

**IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Education Department**  
**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**

**October 1, 2020**

**Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**(Chair) Call to Order at 6:03pm Welcome and Introductions**

**Attendance: Voting members 16, Non-Voting members 20**

- **District Office:** Taryn Dreifus, Melanie Hertig, Jennifer O'Malley , Allison Robbins, Lisa Torkzadeh, Amy Ochoa, Christina Reyes, Angela Paterson, Anna Ziemann, Valerie Bueno, Stacy Kredel , Karena Gibbs, Erin Ferguson, Lara Pascoe
- **IUSD School Board:** Paul Bokota
- **CAC Board:** Robin Cowan, Bernadette Ah-Hing, Andrea Matolo

**Approval of the agenda**

First: Robin Cowan

Second: Stacy Kredel

Ayes (12) Noes (0)

**Approval of the minutes from the May 28, 2020 meeting**

First: Angela Paterson

Second: Anna Ziemann

Ayes (10) Noes (0)

**Public Comments**

Bernadette Ah-Hing: Wants to hear from our department how funding from IPSF is allocated between General and Special Ed classrooms. IPSF had said that there was enough funding to add an IA to a classroom.

- Allison Robbins: IPSF funds are used for all students. If there is an identified need for an aide in a classroom, or as identified in an IEP, we will fund that through Special Ed funds.

**Committee Report/Discussion/Action Items**

**Chair:**

- We have an active CAC membership. We hope that it grows. The purpose of the CAC is to work collaboratively with district staff to improve the experience for Special Ed students and their families.

- Creating a membership Committee was proposed and voted on.  
First: Andrea Matolo  
Second: Angie Foster  
Ayes (12) Noes (0)
- Differing Abilities Awareness Week
  - What it is and PTA partnership plan for IVA and other platforms.
  - There is a professional videographer who is going to create a video showing typical and special needs families doing several modules. Our hope is that the modules help create empathy, understanding, and more inclusive atmosphere. Reach out to your PTA.
  - Request for families in pre-school, junior high and high school. If you want to participate, please let us know.
- Southern California Edison
  - CARES program reduces 30% of bill for Medi-Cal recipients.
  - Medical Baseline Program- For those with medical devices or A/C needed for those with medical issues <https://www.sce.com/residential/assistance/medical-baseline> .
- School Site Council
  - An opportunity to partner with principal, staff, and parents.
  - Great way to see programming, goals, and create equity and participation with our students.

**Vice-Chair:**

- October 7, 2020 PTA is hosting an IUSD School Board Candidate Forum 7:00-8:30pm
  - Please submit any questions you may have for them, especially regarding special education students to [bit.ly/IUSDCandidateForum2020](http://bit.ly/IUSDCandidateForum2020) .
- 2020 Goals Update and Proposals:
  - Achieved:
    - Creating a systemic field trip policy where all students with varied abilities can participate. We are happy the district was willing to listen and change policies.
    - Before, as students progressed from grade to grade, they were often bumped from one school to another. We were happy that the school was able to see the difficulty in this and allow children in SAI classrooms to stay at one school for K-6

**Proposed Goals:**

1. Create a thriving CAC community and board partnership as evidenced by increased membership and collaboration opportunities such as:
  - District-wide Differing Abilities Awareness Day
  - Increase participation of Special Ed students in PTA
  - Local Plan stakeholder participation
2. 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:
  - Propose Parent Handbook sub-committee  
First: Robin Cowan  
Second: Andrea Matolo  
Ayes (13) Noes (0)

- 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 Evaluations
  - 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
3. Promote and enhance inclusive practices
  4. Assist IUSD with the creation of accessible playgrounds
  5. Advocacy/Legislation partnership with Irvine School District and Irvine parents/community members and IUSD Board members
- Review and propose bylaw changes to be current

### **Executive Director Report**

- Acknowledged Paul Bokota and that there is a Board Presence at these meetings. Paul said a few words about his family and his own experience with Special Ed issues. He thanked the CAC for all that they do.
- Thanked everyone for participation and acknowledged that this is a challenging time for families. Echoed the work and positive energy that staff on campus put into opening schools last week. Understands that there will be bumps and appreciates parent understanding.
- Reminded parents that each school has a program specialist. Please reach out to them if you have any questions or concerns.
- School playgrounds progress since May – CAC really advocated for inclusive playgrounds and we were able to work with district and facilities. First playground augmented this summer at Springbrook Elementary School. Campus will be used as a template for budget and planning purposes. Many projects are on hold now because of COVID.
- Brief Legislative and budget updates – Any pending bills on Governor's desk needed to be handed in by end of September. Any new bills will come in 2021. The State did increase the amount that School districts are funded – about \$80 per student in IUSD. Around \$2,500 increase for low incidence disabilities.
- IUSD received roughly \$17,000,000 in relief funding this year.
- Senate Bill 98 requires districts to provide meaningful distance learning for students who receive Special Ed services and implementation of IEPs to the greatest extent possible. A plan in IEP must be made to address distance learning needs.
- Local Continuity Plan highlights/overview
  - Replaced LCAP for this year
  - Irvine invested these dollars in staff, PPE, technology, etc.
  - <https://iusd.org/about/departments/education-services/special-education/special-education-contact-us>
- Jennifer O'Malley shared about a visit to Meadow Park and the great job teachers are doing how happy the students were. Shared an example of a teacher going above and beyond and making school safe and fun.

- Recognized that all of our students to some degree have some sort of learning loss. All teachers are monitoring students learning loss now and will compare students now compared to when school closed to determine any services needed to help student's bridge the learning loss that might have occurred during school closures.
- District will be in contact with parents regarding learning loss later in the fall. An update will be given at next CAC meeting.
- Alison Robins shared about teachers and students hard work to make distance learning successful and silver linings of collaboration. If you are having difficulties, reach out to your IEP team.
- Lisa Torkzadeh shared ways her team has been creative to be safe while providing services. Training of staff and IAs has been great.

**Robin Cowan** – Shared her farewell. She shared it has been an honor for her to serve. She believes that the district needs someone who has the energy to be able to work with the district. She is most proud of collaboration with district to have a more explicit website that includes more insight, resources and answers for parents. She's proud and encouraged at how district has met childcare needs during CAC meetings. Last year, she had the opportunity to travel to Sacramento to advocate for more finances for Special Ed. Please attend IUSD Board forum on October 7 and do reach out to our Board. She's found them collaborative and great listeners.

**Melanie Hertig** – Said her thank you to Robin for her hard work and achievements.

#### **Elections**

**Bernadette Ah-Hing**, running for Chair, shared about her family, why she is running for Chair, her achievements while on CAC committee, and thanked Robin for her service.

**Angie Foster**, running for Vice-Chair, is new to IUSD but not to CAC. She served on the CAC in Palo Alto, on Site Council, and is the Family Support Chair for Phelan McDermid Foundation. She shared about her family and excitement for serving on the CAC for IUSD.

**Andrea Matolo**, running for Secretary of CAC, thanked Robin for all that she has done for the Special Needs Community in Orange County, shared a bit about her family, why she is running for CAC Secretary and what she hopes to achieve.

All three candidates were voted in to their positions.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm**

#### **Adjourn Meeting**

First: Bernadette Ah-Hing

Second: Donna Billimek

**Presentation:** Q&A with District Personnel

**Next CAC meeting is Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00-8:00pm Zoom**