

Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

IUSD Virtual General Meeting, May 20, 2021, 6:00pm

MINUTES

Call to Order: Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing 6:06PM

Welcome to Guests Attendance

Introductions/Roll Call: Chair- Bernadette Ah-Hing

Attendance: 23 Non-Voting and 16 Voting Members Present

- **CAC Board:** Bernadette Ah-Hing, Angie Foster, Andrea Matolo
- **District Office:** Melanie Hertig, Allison Robbins, Amy Ochoa, Jennifer O'Malley, Lisa Torkzadeh, Sean Viney, Stacy Kredel, Taryn Dreifus, Courtney Delsano Christina Reyes
- **IUSD School Board:** Paul Bokota

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 14 Aye 0 Nay

Approval of Minutes of April Meeting:

Moved by: Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by: Angie Foster Vote: 8 Aye 0 Nay

Public Comments

Robin Cowan (Read by Angie Foster): Thank you for serving on the CACI would ask that you reconsider taking public comments at the beginning of the meeting only if you'd like to continue to encourage engagement between the parents who make a majority of the comments and the district personnel – who are the ones who respond. If parents don't know the details of what's on the agenda, since it's very broad any pertinent and systemic questions cannot be asked to be addressed accordingly. Thank you.

Bernadette Ah-Hing: What is the district doing to support students who are transitioning from Special Ed to General Ed? What is the district proposing to encourage inclusion of Special Ed students with General Ed students for virtual learning? We will post the answers of these questions to the Special Ed discuss list. If you are not on the list, please join so that you are in the know.

Beatriz Nieto: A representative from Gigi's Playhouse. Shared about Gigi's playhouse. A flyer was posted to the chat.

Matthew Thoma: Please consider keeping a Zoom option even after meetings resume in person

Nisreen Qamhiyah: The Special Education CAC is the best kept secret in IUSD. While Parents of children with special needs struggle to find support and advice on how to handle extremely complex situations that they find themselves in and beg for assistance, school and district level employees never provide

information about this committee or any other support services. The parents find themselves going into endless cycles where they have no choice or alternative to the kind of situations that they find themselves in. When we attend a 504 meeting or IEP meeting with the district, the first thing that we have to sign is a document that sets the limit as to what the parent can do in case of a dispute. But if this is entity that is supposedly available to provide those resources that they desperately need is never mentioned in the meetings or told to the parents. I personally asked parents of children with disabilities and they mentioned that they had no idea that such a committee existed. The question is why when so many parents are struggling, this committee needs to be more proactive in advocating for the rights of children with disabilities and needs to ensure that every parent of a child with disabilities has knowledge of and access to the services that this committee provides because without the substantial participation of children with disabilities and their families IUSD is not providing the services.

Public Comment #2: To protect the privacy of the families of children with disabilities, the handbook should not be handled by the PTA. Families might be discouraged from taking the handbook if that is made public. There are much better ways to give the families they need without disclosing their private information.

Response by Angie Foster: The Handbook is a resource for parents. It does not disclose parent information.

Committee Chair Report

1. Legislation Day

It was different this year as it was online. We met with Senator Dave Min, Assemblyman Steven Choi, and Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris. We talked about the different bills that we were asking for support: Special Ed funding and Family Empowerment Centers funding. We were able to better explain that Family Empowerment Centers have been a part of all of our lives. TASK, for example, has been great with parent training, reaching out the community, etc.

Angie Foster: Shared in detail of her experience with meeting with Steven Choi and Dave Min and spoke about Bill 8967, which applies for 1:1 matching funds to assist in preventing and resolving disputes. We asked for funds to go directly to services. ABA 126: Angie went through a 6 month training to mentor parents. Having a resource Family Empowerment Center allowed me to grow as an advocate for my son and other families.

Andrea Matolo shared of her experience as well.

2. CAC Bylaw Changes

Angie and Andrea shared that we want to create an ad hoc committee over the Summer and invite members to help take a look and amend the bylaws. We will meet on June 22nd.

