

2021-2022 CAC Year-end BOE Report

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Heather Plotzke the acting CAC chair and along with Heather Marshall our Co-Chair we'd like to thank the Trustees for having us tonight to give our Annual Board report. Before I proceed, I want to make sure to give thanks to the countless people that make this work every month, from my amazing Executive Team Heather Marshall and Tristie Graetz, to all our CAC Subcommittee chairs and members, all the District staff who always take the time to field our questions and make us feel apart of the team and attend our meetings monthly. To Jeannette Anderson, our District Liaison and her Administrative Assistant, Danielle Strauss who go the extra mile, plus another 100 miles, every month to get everything setup, translated, posted, etc for us: we wouldn't be able to get by without you. To Associate Superintendent Greg Mizel, for allowing us time and access, and to you the Board Trustees for your support and for accepting our invitations to attend our meetings.

As I started to look back over the past year to prepare for tonight, it occurred to me that I really needed to start at the end of the last school year, 2020- 2021. I sat in this same place a year ago, as the Co-chair, and much like everyone else working in the District all the goals the CAC had originally wanted for that school year went out the window quickly, and we, like your Staff were on constant Pivot mode in helping our families cope with the situation the best we all could. The odd thing about being a Special needs family is we are used to adjusting schedules on a dime, so we had some advantages in that arena.

I saw 2021 as a year of restructuring of the foundation of the CAC. In my four years on the Committee I have always seen us as the Bridge between the Families and District; this year we tried to move that goal line even further in more of a partnership like an IEP Team should work. We all needed each other to make the whole process work harmoniously.

When it came time to set our goals in September of 2021, we wanted to reset the bar, and move on from Covid thinking – in other words “NEXT”. We quickly found that we had a much larger attendance virtually, so decided we would stay in Zoom as long as possible after taking a virtual vote, including our public non-members to get their feedback. For 2022-2023 we are already looking into a hybrid method with Jeannette Anderson and the IT Department for our options.

We decided to reformat our goals and priority list by SubCommittees, thus allowing for more ownership and action to be done outside regular meetings, and we saw many more achievements this year because of it; not every decision had to be discussed by the entire sitting board, just beginning ideas and progress reports. The CAC, after the previous couple years, as a whole really wanted more of a seat at the table District-wide; especially when it came to decisions related to our stakeholders who now make up over 14% of all students in PUSD and our goals reflected that.

The first thing as an Executive Team, Heather, Tristie and I put in front of the group was to make every minute of the meeting count.

So we streamlined the agenda each taking our own portions, but making sure every group had a purposeful moment to talk. We not only had our District representatives give monthly reports, along with regular presentations on requested topics, such as Dyslexia, Inclusive Practices, and ERMHS.

Along with the District Reps, this year we invited the Board of Education Trustees to have a rotating member give us and our families a monthly update from the Board's view on things that would be affecting our stakeholders, which was not only appreciated, but overwhelmingly received by the community.

The new Parent Ambassadors also now have a place to share their voice monthly, and have been encouraged, even when they don't have an update to give a useful piece of advice or nugget of wisdom in their time slot.

Some of the goals that we are proudest of accomplishing this school year are:

- All documents from our team such as agendas, minutes, fliers, CAC parent handbook, etc go out in both English and Spanish.
- We set-up a new Subcommittee - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT to improve family engagement and transparency between the District and families. They really hit the ground running this fall by reviewing the SPSA reports of every school in the District. In the Spring they helped get a lot more eyes on the LCAP report for review. I'm sure next year they will find even more places to "get boots on the ground"

- As guests, we were allowed to go on some of the Inclusive Practice Advisory Board Tours across the District. It was inspiring to hear the feedback of what the other staff thought they could mold into their programs or share what their schools were doing as a suggestion for improvement from differing sites. It is our hope that a Parent on the CAC will be able to continue in a more permanent role in the future on this board.

(I'd like now hand it over to) Heather Marshall, our Co-Chair and Thankfully, our Events SubCommittee Chair

- We had a fantastic start to our school year, with an actual in person MEET & GREET at Starridge Park in Aug, with pizza, crafts, and Kona Ice. We had a huge turn out and have already started working on this year's upcoming Meet & Greet - August 8th, 2022 from 5 - 7 same location.
- In November we held a Parent Info Night Virtually – to help parents with a Step by Step IEP basics panel, along with the Introduction to the Parent Ambassadors program
- The Directors of Elementary and Secondary Special Education were great partners in listening to all the feedback we had collected from the difficulties in transitioning between levels in 2021-2022, and really went above and beyond what we hoped for after our discussions. They held grade level meetings, then individual school site meetings, all long before May to give Parents a sense of calm and knowing what to expect during the upcoming transition IEPs and the actual physical transition itself. With all those meetings we

decided to hold off on having Spring Parent information night..

- Our BIGGEST event of the year though, is the one that is near and dear to all our hearts, the EXCELLENCE AWARDS. We had a record number of 319 nominations, all deserving recognition this year, with 6 Award Winners. It was wonderful to be able to have Trustees, District Staff, Program Specialists, and Winner's families and classes attend; along with Angela Brandt from the Pomerado News Chieftain to celebrate in their honors. Our 2021-2022 winners are:
 - **Renee Baer**, Canyon View Elementary
 - **Chris Koreerat**, Chaparral Elementary
 - **Colleen Aguirre**, Midland Elementary
 - **Tiffany Evans**, Oak Valley Middle School
 - **Holly Lingenhol**, Twin Peaks Middle School
 - **Kirsten Huber**, Rancho Bernardo High School

And with that we/I would like to conclude our Board Report by celebrating our Winners with a quick video. Thank you again for having us and we will see you in the fall!