

IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Education Department
Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting 6:00pm, April 8, 2021, IUSD District Virtual

MINUTES

Call to Order: Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing

Welcome to Guests Attendance

Introductions/Roll Call: Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing

Attendance: 36 Non-Voting and 9 Voting Members Present

- **District Office:** Melanie Hertig, Allison Robbins, Amy Ochoa, Angela Paterson, Erin Benntt, Tammy Blakely, Jennifer O'Malley, Karena Gibbs, Lisa Torkzadeh, Sean Viney, Stacy Kredel, Taryn Dreifus
- **IUSD School Board:** Paul Bokota
- **CAC Board:** Bernadette Ah-Hing, Angie Foster, Andrea Matolo

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 8 Aye

Approval of Minutes of November Meeting:

Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 8 Aye

Public Comments

Robin Cowan: It would be great if there was more transparency with regards to qualifications for children with Special Needs to qualify for ESY. Junior High General Ed children have that criteria listed on their website. Our child has tested below grade level in certain subjects but does not qualify for ESY or Gen Ed Summer program. There are kids not getting their needs met that should be.

Robert Gallina: Wanted to know district policy about labels on office doors. Children with special needs are bullied and teased by other student that witness them going into particular offices. He believes that the labels listed on office doors bring anxiety to students. It also allows them to look up what that label means and can upset students. He shared a personal experience with this.

Committee Chair Report

1. Playground access – Has been granted to children. We are thrilled that our children can now access playgrounds to be able to have sensory breaks, etc.

2. Local Area Plan District presentation – it is a plan devised by the district, alongside with state guidelines and with stakeholder input – including parents. IUSD Special Ed Director is our SELPA. Bernadette shared the history of the SELPA, one duty of the SELPA is to help create equitable education for Special Education students.
3. CAASPP testing – Parents are wondering what is happening with this testing. It was not administered in 2020 and has not yet been in 2021.
4. District-wide survey update – This survey was to provide input regarding the needs of our students for the Local Area Plan. We look forward to hearing the results of this survey in May
5. Legislation Day- May 5th – The CAC chair committee is typically invited every year to help lobby for educational senate bills that affect our students. Melanie Hertig will let us know if there is any space for additional parents to join.

CAC GOALS:

- Create a thriving CAC community and board partnership as evidenced by increased membership and collaboration opportunities such as
 - Zoom Call or WebX for meeting
- Create an IUSD-approved and website-available “Parent Handbook” that includes Parental Rights, Procedural Safeguards, and the IEP Process in an easy to read format:
 - Access to Records
 - Prior Written Notice
 - Informed Consent, including the Right to sign in full, with exception or not at all.
 - Evaluation Procedures and Independent Educational Evaluation
- IEP Meetings, including the ability to invite outside parties, facilitated IEP participation, and provide IEP team with comments to the IEP.
- Benefits of speaking with other parents with children in the same classroom
- School policies about volunteering in their child’s classroom
- Promote and enhance inclusive practices
- Assisting IUSD with the creation of accessible playgrounds

Committee Vice Chair Report : Angie Foster

1. RoundUp/Transitional Meetings – These are introductory meeting for families graduating into the next School. She was told that typically, school sites give specific time dedicated to Special Education parents. However, this year she heard feedback that the virtual events did not include information specific to the Special Education students, perhaps not even 1 slide in a presentation of many slides. She challenges the district to get more consistent and standardize a piece so that every program is discussed and Special Education teachers and staff are included as presenters. While RoundUp meetings have already occurred, Angie listed dates for the informational nights for Transitional meetings to 6th grade.

2. Post-IEP parent survey update – Jennifer and her team rolled out a Pilot Program of the post-IEP survey and will see how things go in 1 school before they open it up across schools.
3. Parent Social – We hope to have a parent social in person the beginning of next school year however are excited to host one online on April 21st. Information will be sent out.

Staff Presentation/Information

Special Ed. Executive Director Report: Melanie Hertig

1. Legislative updates – State SELPA has been holding this for years. We typically do this in Sacramento but we were able to do this virtually. Stacy Kredel will be there to help us with this and we are currently scheduling meetings with our three local representatives.

We will be advocating for Assembly Bill 126 – This bill supports establishing new Family Empowerment Centers and increases funding for the existing centers that help families navigate the special education system. Our local center, TASK, is in Brea.

Assembly Bill 967 – This bill establishes a COVID 19 special education fund for providing 1:1 matching funds, and supports local agencies for early intervention in conflicts and alternative dispute resolution, and provides services for Special Education students. This bill is specific to students with IEPs.

2. The results from the Annual Survey as well as the Local Accountability Plan activity will be reviewed by the board on April 21st. We will be using these 1x dollars received from COVID support to address the many issues brought on by COVID. There will be another survey to help us decide where those funds should be going out to.
3. The CAC had asked for updated equipment, more accessible to students and with extra sensory activities. We started with Springbrook Elementary in the hopes that we could get feedback to see how students interacted with equipment. We will meet in the next few weeks to get that feedback.
4. State Testing – CA Department of Education allowed for submission of a school testing waiver. Irvine just decided to use local testing instead of CAASPP testing. Grade 11 is the only grade that will do CAASP testing. There were concerns about how meaningful this testing would be after such a unique year.
5. SELPA is trying to connect CAC with PTA and asking school personnel to help identify parents that might be a great PTA-CAC connection.
6. Local Area Plan & Budget – CDE has given a new template for a Local Plan. Special Education Department will be holding an input session on April 30 at 10AM. Parents who are interested in giving feedback but unable to attend will be able to do so through an Input Feedback Form. A draft will be shared by April 26. The CAC will be able to review the Annual Budget Plan and Annual Service Plan at our May 20 CAC meeting. Every May we review a slice of those documents at that time.
7. ESY & Summer remediation program – Qualification never changes. In IEP we hear the criteria regression and recoupment. Is the time that takes students to recoup the skills lost over the

summer more than their peers? For students who are wondering whether they would qualify for the general education summer program, I would suggest that you reach out to your school to see what their criteria were. Specific skills and teacher recommendation may have been considered but that is outside of our wheelhouse.

Melanie appreciated the feedback from Mr. Gallina. She said that as a department she could address other ways that they could title the doors.

Andrea Matolo, Secretary, mentioned that there were other public comments and questions that came in on the chat. Would now be an ok time to read them?

Melanie mentioned that it's tough to get into the back and forth but these were things that could be addressed after the meeting and that the new comment would perhaps be addressed by Jennifer.

Jennifer O'Malley:

RE: ESY and Summer-related programming

8. ESY will be happening as usual. The decision is always made through the recommendation of the IEP team. ESY will happen June 21-July 20. If your child is getting instruction virtually right now, ESY will be virtual. For others, it will be in-person. We will also be doing our COVID-related learning loss response. Your student will get their specialized academic support during the Learning Loss Academy. In addition, they are looking at the possibility of doing some specialized instruction. In addition, there will be a Special-Ed COVID response program. This would be a possible total of 6 hours. We will be reaching out to those appropriate families Mid to Late-May. Please reach out to school supervisor or psychologist for more information if your child did not qualify. These extra 2 weeks are optional and in-person only.

Adjourn Business Meeting at 6:58: Moved by Bernadette Seconded by Andrea Matolo Voted by 8

Presentation: Special Needs Trusts & Conservatorships

Susan A. Katzen, Esq. & Nena Sheldon, Esq.

Q&A

Next CAC meeting is Thursday, May 20th, 2021 6-8pm Zoom