Creating Ad hoc committee to amend Bylaws: Moved by: Angie Foster Seconded by: Andrea Matolo Vote: 8 Aye 0 Nay

3. CAC Personal Statement of Commitment. We wanted to add a statement of commitment for Chairs that are voted into office in order to stress the importance of the roles. The statement was read aloud.

4. Parent feedback regarding Local Area Plan, Service Area Plan and Budget

Some parent feedback: Please add Dyslexia 2017 guidelines, transportation 2017 guidelines and COVID 2021 guidelines.

In regards to Service Area Plan: SELPA beliefs are general, pulled from IUSD mission statement and beliefs. We would like these beliefs to be more specific to our children with language on inclusion.

In regards to budget: We ask for there to be room for an inclusion specialist. Especially with COVID, inclusion has been challenging.

Elections

Chairs each shared a little about themselves and their goals for the CAC. 2 other candidates shared about themselves as well. Candidate Esther Morales shared some about herself and that she would like to participate in some of the committees and withdrew her bid for Vice-Chair. Candidate Heena Shaw shared about herself as well. She would like to serve as a school site rep and withdrew her bid for Vice-Chair as well.

Bernadette Ah-Hing was voted into Chair position

Angie Foster was voted into Vice-Chair position

Andrea Matolo was voted into Secretary position

Committee Vice Chair Report

1. Parent Handbook

We want to create an approved website and create a handbook that includes parent rights, procedural safeguards and IEP processes in an easily understandable format. We want the PTA to help us integrate the parent handbook.

Creating Ad hoc temporary committee to work on handbook: Moved by: Angie Foster
Seconded by: Andrea Matolo Vote: 8 Aye 0 Nay

2. Parent Social update/feedback

An unofficial virtual parent Zoom social occurred. It was a pleasure meeting those who attended. We hope to be able to do quarterly in person parent socials in a year. We will announce them during CAC meetings.

3. CAC Special Education/PTA Rep

We hope to have a CAC/Special Ed Inclusion rep (name TBD), with an aim at making schools more inclusive and welcoming, at each campus. In this role, you can also help to raise awareness of learning differences at school. This representative will be a face and a voice to maintain visibility of Special Ed families at your school with parents, school staff, and PTA. A supportive parent from within the community to help parents navigate resources and serve as mentor.

Staff Presentation/Information

Special Education Executive Director Report: Melanie Hertig

Thank you. Parents have been our partners as we faced an unprecedented crisis. Special Ed staff and teachers stepped up to do what we knew we needed to do to help your students. Parents became Zoom Pros, 1:1 aides, and put together materials. Instructional spaces became safe and ready to receive students. Thanks for patience, understanding, and partnership.

1. Legislative updates

AB 967 has made it out of the appropriations committee and is now awaiting final decision.

AB 126 is currently in the hands of the appropriations committee.

We are hopeful that we will have an outcome by mid-June.

2. Accessibility of playgrounds

Facilities is now preparing estimates of cost. We have strong support and are moving forward.

3. We had some feedback from a parent at a prior meeting about signage. We did meet with school staff at that school and will bring this up with all school site principals and administrators when we have their attention early Fall.

4. Annual Survey feedback is still waiting to be processed.

5. ESY & Summer remediation program

Jennifer O'Malley – ESY is for students who are receiving ESY per their IEP. You should have received communication already.

The district is offering a learning loss academy for students who need remediation or extra support, as identified by the district.

In addition to this, Special Ed intervention programs will be run for those that don't qualify for either of these but have additional learning loss needs.

Some programs have transportation.

6. Local Area Plan & Budget

We had held a feedback and Q and A meeting and posted a document requesting feedback on April 26. This will be open until May 28 if you would like to provide extra input.

Feedback from the LCAP survey was reviewed with the board. Both slides and video is available on School's website.

Melanie went over school SELPA budget. Service codes and general information on students at each school receiving services.

To the parent who shared that CAC information hasn't been shared with all parents, we are putting effort to get information out to schools. We will keep working to get information out in IEP meetings.

Adjourn Business Meeting at 7:23PM: Moved by Bernadette Ah-Hing Seconded by Angie Foster Voted 8 Aye 0 Nay

Presentation: Community Resources for All

Q&A