

# Special Education

## Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

### Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2020

#### Call to Order:

Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

#### Declaration of Quorum:

Fourteen members in attendance

#### Public Comments:

Ms. Veronica Garache read the public comments

Attendee Amy Noel shared that recently the district purchased **MindPlay**, an online literacy program proven effective for English Language Learners and children with dyslexia. She encouraged all parents with students with reading disabilities to ask for this program for their students. She is very pleased with this action by the district and with the efforts being made by the Dyslexia Task Force, which is a group of parents, teachers, school psychologists, speech language pathologists and SELPA employees. The SELPA director formed it in June 2020 in order to apply best practices for dyslexic students in our district by June 2022. These best practices will help dyslexic students in special education as well as those in general education classes who may not yet be identified as having dyslexia. Being involved with the International Dyslexia Association (IDA), Decoding Dyslexia California, and numerous dyslexic support groups, she have come to believe that the following are top priority for best practices for dyslexic students:

- Using an evidence-based, Structured Literacy program (such as MindPlay) for General Education students in grades K-2 and special education students with reading disabilities in all grades.
- Screening all students for dyslexia each year in Kindergarten, First and Second grade.
- Creating a district, full-time staff position for a Reading Specialist trained in an IDA approved program who would work 1:1 (one on one) with students at various school sites who are not progressing in small group intervention.  
<https://dyslexiaida.org/structured-literacy-certification-for-dyslexia-practitioners-and-therapists-what-why-how/4>.

- Ongoing training for ALL teachers about structured literacy, the science of reading, dyslexia, recognizing its warning signs, and accommodations and that can help students with dyslexia.
- Providing assistive technology for students with dyslexia such as speech-to-text, text-to-speech, electronic note takers, audio books, etc.
- Create a pamphlet for parents and staff of kids with dyslexia that outlines:
  1. What dyslexia is and isn't?
  2. What helps kids with dyslexia read and write, and spell?
  3. Resources for learning more about dyslexia.
- Assure that school psychologists have the most effective tests for identifying students with symptoms of dyslexia. Symptoms include phonological processing issues, executive functioning issues, sequencing issues, and working memory issues.

Attendee Yolanda Garcia respectfully requested to see the CAC board meetings with more structure and following one topic at a time that the comments are heard, taken into account in the next meetings and be able to move forward.

**Approval of the minutes:**

Minutes were moved by Member Erika Delgado de Ramos to approve the March 10, 2020 minutes. Member Erik Fitzpatrick seconded the motion to approve.

**Approve New Membership List:**

New members 2020-2022

Josefina Perez	Status unknown
Latoya Smith	Community representative
Marilyn Interian Matey	Parent of Special Ed. Student
Jodi Kroeger	Parent of Special Ed. Student
Amber Michelle Marriott Ploehn	Parent of Special Ed. Student
Anna Michel	Parent of Special Ed. Student
Maria R. Garcia	Parent of Regular Education Student

Dr. Lundy explained:

- That our membership is currently at 44, in addition we have new members for 2020-2022 making it to 51 members total, which we would have to have a quorum of 17 members present at each meeting.
- As members, we have voting rights and each year there is a specific time for recruiting members, which we submit to the Board of Education for approval.

Member Mia Cooper motioned to approve the above members. Seconded by Liliana Cruz.

Latoya Smith stated that she does have a child that attends Regular Education (she is not a community member).

Verification for Josefina Perez will be cleared.

Dr. Lundy assured that the adjustment and status would depend on verification, students name and clarification if the student attends Special Education or Regular Education in order to be in the executive board. To be chair, vice-chair or secretary of the CAC the bylaws required that those members must be parents of special needs children.

### **Discussion:**

Dr. Lundy stated that this is a participatory conversation. Our goal is to elect new officers for next year. The current CAC leadership will remain in place until the new election period, which it will be in April. We should have done this last April, but due to Covid starting in March, we were not able to do it.

1. **Attendee Alfredo Agüero:** His concern was that Dr. Lundy was trying to get the candidates now. Dr. Lundy clarified that she may not have been clear, she rectified that we will be following the bylaws, she does not want to change the dates, we are going to recruit in April and elect in May to take office then.
2. **Attendee Kathleen V:** Just wanted a clarification, the present officers will stay until next year. What you are saying is then we will do the recruitment in April and elect new officers in May. Dr. Lundy affirmed and agreed with the clarification.
3. **Attendee Lori Parra:** Raised a question in regards to voting as follows: Does it have to be specific from Special Ed. parents, community; can it be anybody from the list who can be a president? Dr. Lundy explained that the executive board has to be parents of special needs students.
4. **Attendee Carmen:** Wanted to know if she could continue being a member of the committee even though she is a parent of a regular education student. Dr. Lundy confirmed that she could still be a member.
5. **Attendee Roxana Cervantes:** Stated that it did not make no sense to her that we were not breaking the bylaws since they were already broken because the dates were changing. The voting for the new executive board needed to be done last year, due to the pandemic it was not done but it needed to be done right away after we started the meetings again and they were not still done. In addition, the status of the changes of parents in the membership list has not been updated.

Dr. Lundy explained that each member was called to update his or her status. The list is very accurate and we will be happy to post the membership list in the chat for you to see.

Ms. Cervantes suggested seeing the membership list posted in the Special Education website to be publicly. Dr. Lundy agreed with her suggestion and the membership list will be posted right away.

6. **Attendee Mayra Ceballos:** Commented that she agreed with Ms. Cervantes, that the elections should have been done earlier and understood because of the pandemic we did not have meetings, yet other districts were able to conduct their CAC meetings in August/September. We are in November and being told that we are going to keep the same officers until next year because we are so late in the year. She did not think that was okay, and would like to have this item agendized for the next meeting to discuss.

Dr. Lundy explained that as a member Ms. Ceballos could make a motion to have this item agendized for the next meeting.

Ms. Ceballos made a motion to have this item in the next agenda to discuss and hopefully to vote on if we want the current executive board officers to roll over and not to have the elections until next year.

Lori Parra seconded the motion. Attendee Amy Noel opposes.

To clarify the item that needs to be agendized for the next CAC meeting Dr. Lundy asked Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela if this item should be agendized and she did not respond. Dr. Lundy explained it in detail, there would be a discussion regarding the executive board, if they should roll over or vote to elect a new executive board for the next period. Dr. Lundy requested a vote on the item.

**Motion carried:** 13 in favor and 3 opposed.

7. **Attendee Liliana Cruz:** Wanted shared that she thought that we have many members to continue moving forward, no one can make decisions, all of us need to vote on different issues. She was pleased how we are doing it, empowering ourselves to participate fully. The bylaws should be given to the members to keep learning and refer to when changes need to be made. We need to be prepared for next year, at a time of voting we will know exactly what we are voting on. It is important to be aware and be informed about the bylaws; perhaps a training about the bylaws will be very beneficial to all.

**Adjournment:**

Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela called for a motion and voted to adjourn.

**Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.