

IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Education Department
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
May 28th, 2020 – 6:00pm-7:30pm

Zoom

MINUTES

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Review format for related questions for CAC Chairs or Special Education Staff for follow up • Zoom 'chat' function

Call to order at 6:03pm

Welcome and Introductions

- **District Office:** Taryn Dreifus, Melanie Hertig, Jennifer O'Malley , Allison Robbins, Lisa Torkzadeh, Amy Ochoa, Christina Reyes, Dr. Stephanie Pettey, Casey Kramer, Sean Viney, Stacy Kredel
- **IUSD School Board:** Lauren Brooks
- **CAC Board:** Robin Cowan, Bernadette Ah-Hing

Attendance

- **Voting members: 13**
- **Non-voting members: 34**
- **47 total attendees**

Approval of the May 28, 2020 agenda:

- **First: Shellie Bittner**
- **Second: Valerie Nelson**
- **Ayes: (5) Noes: (0)**

Approval of the minutes from the February 13, 2020 Meeting:

- **First: Shellie Bittner**
- **Second: Stacy Kredel**

Ayes: (5) Noes: (0)

CAC Board Introductions

Chair: Robin Cowan

Vice Chair: Bernadette Ah-Hing

Public Comments

Due to Covid-19, public comments were due to be submitted prior to meeting and were read by a staff member.

- Gisellea Bond: Inquiry about allowing Special Education kids to start school 1 week before others to give them more time to get used to school again
- Shellie Bittner: I would like to commend Oak Creek Elementary and the supporting staff who work with my son. They have gone above and beyond to help him through this very difficult time. We had some personal difficulties that affected our safety, caused us to have to move within 10 days and negatively impacted my son. The team at Oak Creek came together to support us as his parents and accordingly support our son throughout everything. I could not be more grateful for everyone on his team.

Vote for interim 2019- 2020 Secretary position

- **Candidate: Andrea Matolo**

Andrea did a brief introduction of herself, why she hopes to join the CAC leadership team, and her excitement for all of the things to come.

(Votes were tallied via a google document held by district and Andrea Matolo was confirmed as Secretary)

Committee Report/Discussion/Action Items

- **Chair on behalf of Vice Chair:**
- Thank you to the district, teachers and staff for pivoting from in-class instruction to EDL
 - Thank you to transportation for dropping gifts off and sending APE equipment to students homes
 - Thank you Melanie for collaboration and allowing us to provide the first virtual Special Education Community Advisory Committee meeting for Irvine
- Parent Feedback:
 - Are enjoying extra visibility, transparency and clarity EDL has provided parents, with being able to watch teachers interact with students and see the classroom culture which allows for imitation at home
 - Teachers and staff have been providing wonderful support and it's appreciated, but parents are also feeling the challenges that comes with teaching at home

Chair:

- **Original legislator plan postponed until September**
 - Original plan was to provide a platform with local legislators, assembly women and men and State legislators, to share their plans for advocacy for special needs and parent feedback. This was cancelled due to Covid. We hope that we will be able to reschedule to September.

- We are hoping to hear from IUSD trustee voting candidates from area 1: Lauren Brooks, area 3: Betty Carroll, area 5: Paul Bokota. (The current IUSD board) and anyone else who may be running, as well as local and state representatives.
- May is when the annual budget and service plan is typically presented to the IUSD board and superintendent.
- ACSE Advisory Commission for Special Education
 - Meeting set for June 17-18.
 - <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/acse.asp> ACSE@cde.ca.gov
 - Group of legislators for CA and select parents to make recommendations regarding special education to the CA department of education with opportunities for public comment.
- May 21 we had a Facebook Live Zoom opportunity to hear from Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris and California Superintendent Tony Thurmond on EDL options for the fall.
 - Highlighted need for Fed Government to ensure no budget cuts and provide PPE
 - Reiterated there is Federal guidance and State guidance and need to serve Special Education clients remotely.
 - Example given about a district providing IEP services to a group of deaf students through Zoom.
 - Grateful for teachers and staff on webinar.
 - There are ways for 1:1 aides and speech pathologists to give services. There are challenges, but also solutions. Cottie suggests best practices in CA for efficiency.
 - Tony Thurman provided email: covid19@cdc.ca.gov
 - Special thanks to Sharon Wallin for making a great comment on the call, concerned about funding and highlighting potential budget cuts for Irvine.

Executive Director Report:

- Thanks CAC Chairs & Special Education team for working together to create this virtual CAC meeting.
- We miss your children and recognize that parents and caregivers have stepped in to become primary provider of learning for children.
- Lauren Brooks has joined call in Paul Bokota's place as an audience participant. She's been advocating on Zoom calls with local state leaders and CA and OC School Board Associations.
- When are schools going to open? We are still faced with a level of uncertainty. What we do know is that Irvine schools will be opening based on local and state departments of health. Education, health and safety of students, staff and community are main priority. More guidance expected from CA department of health 1st week of June.
- We will need to be flexible as we return to campus. Some students won't be able to return physically to campus for various reasons and need to consider learning under an extended distance learning platform for some time.
- For ESY, parents have been notified that we will be doing a distance learning platform for summer session.

- Impact Special Education budget? We're required to provide services written in IEPs. Cutting services is never on the table.
- Tangible materials were sent to homes for adaptive PE, Speech and Occupational Therapy. Hundreds of deliveries were made.
- Irvine has been selected for 2 special opportunities with CA Department of Education.
 - (1) CA Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN Project). Amy Ochoa, OC regional leader for many years. We were recently recognized for exceptional leadership and chosen to provide knowledge to other districts.
 - Kim Kapur, Behavior Specialist, will be leading.
 - (2) Augmentative Communications department was selected to participate in a grant that provides enhanced training to our district and helps us provide regional training.
- SELPA Local Plan for 2020-2021 school year completion date has been extended to June of 2021 due to COVID.
- Districts LCAP plan delayed until December 2020
- We are still required to hand in annual budget and service plan for 2020-2021 school year. They will be posted sometime next week.
- CAC leadership elections have been pushed to fall.
- Leadership opportunity is provided to any CAC parents, staff or community members.
- PATS program (Parents Appreciating Teachers & Staff) through IPSF is a way to provide staff and parents with accolades and acknowledge their hard work.
- Administrative Staff in Special Education Department is here to help. Each school has a program specialist.

Robin Cowan, Chair:

Andrea Matolo was voted into Secretary Position

Adjourn Meeting 6:26pm

Amy Ochoa, Dr. Stephanie Pettie and Christina Reyes presented 'Supporting our Children's Academic and Social Emotional Needs During this Challenging Time'