

IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Education Department

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
9:00 – 10:30 March 16, 2016
IUSD Learning Center
3387 Barranca, Irvine CA

AGENDA

Wednesday March 16, 2016

Call to Order: (Chair) Meeting started 9:02 am

Welcome to Guests

- Board Member – none in attendance
- Program Specialists and District Staff-
 - Erica Hawkes, Director of Operations Preschool/Elementary,
 - Allison Robbins, Director of Operations Secondary/Adult Transition
 - Jennifer O'Malley, Director, Informal Resolution Specialist
 - Amil Alzubaidi, Coordinator, ERMHS
 - Lisa Torkzadeh, Program Specialist, Secondary
 - Erin Ferguson, Program Specialist, Elementary
 - Meghan Sparling, Lead Speech Pathologist
 - Melanie Hertig, Executive Director, SELPA

Attendance: Introductions/Roll Call (Chair)

- New Members- welcome and please fill out a membership application.
- Voting Members Present

Reading of last Minutes (Secretary)

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes of last meeting

Moved by: Director Hertig

Second by: Jane Hernandez

Public Comments

The CAC invites members of the public to present information to the Committee and District about topics of interest or concern to individuals. Please fill out a card with your name with your questions and concerns. We will address these during our open forum. At any time during the meeting, you may hand these cards to any of the district personnel or Committee members. When you are called upon, we request to keep a time limit of 3-minutes per presentation, so that we are able to address as many members as possible. Any questions that are specific to a child or situation, or any cards that are not attended to during this business meeting will be addressed at the next meeting or forwarded to the appropriate sub-committee to support you. Thank you.

Reports of Officers

Chairwoman Report- Jamie

- Parent Workshops
 - Review of last workshop and upcoming workshops
- Next business meeting we will have voting in new board
 - Review of positions
 - Anyone wanting to be considered please email Danielle so she can place your name on the ballot

Secretary Report- Danielle

- Review of Networking binders
- Family Networking sub committee meeting will be April 7 at 4:00pm Address will be emailed to interested parents- please contact Danielle at 949-378-3002 or by email, SpecialNeeds_OC@Yahoo.com
- City of Irvine Disability Advisory Board
 - Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board:
 - Irvine Residents with Disability Advisory Board (IRDAB) was established in 1990 by the Irvine City Council to ensure residents with disabilities have equal access in community life. This voluntary Board consists of sixteen members. At least 51% of members have disabilities and the remainder of the Board is comprised of residents who have a family member with a disability and/or work in the field of disability services.
 - Mission: IRDAB's mission is identifying and recommending programs and services meeting the physical and social needs of residents who have disabilities, regardless of age. The Board provides advocacy and support for programs related to community needs and propose recommendations to a variety of City departments. IRDAB also works collaboratively with vital community organizations.
 - IRDAB Community Contributions: Educate the public about issues that affect individuals with disabilities, Ensure public access, advise Community Services Commission on matters pertaining to persons with disabilities, Provides community presentations, Disability friendly business awards, Disability awareness month,
 - Meeting Information: IRDAB meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza Irvine, CA 92606. Meetings are open to the public.
 - Schedule for 2016: January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2 ,September 6, October 4, November 1, December - no meeting,
 - IRDAB presentations include: Access Reporting, Accessible Playgrounds, Affordability and Accessibility Housing, Audible Signals, Disabled Parking, Emergency Preparedness, Great Park Accessibility, Transportation, Universal Design, Much more!
 - Qualified applicants must live in the City of Irvine and be willing to commit to a minimum two-year term of active responsibility.
 - Here is a link to our website :
<https://www.cityofirvine.org/disability-services/irvine-residents-disabilities-advisory-board>
 - June McLaughlin, Chair, IRDAB 714-904-0513

Reports from District –

Executive Director Report – Melanie Hertig

- Gave a staff introduction, and stated that although most are new to our district they are not new to supporting students and their families.
- The Staff in the Special Education Department just completed three days of Professional Training. Part of those three days was spend on the focus of expanding the understanding of

Dyslexia and curricular supports, accommodations and modifications in the classroom. In addition, OTs shared information on how to work with children sensory processing in hopes to help teachers provide a variety of supports in the classroom. A significant portion of the training days were spent in groups based on program specialization. Each group evaluated current and available accommodations and modifications, and discussed the new research-based interventions. Teacher on Special Assignment- spoke on Common core goals. District wide PLC- Professional Learning Community- teams evaluated a specialized area to address student needs. Special Education teachers will be more involved in helping to analyze the needs of students to change and adjust the curriculum. Lead Psy spoke on processing strengths and weaknesses and how to develop skills in students. They will offer more trainings to help support teachers with instructional strategies for next year. Next year, site teams to work with other site teams in specialized areas and discuss how their program works or struggles in working with students.

