



## **Community Advisory Committee for Special Education**

Irvine Unified School District - SELPA

*Chair:* Esther Morales - *ViceChair:* Monica Mesa - *Secretary:* Sally Kim

Attendees: see Sign In Sheet

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by the committee chair, Esther Morales. She welcomed everyone to the CAC General Meeting. Monica M. moved to adopt the November 17, 2022 CAC General Meeting agenda as presented, motion seconded, motion passed.

Executive Director for Special Education / SELPA Administrator, Melanie Hertig gave a legislative update on bill SB 1113 - Inclusive classroom and staff credentials, it was not signed by the governor. Certain services are billable to Medicaid for the services provided through the district. Parents are asked to sign their consent for this on the IEP signature page. A handout will be provided at the next CAC meeting that helps explain the Medi-Cal billing. Social Emotional Wellness (student who missed school preK & K experience after covid) Wellness, Parent Center, Wellness Spaces, Counselors at Schools & added layers of support at schools, including Staff Training at start of the school year. Connect with the Family Resource Center at JTMS, for social emotional support, community liaisons, interpretation, and more. Funding received from the Learning Recovery Grant to support mental health as added for Gen Ed., extra psychologist for SpEd, elementary resource staff, and 4 schools Wellness Centers in collaboration with CHOC. The team is working on a communication tips handout to guide families on the steps to take when something doesn't feel right or the IEP team did not make clear. Teachers received training on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, displaying learning disabilities that fall under IDEA. Team is waiting for CADE to provide alternative standards and guidelines for the district to proceed with an alternative diploma path, information will be shared when available. Jennifer added: at minimum 7th grade, IEP needs to note what current track the student is in; high school diploma or a certificate of completion, thereafter needs to be addressed at annual IEP meeting.

Director of Operations & Alternative Dispute Resolution, Jennifer O'Malley gave an update on transportation issues; the lack of available hires continues, staff is working to connect with parents to resolve issues. Transportation reimbursements have decreased since COVID to 35 %, with Durham working on staffing issues. Everdrive, Hop Skip Drive will continue to fill those gaps. For families not in the route, mileage reimbursement is available, reach out to special Ed.

Secondary/Adult Transition, Director of Operations, Allison Robbins shared information about the High School General Education schedule vs the Special Education schedule. High school

has BLOCK schedule, mandatory enrollment in 6 courses, optional open enrollment courses provided for including all students in SpEd. District will provide the support and accommodations to ensure equal access to opportunities. The 8th grade Transition IEP meeting includes information on high school opportunities and accommodation.

Questions regarding parent volunteers and field trips were discussed. It was shared that some field trip vendors are more accommodating than others when parents request to support field trips and other outings. Parents are encouraged to collaborate with their school site in order to volunteer on site or volunteer for field trips.

Special Ed TOSA, Megan LeValley shared a list of different tasks they are working on; Education, Training, Support IUSD 'Inclusion' - school principals Collaboration with Campus Reps, Inclusion Awareness Event and Inclusion Week Collaboration with PTA Council, Parent Resource Center and ECLC Resource HUB - Coffee and Connection Gratitude Cards available for delivery.

There were 5 public comments, two (2) online and three (3) in person; transportation, field trips, social goals, high school schedules, local resources. Public comments were forwarded to the Special Ed Director for staff to follow-up.

PC1- I wanted to share that our kids can participate with their peers or outdoor Ed. at Bonita canyon. The six graders went to Catalina Island Marine Institute in October. Principal Cory Pace, Gen Ed teacher Ms. Kristi Arledge and Special edu. teacher Allie Greenburg. I'd like to share some awesome stuff that happened at IUSD! At Bonita Canyon ES the ALL the 6th graders went to Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI "SeeMee") for their outdoor ed. Special thanks to our Principal Corey Pace, GenEd teacher Kristi Arledge and SpEd teacher Ms. Allie Greenburg! Aliie coordinated with the top director at CIMI and accommodated us with:

- private cabin and bathroom for each family
- one or two parents/adults allowed
- refrigerator storage for our special diet kiddos
- privilege to ICE machine
- early to eat at meal time and extra time after meals
- a perfect match with our camp leader mr. simon! knew to help teachers/family and modified the marine biology curriculum

We got to snorkel and swim with leopard sharks, kayaked (kiddos sat like kings but enjoyed the water for 80 min without falling in!) 2 mile hike, night snorkeling and dance, check out insides of a blown up whale, watched skits by staff/peers, made smores (but ate it deconstructed and not off the fire! lol).

Camps can be meaningful for our kids. granted there will be room for improvement but this is a wonderful start! Thank you Bonita Canyon, CIMI and IUSD!

PC2 - There is a discrepancy between the number of minutes offered and the number of minutes my child is in school. My child, who is autistic and a senior this year, was never offered a 7th or 8th period and leaves school around 2:05 pm each day. This is short of what she is due according to the law. How is this not discrimination when the Gen Ed students are being offered a full day? Just because my child is in autism class does not mean that she should be released early and not offered the same opportunities as the general education students. This inequality has created a problem with all the special education students in this school. You are shorting our students a full school day and cheating them out of their education potential. The minutes do not add up!

PC3 - Education code 46027 requires 64,800 minutes for High School ed. 51,800 minutes offered to SpEd. Same opportunity is not offered. All classes that are offered at 7th and 8th periods are not appropriate for SpEd students. Please provide appropriate classes or keep the students in their SpEd classes longer.

PC4 - Board member of Gigi's House. 57th location, recently opened. Free program offered to change the view of the community of people with Down Syndrome.

PC5 - Celebrate board members in district 2 running on SpEd platform.

Thankful for the SpEd staff. School sites need to be empowered to resolve inhouse before escalating to the district. Definition of Autism. Relationships and social goals need to be addressed. Facilitate the sense of belonging.

The September 15, 2022 General Meeting minutes were adopted as presented.

Vice Chair Monica gave the following reminders; become a member, renewal notices have gone out, take a Tri-Fold, the SpEd Handbook is available online, and refer to the CAC webpage for more information. Upcoming events; Parent Meetups, 4th Friday of the month at

Panera Bread, February Parent Ed Presentation; Transition, Placement & Programs, repeat of the Special Needs Trust & Limited Conservatorship at 6pm on March 29th. All invited to attend the Parent Social Dec 2nd at 6pm at Hangar 24. The committee continues to work on the Inclusion Matters, Abilities Awareness Event, Awareness - Acceptance - Embrace on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northwood High School. Committee: Monica, Angie, Nette, Renee, Esther, Jim (NHS-PTSA), TOSAs

Follow us on instagram : @CAC\_IUSD

IRDAB - Universal Playground at Sweet Shade

Spirit League Baseball season - Spirit League | Orange County Autism Sports League

Abilities Awareness Week coordinator, Robin Cowan will be meeting with the SpEd TOSAs to bring the Abilities Awareness Week for 2023 to all schools. The next CAC General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Creekside Learning Center Room 5, followed by a Parent Ed Presentation; Transition, Placement & Programs. A big thank you to the students from the ATP program, Roasters Coffee Cart! All donations go back 100% to support the continuation of this program. Thank you all for supporting our students! The Parent Ed Presentation: Assessments, SMART Goals and Staff Roles to follow.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Sally Kim, Secretary