

**IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Education Department**  
**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**  
**February 17, 2022 – 7:00pm - Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Chair - Bernadette

**Welcome to Guests Attendance**

**Introductions/Roll Call:** Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing, Housekeeping and Zoom Recording Announcement

**Attendance:** 35 Non-Voting and 24 Voting Members Present

- **CAC Chairs:** Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing; Vice Chair- Angie Foster; Secretary- Andrea Matolo
- **District Office:** Melanie Hertig, Allison Robbins, Jennifer O'Malley, Lisa Torkzadeh, Sean Viney, Stacy Kredel, Taryn Dreifus, Christina Reyes; Libby Kelly, Isabel Vu, Bryan Lamb, Angela Paterson, Anna Ziemann, Karena Gibbs

**Approval of the February 17, 2021 Agenda** Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 13 Aye 0 Nay

**Approval of the November 18, 2021 Minutes** Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 11 Aye 0 Nay

**Public Comments**

Michelle Leeg: I want to thank IUSD for listening to parents concerns regarding high school ESY starting early at 7:30am. Thank you for working on having school start later at 8:30am (hopefully) and for putting this on the agenda tonight.

Andrea Matolo: Angie and her team are working so hard to create Differing Abilities Awareness weeks at the different schools. I think that it would be great for us to do a district-wide Differing Awareness Week where everyone does the same things at their schools. Even bringing up each school at this meeting took a while. Imagine the planning involved at each and every individual school site. It would be really great to do something district-wide that comes from the top and goes to different school sites or one district-wide event.

Robin Cowan: Thanked CAC leadership. They have done a really great job creating a cohesive parent community and providing resources. It's wonderful to see the support that you are getting from the district. I'm super excited for Abilities Awareness Day and would like to echo what Andrea said that I would love to see Special Ed spearhead a district-wide opportunity for all teachers, staff and students be able to see what differing abilities looks like.

**Committee Chair Report- Bernadette Ah-Hing**

1. Last CAC Meeting: May 12, 2022 – 6:00pm meeting will be last CAC meeting of the year.

2. Special Meeting -Virtual SpEd CAC Meeting – Reminder. We can vote to keep the CAC meeting as a virtual meeting.
3. CAC 2022-2023 school year elections – We will be holding these for next year. We have had our ups and downs with the district and I've enjoyed my time. We are appreciative to Melanie and their staff from top to bottom. Encourage parents to volunteer.
4. Supporting CAC Pillars: Parent Education, Campus Rep, Inclusion, Community – email us at iusdcac@gmail.com if you would like to run.
5. Website Posting: CAC Recorded Zoom meetings – We are recording and will post this CAC meeting on the website.
6. March Workshop: Special Needs Trust & Conservatorship- 6:30pm to 8:00pm – We will host Wiley Yang again for a Special Needs Trust and Conservatorship workshop. She heard great things and we look forward to him sharing his expertise again on March 24. This year, we added a Fall and Spring workshop.
7. CAC Bylaws Update – We came close to finishing these but will have them finished by the next meeting.

### **Committee Vice Chair Report – Angie Foster**

1. We want to reiterate volunteer opportunities. We grew our network of parents through social events and have 13 parent campus reps now.
2. CAC Trifold Brochure – translated, printed and distributed to front office of all schools
3. Parent Handbook – CAC parent handbook was finalized. Fellow parent committee members worked on it. It was sent to district who added additional information, and info was taken from State handbook. The PTA has said that they will include the CAC Special Ed handbook as a part of theirs to be a resource for families.
4. Irvine SpEd Parent Updates – We will disseminate resources, etc. through here.
5. Google Group: Irvine Special Ed Parents Discuss list
6. Facebook: Irvine Special Ed Parents Support Group. Join if you are an IUSD parent.
7. Irvine Special Ed parents monthly morning meet-up: Every 4th Friday monthly at Panera Bread - 3988 Barranca Prkwy. Last month we had a record of 24 parents attend. The next one is coming up.
8. Holiday Parent Social Dec 4, 2021 – We had 10 families as our first CAC Holiday party. There were decorations, a photo spot and it was fun. Some parents brought their children as well.
9. Spring or Summer Parent Social - TBD
10. Abilities Awareness Week - Fall 2021/Spring 2022
  - a. Speaker: Sean McElwee "Born This Way"
  - b. Various other events planned for different schools
    - i. Westpark- March 21-25th "Abilities Awareness" week
    - ii. Bonita Canyon - April 18-22nd Also a week of activities
    - iii. Meadow Park Elementary- April 21st (family night, 5-7pm), possibly students' assembly
    - iv, IVA- TBD Blue for autism, stations etc.
    - v. Canyon View and Alderwood also. Check back with those campuses for an update.

### **Executive Director Report – Melanie Hertig**

Intro of Paul Bokota. Had a son with an IEP for years and is amazed to see all of the great work that the CAC has done and the growth over the past few years.

Karena Gibbs: Sent 2 fliers for the CAC to distribute. Taryn shared information in the chat. There will be a Zoom and training for anyone interested to learn about Regional Center Adult transition

services. Parent info night will be a Zoom opportunity. New and old families can participate. Middle and High School parents that want to learn more about IATP (Irvine Adult Transition Program) are welcome. Any questions, please reach out to me. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Melanie Hertig: Fliers will be posted on our website as well. Spoke of enthusiasm children have for riding buses. Reminded about IEP meetings with parents at ECLC. Parents would worry about transportation, but kids would be so excited about the bus. Thanked Robin for the connection with Sean McElwee. She is excited for upcoming events with him.

For those that are interested in running for a CAC leadership position, please reach out to department or current CAC leadership.

1. Summer ESY Dates & Morning Start times and locations were announced.
  - a. We are hearing that there are concerns of High School ESY times starting so early and have received feedback from multiple parents that this could be a challenge. We are actively working with transportation to see what we can do with this time. We have had a bit of a challenge with transportation and a shortage of drivers.
2. Legislative Day – SELPA organized as Legislative Day in May every year. It will be virtual this year and they will try to find a platform so that as many parents can participate. CAC Chairs typically meet with legislators during that time as well.
  - a. Federal government funds only about 8% of our Special Education budget. Fed bill HR 5984 is an IDEA funding bill.
  - b. SB 291 to create advisory commission on Special Education
  - c. State SELPAs have been advocating for an inclusion bill. We have found a sponsor in Senator Ochoa Bogh from district 23. She is helping to cosponsor a bill on inclusion. We are super excited to have found a partner in state legislature who is interested in partnering with SELPAs
3. Lisa Torkzadeh provided an update on inclusive playgrounds. We have identified equipment enhancements to add to inclusive play. We are moving forward through the next phases, though there are supply chain issues and it could take longer than we would like.
4. Jennifer O'Malley provided the below update:
  - a. We reached out to the OTs in the district to see if there are any sensory material needs, especially in secondary education since we feel that elementary schools have it pretty well covered. Feedback was as it stands, they feel like their needs are being met, but asked them to reach out if they did have additional needs.
  - b. ADR Grant – As part of this grant, we posted a position on to focus on TOSA for parent engagement and collaboration. We unfortunately have not received applicants to date. We used some fund for facilitated IEP trainings in addition to those that we normally do. We are also looking to fund speakers or other activities.

Bernadette: We look forward to seeing you at our next CAC meeting on May 12th.

**7. Adjourn Meeting at 7:52** Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Andrea Matolo Vote: 15 Aye 0 Nay