

Community Advisory Committee

CAC Minutes

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Call to Order:

Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m.

Ann Pearson, Assistant Director of Special Education, welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting guidelines based on the Brown Act in order for everyone to feel the meeting to be a safe space. Robert Rules of Order were also reviewed briefly to explain how our meetings are run and accomplish what is on the agenda.

SBCUSD Board Members present at the meeting were **Dr. Margaret Hill, Ms. Myra Ceballos, Dr. Scott Wyatt** and **Dr. Rachel Monarrez**.

They commented that the Board Members were there for the parents and the students and appreciated the attendees' support. Their goal is to take special education services to the highest level possible and want to hear their voices and concerns.

Dr. Ryan Rubio, Assistant Director, SELPA/ Data & Compliance, Special Education, introduced himself. He is thankful and honored to serve and support the special needs students and the staff as the new Assistant Director. He is looking forward to being a part of the CAC and working with the parents.

Ms. Ann Pearson, Assistant Director, Instruction Services K-12, Special Education Explained that she and her team are in charge of providing professional development, administrative development, paraprofessional development and parent training and workshops. She is also overseeing the dyslexia task force.

Declaration of Quorum:

Eighteen members in attendance

Attendees:

Liliana Valenzuela	Mirna Cortez
Lilliana Ulmer	Maria de la Cruz
Alfredo Aguero	Amada Fitzpatrick
Mia Cooper	Blanca Lopez
Amy Noel	Lori Parra
Catalina Castillo	Alma Lopez
Maria Garcia	Elizabeth Romero
Lali Aboytes	Liliana Ruano
Daniel Chavez	Kathleen Valdez
	Non-member Ana Berrellez

Ms. Anne Pearson reviewed the public comment procedure.

Public Comments (Previously Submitted):

Chairperson Liliana Valenzuela read the public comment previously submitted.

Good evening CAC members,

First off, I would like to congratulate our new officers again! Tonight I have one suggestion that I would like to ask our officers. I would like to suggest for next school year if we can start recording our CAC and Parent Workshop meetings and have all the meetings be posted up on our special ed website and also let parents know in our special education newsletter each month that they're recording posted of meetings on SPED website just in case they missed one.

Thank you for your time,

Mrs. Parra

Member Alfredo Aguero submitted that he wanted to speak in public: he wanted to clarify a word in the minutes that was not appropriately describing him and also stated that he is not in agreement with accepting anonymous public comments. They are talking about his rights. According to a government code 5495.4 states that we can criticize the policies if they are not going accordingly. He stated this is his right to do so and I will continue doing so. It was included in the comments that he could not take pictures or videos, but the Brown Act says it is okay. In addition, that any person who is interested in helping with special education could be part of this committee, it does not matter where they live.

Ms. Pearson added that if there were any corrections to the minutes to be made, this is the time to do so. Errors, misspellings, typos.

Member Alfredo Aguero commented:

I do not agree with certain words used in the public comments. When a public comment is written, they should use their name or not added to the minutes. I want these anonymous public comments to be omitted. The word they used is not appropriate, "maton" is bullying.

Member Amada Fitzpatrick expressed:

I agree with Mr. Aguero when public comments are accusatory and do not benefit our meetings; these public comments should be removed from the minutes.

Dr. Monarrez stated that after following up with the legal team, any comment coming from the public, anonymous or not, we cannot change or sensor them. We as SBCUSD do not allow people to speak ill of each other. We cannot sensor what comes from the public. We need to focus on the job of the CAC, work on services and the outcome of students with special needs.

Action taken: The word "maton" was changed for bully and the minutes were resent to all the members prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Member Catalina Castillo motioned to approve the minutes with the addressed corrections.

Member Amada Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

All in favor of approving the minutes with corrections.

0 opposed

0 abstained

Motion carried to approve the minutes with corrections.

SELPA PLAN PRESENTATION

By: Barby Rolland

Section B: Governance and Administration

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be sent to all attendees.

