

POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Education Department
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
District Office: Community Room
15250 Avenue of Science
San Diego, CA 92128

CAC Attendance (Parent):

Rosabel Agbayani
Cheryl Hernandez
Heather Plotzke
Laura Bruvold
Alexandra Sparks
David Choi

CAC Attendance (District Staff):

Gina Zanolini
Ryan Brewer
Jodi Payne
Lisa Dreyer

CAC Attendance (Community):

Eleven Community Members

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

“A goal is not always meant to be reached, it often serves simply as something to aim at.” – Bruce Lee

Chairperson Rosabel Agbayani called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions (6:30-6:45 p.m.)

Public Input: An opportunity for members of the public to share comments and concerns with the CAC. In the interest of time, speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each, with a total of 15 minutes allotted for all public input. Please respect student and personnel privacy. CAC members and district staff cannot respond to individual concerns in this forum, but will take your contact information for future follow up. The CAC in this section takes no action.

Cheryl Hernandez proposed going around the room and sharing a moment of pure joy that we have had with our children. This was well received and there was 100% participation by members and community visitors alike.

Approval of minutes and CAC Calendar (6:45-6:55 p.m.)

CAC Business Meeting June 11, 2019: There were no changes proposed in the minutes.

Cheryl Hernandez was nominated as CAC Vice Chair.

- Gina moved the action. Heather seconded the action. Motion passed by unanimous verbal vote of “aye.”

Laura Bruvold nominated as CAC Secretary.

- I am honestly not sure who moved and seconded it, but I would be pleased to take notes.

Future dates of some CAC meetings were proposed and accepted to be changed:

- ❖ November 5, 2019 meeting changed to November 12, 2019

- ❖ Meeting on March 24, 2020 time was changed to 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ❖ May 19, 2020 meeting time now changed to 6:30-8:30 p.m.

CAC Committee Reports (7:00-7:15 p.m.)

- ❖ David presented on the topic of community involvement
 - The meet and greet at Hilltop Park on August 19, 2019 had a turnout of about an estimated 40 adults and children
 - Opinion that we need more of these types of meetings to strengthen the CAC group
 - Idea: parents get to know each other when they are at the same sites in similar programs
 - Can share issues that way
 - Can share across grade levels this way
- ❖ Cheryl asked PUSD CAC representatives if there is a way to connect and still meet privacy concerns
- ❖ Gina suggested that parents ask their site principals
- ❖ David further clarified need for parents to network to prevent potential escalations referred to PUSD Directors
- ❖ David's wife created the Facebook group "PUSD Special Education Parents" to try to fill a need for parents reaching out to other parents for information
- ❖ Heather cautioned that sometimes having the outreach at the school may not be the best place for it and would be better conducted away from the school site to ensure privacy
- ❖ Rosabel mentioned asking PTA to involve more Special Education families
- ❖ Another parent mentioned that kids may get IEPs later so may need to connect with Special Education Families after the preschool/kindergarten years
- ❖ Alexandra suggested to add Spanish translation to CAC District-wide emails
- ❖ Next topic: Gina's parent facilitator position
 - David asked if the CAC can go to the PUSD School Board and ask for more parent facilitators. Are there budget needs/restraints?
- ❖ Next topic: Instructional Aide shortage in PUSD
 - In the past, credentialed teachers have been able to substitute as Special Education IAs at their teacher rate
 - This year, that practiced has changed and credentialed teachers are being paid IA rate to sub in Special Education classes. Lisa Dreyer explained that the change was made so that the pay reflects the job classification
 - It appears from anecdotal evidence that now more credentialed teacher subs are not taking the IA jobs since they can earn more money as a credentialed teacher sub
- ❖ Jodi passed out Gina's Back to School PUSD Special Education Parent Facilitator Letter to the group
- ❖ Jodi brought up ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)
 - The District now has a mediator, as well as herself, Megan Gross, Gina, and Cheryl, to form a team to hear parent difficulties before parents move toward Due Process when there is an IEP dispute between PUSD and the families of the students with IEPs
 - They (ADR group) is working on a comprehensive plan to go through the IEP process

- ADR can help work through the IEP process
- No lawyers are involved, but advocates are permitted
- Question from parent: Does this mean ADR means families waive right to Due Process? Answer: No. This is just a way to try to resolve issues
- Jodi and Gina volunteered their availability to answer questions about ADR at any time
- Question from a parent: How will parents not at this meeting here tonight find out about the CAC and/or ADR and get this information?

- ❖ Heather asked if the first CAC Family Night can be about parent and community involvement

- ❖ ADR flyer passed out to group by PUSD SPED Director Jodi Payne
 - David asked how can this information be put out to the greater part of the community

- ❖ David commented that there should be redundancy in the Parent Facilitator position
 - What happens if the unexpected happens- our current Parent Facilitator leaves- how does one fill that job?

