



Special Education

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

5:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Declaration of Quorum:

Fourteen members in attendance.

Public Comments:

Chairperson asked interested parties to share public comments.

Six members had public comments. Each was granted two minutes.

Attendee Mayra Ceballos, expressed her concerns on the structure of the previous meeting and uncertainty on certain deadlines.

Attendee Amy Noel, inquired what is the school district doing about implementing the California Dyslexia guidelines. According to her, guidelines state that:

- 20% of students have symptoms of Dyslexia and they need a researched based structure for reading and math.
- These provisions needed to be implemented through K-3 and especially for special education.

Attendee Ms. Noel also shared that none of her children had received these services and that her sixth grader was at a 1st grade reading level.

Attorney Salvador Holguin, assisted in conducting the meeting and after acknowledging Ms. Noel's comment, he clarified that the CAC could only address the topics on the agenda. He explained that staff would follow up with her about her concern.

Attendee Mia Cooper, expressed her concern about her name being public on the membership list. She said that it was private information and would like to have her name removed. She still wants to be part of the CAC but does not want her name to come out publicly.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Attendee Mirna Cortez, requested that Public Comments happen when the topic is addressed; she disagrees with the structure of the meeting.

Attendee Roxanna Cervantes, expressed doubts and concerns regarding the structure of these meetings. She would like clarification on:

- How things get approved during these meetings;
- Who is proposing/ requesting the amendments;
- How many people are attending the meetings;
- How many attendees are actually members of the committee; and
- How were members chosen to be part of the CAC (her understanding is that some members are unaware that they are members)

Mrs. Cervantes would also like the members to know what the meeting objectives are. She stated that not all students in the district have the support from the school even if they have a diagnosis since their main focus was on the academic aspect.

Attendee Mr. Alfredo Aguero requested to know why Mrs. Cervantes's questions were not answered. He stated that not everyone's questions had been answered and that fairness and not preferences should be practiced. He expressed that these are similar concerns that previous parents had expressed.

Mr. Aguero raised the CAC guidelines. He said that not everyone has an understanding on how the meetings should be organized. He added that, heavy, unfair favoritism is practiced, and that we should be working together as a team and in the best interest of our children.

Attorney Holguin reiterates the point of the public comments; the CAC is not required to answer questions posed during public comments. The CAC acts only on items properly agendized.

Attendee Mr. Eudocio Rojas, added that if there was an agenda, it would be best to agendize only one item per meeting instead of two or three in order to make the meeting run smoothly.

Attorney Holguin explains the agenda contains items requiring action by the CAC; it is prepared with the intent of completing the meeting within a timely manner. He explained:

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

- Why certain topics appear on the agenda again
- The Brown Act is what controls the agenda

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes were moved by Member Rochelle Moss to approve the September 10th minutes. Member Mia Cooper seconds the motion to approve.

Discussion begins, as a member questions why there's an approval of the minutes if they have not all read it yet. Attorney Holguin reminded everyone that minutes are posted prior to the meeting and should be read individually before the meeting for time efficiency purposes.

Member Roxana Cervantes asked who should approve the minutes since there were members who were not present at the December 10th and September 10th meetings. She also expressed that those who motion to approve the minutes need to present their CAC membership before the bylaws can be approved. A determination was made that only those present at the December 10th meeting could vote to approve.

Mrs. Cervantes moved to amend the minutes to change paragraph 2 to say the meeting on December 10th could not be held to take action and that the reference should change to a "presentation" instead of "training". Member Alfredo Aguero seconds Member Cervantes' motion.

Motion carried: Minutes of December 10th, approved as amended.

At 7:15 p.m. the Chair entertained a motion to extend the meeting.

Motion carried to extend tonight's meeting, 16 in favor, 9 opposed.

Point of Order: Member Cooper requested to have everything interpreted.

Approve Membership

Member Amanda Fitzpatrick moved to approve the membership as follows:

Remove some members of the membership list because they are no longer interested or because they have moved out of the area: Specifically those numbered 3, 13, 17, 24, and 25; and to add the following persons to the list:

Eudocio Rojas, Special Education Parent

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Maria de la Cruz, Special Education Parent

Benito de la Rosa, Special Education Parent

Jennifer Avitia, Special Education Parent

Sarai Garcia, Special Education Parent

Amy Noel, Special Education Parent

Josefina Perez, Special Education Parent

Bayron Perez, Special Education Parent

Macarme Gonzalez, Regular Education Parent

Lucia Estela, Special Education Parent

Second by Member Mayra Ceballos

Motioned carried; 26 in favor and none opposed. The official membership consists of 69 members.

DISCUSSION / APPROVAL of BYLAWS:

Attorney Holguin provided background on the efforts and preparation of bylaw revisions, as would have been explained by Dr. Howana Lundy and Ms. Nereida Gutierrez.

In May of last year (2019) one of the interests was amending the bylaws to separate the Community Liaison and Parliamentarian position into two positions. Some CAC members met with Dr. Lundy with other recommendations to change the bylaws. There was an attempt to have the CAC discuss and approve the bylaws in September 2019, but no meeting was held and therefore no approval.

In December 2019, another meeting was held but it was unclear that CAC members had an opportunity to fully discuss and approve amended bylaws. To avoid any concern they have been brought back at today's meeting for proper discussion and approval. A copy of the bylaws were provided in English and a translation into Spanish in advance of the meeting.

At present, the 2015 bylaws are in place. These bylaws are rules (not laws) that govern your committee, things like who the officers are, how long they serve as officers, how often you have meetings, procedures, how to conduct the meetings, all these things are covered in the bylaws. The bylaws allow for your committee to approve amendments by majority of those present. Your bylaws allow for those amendments to go into effect by majority of your members. Today the CAC approved a membership of 69 members,

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

but there are not 35 people in this room to approve. The most we can do tonight is to approve proposed amendments but they don't go into effect until we have a meeting where at least 35 members vote in favor to put them into effect.

The purpose of the discussion on this item is to seek agreement on the amendments that would be presented to the majority of the membership for approval.

Discussion on the Proposed Amendments began:

Motion to amend bylaws to propose separate Parliamentarian & Community Liaison Positions: Moved by Member Amanda Fitzpatrick; Seconded by Member Yesenia Lopez Rivera; **Motion carried.**

Point of Order: Member Alfredo Aguero wants a special meeting to invite everyone to discuss and then vote on the bylaws. Attorney Holguin stated, the bylaws provide they can be discussed at any of our regular meetings not at a special meeting.

Discussion continued: By specific sections as proposed in the amendments.

Proposed revisions:

Request was made that on paragraph six, a clarification be added to work on more parent awareness. Proposed an added reference CA ED code section 56194

Request was made to better define who can be a member, ending on page 3. Also requested clarification on the language used on page 3 section 1 A. The language should state the majority of the members who are parents of special education students.

Suggestion to use community members rather than "persons" and include examples like a "doctor" as a community member. It was explained that the proposed amendments track the Education Code.

Request clarification of Article 5, page 7 regarding meeting; It was explained that it is part of the requirements, that cannot be changed; it's statutory.

At 9:00 p.m. a Motion for a short recess was entertained; moved, seconded.

Motion carried.

Reconvened at 9:07 p.m.

After a five-minute recess, it was explained that given the late hour and additional portions to review, the Chair would entertain a motion to table the bylaws in April.

It was moved and seconded. **Motion carried.**



Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Adjournment:

Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela called for a motion and vote to adjourn. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.