The CAC is represented in the local plan. The CAC serves as an advisory capacity to make recommendations and the decision will be made by the Board of Education. Three board policies that were adopted this year are the following:

- Independent Education Evaluations (IEE)
- Children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools
- Over identification and disproportionality

Ms. Rolland opened the floor for questions:

1. **Member Alfredo Agüero** wanted to know how we can find the page number to see what Law Firms that contract with the special education department and how much money the district spends.
Dr. Lundy replied the AARL is the law firm that the district uses. It does not go into the SELPA Plan.
Dr. Monarrez also replied by suggesting that Mr. Agüero requested the public records on the district website.
2. **Member Amy Noel** wanted to know what pages talked about the IEE, Ms. Rolland replied pages 12 to 21 on the SELPA Plan.
3. **Member Kathleen Valdez**, asked how does the SELPA work in relation to our schools. Ms. Rolland explained that SELPA stands for Special Education Local Plan Area. SBCUSD is such a large district that we are considered a single SELPA.
Dr. Lundy explained that she is the Director of the SELPA and the District Director of the Special Education Department. Because we have our own SELPA and have close to 7,000 students, the district is able to serve those students including the Charter Schools.
4. **Member Amada Fitzpatrick** suggested to have acronyms explained during the presentation
5. **Member Blanca Lopez** stated that the district is spending too much money on lawyers because of the lawsuits and that the district should provide better services.

She suggested keeping on checking the schools to make sure that they are providing needed services. Have a special education presentation available at the beginning of each year to have parents learn about each school and their services. **Dr. Lundy** agreed with Mrs. Lopez, who is part of the CAC role to put the suggestions into place. SELPA received a grant for \$76,000 to take care of the Alternative Dispute Resolution, to avoid parents having to get an attorney. Our ultimate goal is to support the parents to do the best for our students.

Section D: Annual Budget Plan

Ms. Rolland continued with the SELPA Plan Presentation

She explained that it was a revision of last year's budget and it reflected how we need to appropriately use the Federal, State and Local funds. These funds are intended to serve students with special needs. She gave an extensive overview by showing tables and graphics to explain the expenditures.

Ms. Rolland opened the floor for questions

Member Amada Fitzpatrick wanted to know what is Low Incidence.

Ms. Rolland and Dr. Lundy explained that according to the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) defines Low Incidence means any disability that is rare but very expensive since they may need specialized equipment like Visual Impair, Hard of Hearing. Specific money is put aside for that expenditure. The money that is received for Special Education is not enough so LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) money also assists and supplements materials for the students.

Member Amy Noel asked what the difference between classified and certificated employees is.

Ms. Rolland and Dr. Lundy explained that sometimes it is necessary to contract out of the district in order to provide students with specific services like Orientation and Mobility to a blind students, in which it will be considered certificated in order to obtain a professional specialized in that field, like nurses. An example of classified contract individuals are the instructional assistants that may be needed to provide one-on-one services. In addition, categorical services were describes as services funded by the State and Federal to meet specific needs.

Member Catalina Castillo made the motion to approve the SELPLA Plan
Seconded by **member Lali Aboytes**

All In Favor of Approving the SELPA Plan

11 in favor of approving the SELPA Plan

2 opposed

0 abstained

Motion carried to approve the SELPLA Plan

Member Blanca Lopez wanted to clarify why she was in disagreement with the voting for the SELPA Plan. She did not understand enough but she would like to know how the money is spent and where the money goes.

Dr. Lundy explained how the SELPA Plan is generic and high level. We can talk about our internal budget during the next agenda if you want to request it.

Dr. Lundy presented Summer School / Extended School Year (ESY)

The purpose of **summer school** is to accelerate learning and bridge the gap created due to the school closures. As the department, we are providing additional support into the classrooms. Summer school is offered to students district wide. These students may not have an IEP. Additional support is also being provided to those schools that may need it.

The purpose of **Extended School Year (ESY)** is for the regression (losing skills) and recoupment (the amount of time needed to relearn skills). It is offered to moderate to severe students in special education with an IEP. This year we do offer both in person and virtual. **Speech clinics** will be offered during the summer for those students that may need the intervention services.

Assessments in person for those students that are pending, are also available during the summer.

Motion to table the discussion on the 504 vs. IEP

Member Amy Noel motion to table the discussion on the 504

Seconded by **Member Amada Fitzpatrick**

All in favor of tabling the discussion of the 504 presentation until the next meeting.

0 opposed

0 abstained

The motion to table the discussion of the 504 presentation will be on the next agenda.

Liliana Valenzuela thanked Dr. Lundy for taking the time to answer the parents' questions about summer school after the CAC meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by **member Amada Fitzpatrick**

Seconded by **member Kathleen Valdez**

Adjournment:

All in favor of adjourning the meeting

0 opposed

0 abstained

Motion carried to adjourn the meeting via teleconference /electronic (Zoom) at 7:03 p.m.