- ❖ Cheryl mentioned that when budget and strategic plan are presented formally to PUSD School Board that perhaps the CAC can lobby for more Parent Facilitators

- ❖ Next topic- Rosabel shared that Laura would update CAC Member list
 - Heather passed around a sign in sheet that was signed by parent members, district staff members, and community guests

- ❖ Discussion: there are eight (8) current CAC members now; by-laws state there may be 12-15 members
 - Discussion that applications submitted through Google Docs are currently unrecoverable
 - Rosabel suggested creating a new email and google doc for this purpose
 - Lisa shared that she inquired to PUSD IT department, and they do not know where the google docs went
 - Lisa will get with IT to take out the old link off the website so no more disappear
 - Rosabel shared there are at least 7 openings on CAC for this year
 - Rosabel shared that the official CAC email address is powaycac@gmail.com
 - Heather, Cheryl, Alex, and Gina volunteered to be the new membership committee
 - Reminder that even if you are not a CAC board member, interested parties can still participate in a subcommittee
 - The CAC by-laws are on the PUSD website <https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Special-Education/cac/CAC-Home>

- ❖ Governance and By-laws Committee: Heather

- ❖ Local Plan: Karen Harkins Slocumb (past chair), Cheryl, and Heather redid the Local Plan as much as they could due to the fact that the State Template for CACs is not finished

- ❖ Group decided to work on the By-laws next: Cheryl, Heather, Rosabel, Lisa are on that committee

- ❖ Lisa Dreyer gave an update on the Local Plan for the CA State Department of Education/Special Education. School districts are waiting for the template. PUSD was given a draft but it has not been formally approved. When the template is approved it will be brought to the committee at a time to be determined later.
 - Lisa brought and distributed a letter to attendees to explain the new Local Plan. The work in Sacramento is hoped to be done by June 2020. At that point, the old plan will migrate to the new template and things will be added/subtracted to fit the new template.
 - Lisa outlined that there needs to be a new Local Plan Committee consisting of:
 - 2 Special education teachers

- 2 General education teachers
- 2 District SPED Directors
- 1 District Administrator
- 1 Head Start or State Preschool teacher
- 2 PUSD parents

- ❖ Lisa asked to put that information on the Google Drive or find alternate ways to meet to accommodate all schedules (Skype, FaceTime, Conference Call, etc.)
- ❖ Cheryl spoke to events
 - Ideas to provide constant education to support ADR
- ❖ Fall and Spring Parent/Community Night brainstorming for presentation topics/ideas
 - “My kid is eligible for Special Education, now what?”
 - Asked: Have different service providers (Speech Pathologists, OTs, PTs, Program Specialists, AAC Specialists, etc.) to run different small groups during a set time so parents have opportunity to ask what these providers do
 - Asked: Providing resources to interpret tests/assessments to parents in a way that everyone can understand what they mean and how they apply to next steps
 - Asked: Finding out who does what in the district, and at what time (timelines, next steps, etc.)
 - Asked: Suggests not be too focused on just one area (AUT, PK, RSP, etc.) in order to explain a continuum of services in the world of Special Education
- ❖ Rosabel asked for volunteers to work with Cheryl to create a Parent/Community Information Night
- ❖ Cheryl noted that she had been approached by a lawyer who would like to present on an Information Night. Questions about this being viewed as PUSD endorsing a lawyer

Roundtable Issues (7:50-8:00 p.m.)

- ❖ Question: Can the district provide an “Acronym Dictionary” for parents
- ❖ Question: How to contact Cheryl? Answer: use the CAC email address powaycac@gmail.com
- ❖ Alex reported that she worked with Greg Mizel last year on updating the PUSD SPED Parent Handbook. Alex did point out many needed modifications. She does not know the status of the new handbook, and Greg is not present to comment.
Ryan Brewer let the group know that as of October 1st, Aurora Bishop will be the new Special Education Transportation Director. He will still be in the Transportation Department, and will be helping Aurora transition to her new position.
- ❖ Rosabel asked Lisa if there is an opportunity to participate in a state SPED committee. Lisa replied that there is an application on the California Department of Education website <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/>

Chairperson Rosabel Agbayani adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Upcoming CAC Meetings (held 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the District Office Community Roomed unless otherwise noted:

October 15, 2019

November 19, 2019

December- No meeting scheduled

January 14, 2020

February 11, 2020
March 10, 2020
April 21, 2020
May 12, 2020
June 9, 2020

Upcoming Parent/Community Information Nights:

November 12, 2019
March 24, 2020
Possible Fall Resource Fair; TBD

Notes submitted by Laura Bruvold 9/19. Please email any corrections/errors to Laura at lauratyb@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The Community Advisory Committee (CAC)- promoting and encouraging positive connections among students, parents, and PUSD and providing guidance in special education, so all students become successful life-long learners.