

Minutes for the IUSD/SELPA Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, General Meeting on September 21, 2023 at 6:00pm at Meadow Park Elementary School -MPR.

Chair Esther Morales called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. Quorum was verified, see sign in sheet. Esther welcomed the Able Coffee Cart students. She thanked Andrea Matolo for volunteering to take minutes. SELPA Executive Director Melanie Hertig briefly reviewed the role of the CAC; it serves as a connection with the school district. AB 361 is no longer in place, meetings are back to in-person; same as the school board meetings. Participation is in-person with a livestream option. She also went over the membership application available online at [iusd.org/cac](http://iusd.org/cac). Board member Cyril Yu was introduced.

Motion to adopt agenda for 9/21/2023 CAC General Meeting. First: Andrea Matolo. Second: Donna Billamek. Motion passed. Esther presented May 25, 2023 meeting minutes, sent via email to members and posted on the CAC website. Motion to approve the May 25, 2023 CAC General Meeting minutes. First: Andrea Matolo. Second: Robin Cowan. Motion passed. Motion to adopt the 2023/24 CAC General Meeting calendar as presented. First: Bernadette Ah-Hing. Second: Heenah Shah. Motion passed.

Esther thanked Robin Cowan for serving as the Teller for today's elections. Bernadette Ah-Hing will be assisting her. Article IV, Section 4.3 Voting Rights, Article V, Section 5.7 Vacancy and Article VI, Section 6.3 Decisions of the CAC, of the CAC bylaws were read. Robin reviewed the voting process, gave directions and next steps for elections and gave the members an opportunity to ask questions or get clarification on the voting process. There were no questions or comments. The chair reiterated to members that they will vote for the unexpired 2022-2024 term for 2 vacant positions. Each candidate was given 3 minutes to present their platforms. The 3 candidates introduced and shared about themselves - see bios. Candidates for Vice Chair are Debra Hilton Kamm and Heena Shah, and for Secretary is Sandra Albers. The chair made sure that all CAC members present had a ballot to cast their vote. No additional ballots were requested. Members cast their vote by placing their ballots in a clear box. The chair confirmed that all members had voted. The ballots were counted twice by the tellers, the Teller's Report form was completed and the results were read out loud; 42 votes were cast, for Vice Chair- Heena Shah received 37 votes and for Secretary- Sandra Albers received 42 votes.

Motion to create a Bylaws Committee to review and make recommendations to bylaws. First: Sandra Albers Second: Heena Shah. Motion passed. Motion to appoint Angie Foster as Campus Rep Coordinator for the 2023/2024 school year. First: Robin Cowin. Second: Renee Carleson. Motion Passed.

There was a brief discussion about the time of day of the presentations and it was suggested to put out a survey and or look into other options to be presented at the next meeting, it was also noted that surveys have been sent in the past.

There were 4 Total Public Comments. 2 were on agenda items and 2 on non-agenda items.

*Public Comment 1 - Agenda Item - SELPA Update on Transportation*

Andrea Matolo made a public comment regarding the amount of time that her son spends on the bus and how she was unable to find a means to reduce the transit time below 1 hour and 10 minutes for the morning stretch. She stated how she found this not to be reasonable and contrary to the health and well-being of her son.

*Public Comment 2 - Agenda Item - Campus Rep read by Renee Carleson*

Good evening, everyone. My name is Angie Foster and my son is a freshman at University High School in the IUSD Special Education Extensive Needs program. I am currently the University High PTSA SpEd CAC Liaison and CAC Representative Coordinator. I wanted to share my positive experience as a CAC Representative while my son was at South Lake Middle School. Being a CAC Rep I brought special education parents, general education parents, students, the IEP team, IUSD Special Education Department & the community together to help, support and collaborate on abilities awareness events, special education resources and programs and connecting with other parents. Once or twice a year, I would host a "parent coffee" in the MPR with the principal & vice principal to bring all parents on campus who had questions about IEPs, resources or programs together and not feel alone. Participating in the PTSA also helps to get the word out to the entire school community and to collaborate with other parents. Once a month we would have a joint CAC Rep monthly meeting with the CAC REPs from the other campuses within IUSD to discuss what each campus culture and how special Ed practices and programs looked like on their respective campuses. We would share this knowledge and bring ideas back for awareness, inclusion and best practices. We also collaborate with the District on our annual Abilities Awareness event. This year will be our 3rd annual Abilities Awareness event on April 24, 2023 at Woodbridge High School in the evening. It will include a resource fair, food trucks, exhibits and family friendly activities. Everyone is welcome to attend! Also, every 4th Friday of the month a group of Irvine SpEd parents meet at Panera bread in Woodbury for a monthly social coffee meet up to share info, resources and connect. If you are interested in becoming a CAC rep for your school site, please feel free to contact me Angie Foster at [angie.j.lin@gmail.com](mailto:angie.j.lin@gmail.com) or [iusdcac@gmail.com](mailto:iusdcac@gmail.com). Thank you.

