenue of Science San Diego, CA 92128

## **Board members present:**

1. Karen Harkins Slocomb, chair
2. Melissa Lazaro
3. Cheryl Hernandez
4. Tiffany King
5. Gina Zanolini
6. Anna Quint
7. David Choi
8. Rosabel Agbayani
9. Sheila Keesling
10. Bernard Larsen
11. Etis Fathy
12. Heather Plotzke
13. Shelly Wright
14. Frida Brunzell, secretary

## **District attendees:**

Greg Mizel, Assistant Superintendent Student Support Services

Margret Godman, Executive Assistant

Ryan Brewer, district transportation liaison

**Public Attendees:** Approximately 20 parents

**I. Call to order** at 6:30 pm by chair Karen Harkins Slocomb

**II. Quorum:** Quorum was established.

**III. Reading and Approval of Minutes from September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Minutes were approved with no corrections.

#### **IV. Public Input**

Attendee 1: Has a child at Garden Road Elementary with autism and is mainstreamed.

Attendee 2: Has a three and four-year-old in Highland Ranch Preschool. Has a positive experience.

#### **V. Old Business**

Bertha Taylor has resigned. The CAC slate was approved with her name by the school board. It was also unclear if district liaisons Kathy Purcell and Sherry Miller are voting members.

Heather made a motion that "District liaisons will not be counted as voting members on the CAC." Gina seconded. Rosabel made an amendment to the motion to have the CAC bylaws updated. Motion carried.

Sheila nominated Cheryl Hernandez for vice chair.

We discussed criteria for how to elect CAC board members. We should strive to have a diverse group of parents; parents of children with different disabilities, both men and women, and from different parts of the district.

Melissa noted that she would like to have a general education teacher on the board that also has a child with disabilities. She would also like to introduce term limits for board members.

Melissa made a motion that Cheryl Hernandez replaces Bertha Taylor as CAC vice chair. Rosabel seconded. Motion carried.

#### **VI. CAC Goals for 2018-2019**

Goal 1: Improve communication between parents and the district.

Goal 2: Provide information and support for parents of students with special needs. (newsletter, parent information night, PTA connection etc.)

Goal 3: Promote participation in CAC. (Improve meeting attendance, encourage parents to apply to the board etc.)

Goal 4: Revise governance guidelines. (Revise Local Plan, CAC bylaws, training on the Brown act etc.)

Karen pointed out that subcommittees can have email communication, but the board should avoid email communication that can lead up to a decision.

Melissa made a motion to approve the four goals for 2018-2019. Gina seconded. Motion carried.

## **VII. Fall Parent Night**

The theme for CAC's upcoming Parent Night will be "Inclusion".

Rosabel, the chair for this event, will share her personal experience with inclusion. Greg Mizel will then share information about the plan to move students in special education to general education. There will probably be a panel discussion at the end and David will help facilitate this.

We hope that the event can be live streamed. The committee will find out if this is possible.

## **VIII. CAC Subcommittees**

We decided to have the following subcommittees this year:

1. Membership – Ethis, David, Heather, Shelly Wright
2. Communication (handbook, website, creating connect ed) – Melissa, Frida, Tiffany, Alexandra Sparks, Owen Moberg
3. CAC Communication Process – Anna, David, Gina, Shelly Wright
4. Governance (Local Plan, bylaws) - Karen
5. Support Committee – parent to parent support/transition – David, Rosabel, Gina, Sheila
6. Events & Education (Spring Parent Night, Excellence, other events) – Cheryl, Etis, Rosabel, Shelia

(Board members are identified by first names, non-board members by first and last names.)

## **IX. Old Business**

Website: Suggested updates have been made. Frida will handle communication with the district.

SEAC Committee: Both Cheryl, Heather, and Sheila are interested in attending SEAC meetings. Greg Mizel gave the CAC permission to have all three of these CAC board members attend the meetings.

David made a motion to approve Heather and Sheila in addition to Cheryl attend the SEAC meetings. Gina seconded. Motion carried.

SEAC report by Greg Mizel: There will be more information in the next weeks. Before too many details can be shared, the unions etc. need to be informed. Greg shared that the process of inclusion of students in special education into general education will be thoughtful. There will not be a rigid timeline and decisions will be made case by case and school by school. Megan

Gross (former teacher of the year) is the districts TOSA (teacher on special assignment) and there will also be a "COSA" i.e. classified staff on special assignment to assist. The goal with the process is to not break something that is working. "All improvements come through change. Not all change is improvements." The committee discusses SAI, specialized academic instruction.

We discussed how to make CAC meetings (and information to parents) more accessible to bilingual parents, especially Spanish speaking parents. Could we have the parent information events translated into Spanish?

**X. Adjournment:**

Karen Harkins Slocomb declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frida Brunzell, secretary