

**IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Education Department
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
November 19, 2020
Zoom**

MINUTES

(Chair) Call to Order 6:01pm, Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: Voting members 9, Non-Voting members 19

- **District Office:** Taryn Dreifus, Jennifer O'Malley , Allison Robbins, Lisa Torkzadeh, Amy Ochoa, Angela Paterson, Anna Ziemann, Stacy Kredel , Karena Gibbs
- **IUSD School Board:** Paul Bokota
- **CAC Board:** Bernadette Ah-Hing, Angie Foster, Andrea Matolo

Approval of the agenda

First: Robin Cowan

Second: Andrea Matolo

Ayes (8) Noes (0)

Approval of the minutes from the October 1, 2020 Meeting

First: Robin Cowan

Second: Andrea Matolo

Ayes (8) Noes (0)

Committee Report/Discussion/Action Items

Chair: Bernadette Ah-Hing

- School Board 2020-2021 school year – Congratulations to Paul Bokota, who is our CAC liaison and to Cyril Yu on their School Board victories.
- Special Education Resolution (June 23, 2020)

Will the board be supportive in making a proclamation for Special Education Students for a safe and equitable education?

Paul Bokota – Any proposal for a resolution has to go through the Board and I can not speak on behalf of the entire Board in this forum. Informally, the board may not feel that a resolution would be the best way to show our support. The Black Lives Matter resolution was a separate, distinctive resolution.

Public Comments:

Robin Cowan: Received as a current member the link to the CAC meeting. She knows it's a goal of the CAC that all Special Ed parents receive a link. She's getting texts from parents that they did not receive the email. Perhaps we need to make sure that we're sending a link to all of the appropriate parties. Those people need to have links to get in to the meeting. Irvine has been doing a better than average

job trying to provide FAPE but there is room for improvement. When children are getting services such as Behavioral Intervention, this is not being logged into the service minutes. This is a violation of FAPE and an appropriate log needs to be created. Parents need to be presented with a log as is their right under student record requests.

- Chair requested that the district respond to this public comment directly.
- Local Continuity Plan / Learning Continuity & Attendance Plan (Formerly Local Control Accountability Plan)
- Stakeholder input – The district explained that the input was provided pre-COVID last November. They had a workshop. The district said that they got input from their knowledgeable staff on Special Education and a handful of special education parents. These parents were not made known to us.
 - We have always asked that the district collaborate with us, however the feedback that we got was that this was done quickly, there was a template, and not much flexibility.
 - Melanie Hertig committed to reaching out to the CAC in the future ahead of time.
- PDF online for Local Continuity plan.
- Plan: https://iusd.org/sites/default/files/documents/learning_continuity_and_attendance_plan-final_adoption_version.pdf
- Email the CAC!
 - iusdcac@gmail.com
 - Please email and connect with us so that we can bring all of your views to the district on the date that we set with the district.
 - You should be able to find information on pre-assessments there.
- PTA updates
 - We had a great conversation with Connie Stone, PTAC VP. She is excited to be working with us this year.
 - We have one PTA. There is not a separate one for Special Ed and one for General Ed.
 - We hope for parent volunteers here to collaborate with PTA
- IEP related info
 - Instructional and behavioral hours are not to be used during lunch and recess time, when staff is not with child.
 - The district confirmed that this should not be happening and it should be done according with the child's IEP.

Vice-Chair:

- IEP Survey
 - We are excited that an IEP survey is in the works in the district. Jennifer and her team will be working on this project.
- CAC Working Groups
 - One project is the parent handbook
 - * Valerie Hinson Nelson and Renee Carleson will be working on the handbook
 - * Any other parents that would like to participate or help, please reach out.
 - * This will work as a guidance for new and veteran parents.
 - The other project will be to update our CAC bylaws.
 - * Robin Cowan and Nette Pavlovich will be helping to update these, along with the district.
- Membership / District-wide Discussion List

- Taryn will send out an email to the IEP and 504 parents to opt in to a CAC parents-only discuss list. We hope to share information.
- We want our membership to grow and to educate the parents on campus about what the CAC does – a collaboration between parents and district sharing opportunities and events, etc.
- Community Events
 - We hope to implement the following
 - Disabilities Awareness month district-wide.
 - National Unity Day is October 21st. Acceptance, kindness, unique needs, equity. We would like it to be celebrated or recognized throughout district.
 - She would like to have a district-wide kick off Family Fun Day. Eventually, this would be a great thing to bring to Irvine district-wide for all of the Special Ed families.
 - Sweetheart Awards – People in the community, teachers, parents, district members, can all be recognized in one night.
- Parent Trainings 2020-2021
 - We would love ideas from you on topics that you are interested in

Executive Director Report

Melanie Hertig was unable to attend so Jennifer O'Malley took her place.

- Local Plan – Each SELPA will be required to submit a Local Plan to CDE in June. We will schedule a meeting to get CAC input for this. This will be a separate meeting in Winter or Spring
- Brief Legislative Updates – Few bills are happening this time of year. The focus of the bills likely will be on COVID issues
 - Every year there is a Legislative Day in Sacramento. We're unsure as to whether or how that will happen but we will share that information with the CAC
- Local School Board Updates
 - Congratulations to Paul and Mr. Yu elected to Board.
 - We are updating our Board policies in regards to Special Education.
 - In the Local Plan that we are submitting, we have to include language on Special Education structure and mission. The CAC is a required member of the stakeholder group that will be drafting the Local Plan.
- We are in the process of drafting an IEP survey. We are getting input from staff after our Winter Break.
 - We want to give parents the ability to give feedback and also allow for additional professional development opportunities.
- IUSD has partnered with Care Solace, to connect parents with reliable and high quality mental health services. To support the mental health needs of all of our students.
 - [CareSolace.com/site/IUSD](https://www.caresolace.com/site/IUSD).

Question:

Robin Cowan – She believes that it is great that we're partnering with someone to support the mental health needs of our students. She has had personal experience with them. Is there a way to connect with CareSolace to make sure that Special Ed parents are connected with resources specific to Special

Education Students? Thus far, zero resources have been made available to her to connect her with someone who has experience with Special Needs students.

Jennifer O'Malley: She is under the impression that it is for all families. She has had trainings where they say so. She will share this experience with them.

Adjourn Meeting 6:47pm

Presentation:

Brad Thompson "Self-care for Caregiver during COVID"

Dr. Meredith Dennis "Coping Skills for Children during COVID"

Renee Carleson: "Mindfulness during COVID"

Q&A

Next CAC meeting is Thursday, February 11th, 2021 6-8pm Zoom