*Public Comment 3 - Non-Agenda Item - Transparency*

Debra Hilton Kamm made a public comment regarding transparency; CAC is a government entity and part of government code. Subject to Brown Act. She provided her opinion on how voting should be done. She sees that there will be a bylaws committee and thinks that the bylaws need to be redone. She mentioned that the CAC used to record their general meetings but does no longer. As a result, she brought her videographer to tape the meeting.

*Public Comment 4 - Non-Agenda Item Special Education related EHRMS resources read by Renee Carleson*

While IUSD has committed to providing mental health resources such as Care Solace and spaces for students to access, there seems to be a gap for those resources pertaining to special education students. Would IUSD be willing to compile local resources such as psychologists and LMFTs that have an understanding and training in helping students with neurological and developmental disabilities and can provide outside counseling services? It's imperative to support the students, staff and families who are often scrambling to find these resources.

Melanie Hertig, Special Education/SELPA introduced herself and staff in the attendance and also pointed out that some of the staff are CAC members. Some are parents with students with disabilities at IUSD. She went on to say that when a student is struggling, we encourage parents to reach out to program specialists and school psychs. There is a renewed sense with staff of enthusiasm and positivity, and motivation and enthusiasm for the school year. She hopes that is resonating with students. At Abilities Summit she is continuing to work on a goal that they did last year. Staff is thinking of and working toward personal and department goals. She is excited about continuing to work to add inclusion. Senate Bill 354 was the inclusion bill that Esther, Monica and she went to the state capitol to advocate for. She wanted credentialing and inclusivity training to be a prerequisite for anyone interested in being an administrator. She wants inclusive classrooms as a priority.

Regarding safety plans: The school works with SELPA to make sure that those children that need extra support are thought of. Each school site creates their program based on unique needs to ensure that procedures are in place. Working to bring a school safety presentation by Dr. Bayne, to share more specificity. She thanked Andrea for her public comment. Reminded all to please bring this up to staff to help us and problem solve in a way others haven't thought of. There have been 70 new students onboarded to the transportation program. It does take a while to get transportation routed. Please let them know so that they can look into it. There was a question in regards to SELPA and budget - with multi district SELPAs, there can be a line-item. CAC is supported through administration staff, use of supplies, and time.

Allison Robbins, director of Secondary/Adult Transition shared the new pathways to High School Diploma - Alternate pathway Education Code 51225.31. established a new path for students with cognitive disabilities. They can get a diploma if they're able to take CAW. Traditional pathway to diploma - 215 credits and coursework requirements. There is a certificate of completion - often an adult transition program. Focus on life skills. New one: 130 credits in specific areas. Students must have an IEP - currently students 10th grade or younger are eligible. Typically, it would be those in extensive support programs. For Middle school meetings, this can be dialog during IEP meetings.

Esther encouraged all to take a copy of the updated CAC Brochure and shared the Family Engagement Events; next Parent Meet-Up this Friday 9/22 at 9:00am at Woodbridge Village Center, Support CAC and stayed tuned for details on 3 additional parent presentations. The PTA council has added a budget line item to hold funds donated to CAC. Follow CAC on instagram at CAC\_IUSD.

The next General Meeting and presentation is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 9:30am - 11:30am at Creekside Learning Center 3387 Barranca Pkwy - Rm 1 with Presentation on Assessments, SMART Goals & Staff Roles

Esther encouraged all to stay for the TASK Navigating Special Education Presentation. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm made by Andrea Matolo, seconded by Sandra Albers. Motion passed.

Acting Secretary, *Andrea Matolo*