- Website- will be updated this summer- and CAC will have a robust site.
- Legislation Action Days are May 4 & 5, 2016. Director Hertig and President of the AC, Jamie Brandt will be in Sacramento to speak with state government about the issues we have. SELPA based.

Directors Reports – Erica Hawkes, Director of Operations, Preschool and Elementary

- Informed that the PLCs for preschool and elementary covered 24 this year and will have 25 schools next year. She explained that the schools grouped by specialty, had articulation across the grades and grouping session with middle and high. Erica continued, Lincoln Park is initially K-6 and will expand to k-8.

Director Report- Allison Robbins– Director of Operations, Secondary and High School

- Middle school had second meeting of the year. They too grouped at each school site and by specialty to discuss strengths and weaknesses. Portola HS will be opening next year and currently has two openings for teachers. One of the TOSA (teacher on special assignment) will also be at that school.
- IATP is having a Family Workshop on Limited Conservatorship- April 14 at 5pm- 6:30pm at the legacy education center. Fay Blix, Attorney at Law is a specialist in this area. She has over 30 years of experience.
 - When a child with developmental disability turns 18, his or her parents no longer have the right to make legal decisions for their adult child. Fay Blix will discuss the legal process of limited conservatorship which allows you to continue to make certain legal decisions for your adult child.
 - Please email sandyawata@iusd.org or call Sandy Yawata at 949-936-8626 or Karena Gibbs at 949-936-8638 for more information.
- Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California is hosting the 5th Statewide Disabilities Conference Friday and Saturday March 18 & 19 at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena.
 - Hear First hand from experts in an amazing lin-up of panel speakers, exhibitors and organizations. Scholarships available. www.apidisabilities.net or call Peter J. Wong at (310) 428-2885

Committee Reports

Discussion/Action Items (Chair)

New Item: Presentation: David Luster, Presenting on Letter of Intent. Presentation will be available on the CAC website soon.

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Open discussion

Question: Emily Suryomoto: expressed a concern about the lack of summer programs offered by the school district for students with special needs. And asked by ESY could not be used for all students

Response: Director Hertig explained that ESY is based on a regression recoupment analysis. If a student misses a period of school due to a break, and if they do not recoup the material at the same rate as their peers, then they need ESY.

Open Responses: There are programs out there, limited but available. The best is the City of Irvine offers lots of classes for children with and without disabilities. <http://www.cityofirvine.org/community-services-department/classes-activities> They also have supports for our kids <http://www.cityofirvine.org/disability-services/classes-activities> and get with For Families for even more supports <http://www.cityofirvine.org/seek-assistance/families-crisis> Additional resources are YMCA and IPSF- look to our next meeting when we discuss summer options.

Question: Why do year round schools not offer the same services? Year round schooling seems like the best option for all special education students with the limited breaks.

Response: Hertig: programs are not offered at each location, working at expanding programs for year round. Will have more programs for autism specific- looking for space. Next year-no but is important. Year round does seem a better fit for some like West Park. Speak with your IEP team and program specialist about your options that are appropriate for your child.

Question: Dorothy malata: Mental Health- is the presentation is available online? And when can we expect PEERS to start?

Response: Director Hertig: PEERs program will be available next year as an integrated program in the classrooms. It will not be offered as a stand alone program and will start next year.

Question: Allison: Can a family choose where their child goes? And how do we know what programs are being offered at each site?

Response: At your IEP and transition meetings placement is discussed and offered. If the team does not offer a preferred school you may choose to do open enrollment through student services. Each site has the same programs offered, they may vary due to the teacher, but the programs are the same.

Question: Donna and John- Preschool family new to the district and special education. Have a transitional meeting for TK coming up. Concerned that they have not been provided definite information on where their child will be placed. They are concerned with the multitude of transitions with preschool at one site, TK at another an then Kindergarten at another school site. And all in all, the school their child may attend may not be their neighborhood school. They were told to tour their neighborhood school, and when they did they left feeling defeated. The staff was very off-putting and did not use People First Language.

Response: Hertig: In regards to People First language, "It is frustrating to us as well", and we do what we can with mind set changes. It was explained that the district is unable to secure specific sites each year for TK due to space. In addition, each site specializes and that not all schools have the specialized programs. They are working on bringing unilateral supports at each school, but for now, as children grow and need different supports the district is trying to support them and that may require that the program of need is not at the neighborhood school.

Open response: Danielle has provided the following link to People First language and down loadable PDF <http://www.inclusionproject.org/lets-all-play/people-first-language/>

Question: As a parent of a child transitioning, I do not know what is best to choose for my child, graduation or certificate, and what do I need to do as a parent to prepare for the future. I know we talk at the IEP meeting but I want more. ? : Secondary schools and transition- Professional exchange- PLC

Response: The CAC will look into having an open forum for needs and program about HS- transitions and such

NEXT MEETING

- Items tabled –
- Amil will bring more information about PEERS integration

Adjourn Time: 10:06 am

Motion: Emily

Seconded: John.