

IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Education Department
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
May 12, 2022 – 6:00pm - Zoom

MINUTES

Call to Order: Chair - Bernadette Ah-Hing

Welcome to Guests Attendance

Introductions/Roll Call: Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing,

Attendance: 38 Non-Voting and 20 Voting Members Present

- **CAC Chairs:** Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing; Vice Chair- Angie Foster; Secretary- Andrea Matolo
- **District Office:** Melanie Hertig, Lauren Brooks, Allison Robbins, Lisa Torkzadeh, Stacy Kredel, Taryn Dreifus, Christina Reyes; Libby Kelly, Angela Paterson, Anna Ziemann, Karena Gibbs, Amy Ochoa

Approval of the May 12, 2022 Agenda Moved by: Robin Cowan Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 14 Aye 0 Nay

Approval of the February 22, 2022 Minutes Moved by: Nette Pavlovich Seconded by: Andrea Matolo Vote: 12 Aye 0 Nay

Public Comments

Robin Cowan: Thanked various individuals for the Differing Abilities Awareness event. She is excited that it will be an annual event. The speaker was great. Some of the parents and children were unable to sit for the length of the orchestra event. She would like to see a truly inclusive orchestra next year, as there were a lot who were not as able to participate given physical and mental differences. Also, keeping that shorter. Second comment, regarding the budget: There is around \$100M for Special Ed. What are the indirect costs, etc. for city offices? I hope that is addressed.

Anonymous (read by Angie Foster): Could the Special Education Department address the disparity in parent volunteer opportunities in Special Ed classrooms as compared to their typical peers. Parents in General Ed classrooms are encouraged to volunteer. Today, I have not been allowed to participate in the same way in our child's SAI classrooms. Is there a Special Education Policy or HIPAA citation that could be provided to support the absence of parent volunteers in Special Education classrooms.

Kristen Pfister: Son Matthew participated in a field trip yesterday. I was able to volunteer. I wanted to share our experience. There is a lot of room for improvement, as always. I was honored to have been given the opportunity to participate. I was surprised that Matthew was the only child who displayed his level of special needs. No educator in special needs was there. If I wasn't there, he would have not had enough support. It was clear that she was needed to support just Matthew as it was difficult to navigate

his wheelchair. She described the experience as specific to her child. What he enjoyed and what was functional. She was concerned about how things would have gone if she had not been there. She is hoping that things could be different next time.

Muslim Abdulkarim: He is wondering whether his son can participate in IPSF classes. Are there any other programs for children with Autism over the summer? He was told that he did not need ESY.

Committee Chair Report– Bernadette Ah-Hing

Chair listed goals of CAC leadership.

CAC goals have been to create a thriving CAC community and board partnership as evidenced by increased membership and opportunities for collaboration. We have been able to partner with our district to be parent stakeholders. Last year, we finally had a CAC-signed Local Area Plan. We have been able to create a support system for parents, coordination for abilities week, Special Education CAC campus reps, Communications Rep and Community Liaison Rep, we hope to fill as well. Parent Handbook and Bylaws revision. IEP education, communication between staff and SpEd Parents, as well as inclusion of SpEd parents for volunteering and for inclusive field trips. IUSD heard us when it comes to Field Trips.

1. 2022-2023 SPED CAC School Year Elections

Esther Morales is running for Chair – She is a proud parent of 2 exceptional sons. She shared the boards and positions which she holds and previously held, as well as the awards which she has received. She is happy to have worked this past year with the CAC team and is excited about the year to come.

Monica Mesa is running for Vice Chair – She shared about her family and how she came to be involved with the CAC. She is so grateful that she has been able to connect with so many people through the CAC. The Differing Abilities Awareness week really spoke to her about wanting to advocate and do things at a bigger level. She has a big desire to work, serve and collaborate.

Mitra Ordibehesht is running for Secretary – She shared about her experience with her son in Special Education at IUSD. She spoke of her will to be an advocate for all special needs kids and will to build a strong community in the future. She was a teacher as well.

Sally Kim is running for Secretary – She has 4 children at IUSD. It has been a desire to continue to make our schools more inclusive and bring the value of our kiddos. She was recently the director of special families at Mariners Church. She believes that she can bring value to children and families of Special Needs children as well as awareness to others. She is excited to contribute in whatever capacity she is allowed to.

Votes were cast.

2. 2022-2023 SPED CAC Proposed Meeting Dates (September 15, 2022; November 17, 2022; February 16, 2023; May 25, 2023)
3. First Annual Inclusion Matters 2022 feedback
4. CAC Bylaws update/timeline:
 - a. Board of Education Regular Meetings:

June 7*, June 28, July 12, August 16 (last board of ed meeting before end of CAC term), August 30, 2022

*CAC goal date to have board review CAC bylaws

5. Parent Education Training Interest for 2022-2023 School Year

Committee Vice Chair Report – Angie Foster

It has been an honor to serve you all this past year. I couldn't have done it without the other chairs and parents who have collaborated, as well as the district staff. Thank you for letting me serve as your vice chair.

1. Leg Day 2022 – Occurred on the May 4th. A day is hosted to help parents lobby our legislators for issues that our students face. SB 1113 was supported to remove barriers for our students in the general education setting. Bernadette, Andrea, Melanie and I met with our legislators to lobby for this bill. You are welcome to join in on leg day.
2. Parent Handbook posted on IUSD website –This is a guidebook for our parents and has been posted online.
3. Special Needs & Conservatorship Spring 2022 zoom recording posted on IUSD website.
4. Next Parent Coffee and last one for the 2021-2022 school year is May 20 (pushed up) @ Panera Bread. The first one of the 2022-2023 school year will be on August 26. We have had upwards of 30 parents come to meet. It is an opportunity to meet new friends and network with families.
5. Summer Parent Social - July 8, 2022 - Hangar 24 @6:00pm-9:00pm (close @ 11pm).
6. Back to School Family Fun Day TBD Sep 2022.
7. CAC SpEd Campus Rep Interest – I will still be CAC Special Ed Campus Rep Coordinator. We have 13+ campus reps now. If you are interested in being a campus rep for your school, let me know.

Executive Director Report – Melanie Hertig

Thanked the Chairs for the days and nights and many hours dedicated to moving the CAC into a new place.

1. Inclusion Matters 2022- Abilities Awareness Event at Beacon Park.
2. Kuddos to the current chairs for their lobbying. They did such a great job.
3. ESY 2022 Update – Angela Paterson updated the CAC on dates, locations and start times of ESY. That information is on website as well. Parent registration has been opened. She and the team are available to help if you have any questions or need help.
3. 2022-23 ASP and ABP Update - PowerPoint Review Budget Services. Service plan identifies certain types of service codes and where these services are currently offered. The budget plan goes over revenues and expenditures. The contribution by the state and federal government are roughly 39% of

the \$97M budget. To address the public comment earlier on 7000 code, a small % of indirect costs have been added here. E.g. HR costs, county programs.

Election Results:

Chair: Esther Morales

Vice-Chair: Monica Morales

Secretary: Sally Kim

Congratulations to our incoming Chairs.

7. Adjourn Meeting at 7:24PM Moved by: Angie Foster Seconded by: Andrea Matolo Vote: 7 Aye 0 Nay