



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

February 21, 2018

6:15 P.M. Networking 6:30- 8:30 P.M. Meeting

North County Regional Education Center

255 Pico Avenue, First Floor

San Marcos, CA 92069



1. Welcome and Introductions – Michelle Wolfson, CAC Co-chairperson

 - The meeting commenced at 6:40 pm. Michelle welcomed the audience and shared information regarding the CAC structure and membership. She noted that CAC is advisory (no decision making power) to the superintendents of the 14 NCCSE school districts. Representatives of the CAC include one staff member and one to three parent representatives from each district. The Executive Board convenes for an additional meeting each month to plan for the general CAC meetings.
 - CAC members and public guests introduced themselves
 - Michelle reviewed tonight’s agenda and reminded participants that there will be an opportunity for public comment later in the meeting.
2. CAC Meeting and Subcommittee Sign-ups – Heidi Marshall, NCCSE Parent Liaison

 - Heidi described various needs for volunteers to assist with upcoming CAC events. She distributed sign-up sheets with time expectations for each opportunity.
3. Focus Topic: *Supporting Self-Determination: Helping Your Child Learn to Make Choices from the Beginning*

 - NCCSE Coordinator, Alicia Alvarez, and NCCSE Program Specialist, Dawn Shirvanian, shared experiences and examples to assist parents in creating choice-making opportunities in a variety of areas.
 - Handouts from “Focus Topic: *Supporting Self-Determination...*” will be available on NCCSE website at <http://nccse.org>
4. Program Director’s Report – Theresa Kurtz, Senior Director, North Coastal Consortium for Special Education

NCCSE News

Theresa shared details about a number of topics and trends:

 - The annual meeting with local private schools will take place end of the month. The purpose is to review the shared responsibility we all have for child find activities, provide information related to Individual Services Plans, and obtain input from private school representatives about requested services.
 - The annual meeting of the Trustee Review Committee is scheduled for March 23. The Trustee Review Committee is outlined in the NCCSE Local Plan. The purpose of the committee is to serve as an appeals board in the event the NCCSE Board of Governors could not reach consensus on an issue. Each year, Theresa meets with the Trustee Review Committee, which is made up of one School Board Member from each member district to provide an overview of the NCCSE Organizational Structure and Funding

Model as a foundation in the event the Trustee Review Committee is ever called upon to resolve a dispute.

- With Julie Hong's departure to become the new Director of Student Services in Bonsall, Alicia Alvarez has been named the new Coordinator for NCCSE. Alicia provides direct support and supervision to the NCCSE DHH staff and provides leadership to our districts in a variety of areas such as Transition planning, Preschool, Behavior, and Moderate-Severe programming.
- With Lisa Houghtelin's retirement at the end of the year, Heidi Marshall has agreed to pick up another day in NCCSE in her role as Parent Liaison. We are also sharing some of Lisa's former job duties among the rest of our administrative and clerical team to help shift some of the work to make things more manageable.

State News

- Last Friday, February 16, was the last day for legislators to introduce new legislation. It is anticipated there will be about 2,000 new pieces of legislation to be sifting through in the coming weeks. Some of the bills introduced have some substance and purpose, while others may just be "spot" bills that will serve as placeholders until legislators more fully form their ideas. We are hearing that special education is an area of interest and possible focus for several legislators. Last year, Senator O'Donnell from Long Beach authored AB312 in support of equalizing special education funding and providing special education funding for preschool programs. The bill was not getting sufficient traction, so rather than have it go to vote and lose, the author pulled the bill last year in order to spend time gathering interest and reintroducing this year. As part of this process, he is sponsoring a Legislative Hearing on Special Education on February 28. Several speakers will be presenting on a wide range of issues in order to provide legislators with an education about our work and current funding deficits.
- The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recently authored a report specific to funding for students with special needs ages 0-3. The report highlights issues with transitions for students going from infant programming to preschool programming. They suggest it is because infants and toddlers are currently served through Regional Centers and school-based (Hope Infant locally) programs. Regional Centers serve about 75% of the population at a lower cost. The LAO proposes that the obligation shift entirely to the Regional Centers and provide them the grant monies directly. (Currently the SELPAs receive a small amount of money for infants in their regions; this money is passed through directly to the entity providing the needs). There is controversy around this proposal. The Governor didn't mention anything like this in his budget proposal, and we are hearing that it is not gaining any serious traction by the Legislature.
- Finally, be sure to read and enjoy the recent edition of The Edge. You can subscribe online at www.calstat.org/publications/subscribe_form.php
- There are GREAT articles related to inclusive practices, preschool programming, transition from infant to preschool programs, the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network, Mental Health initiatives, and Teacher Credentialing. Don't miss it!!

Federal News

- Last Thursday the US House of Representatives passed legislation with bipartisan support that proposes amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The intent

expressed by legislators is to remove a loophole that lawyers can file complaints on businesses and receive settlement dollars without any actual compliance changes by the business. Now, those wishing to sue a business must first provide a written notification to the business about an illegal barrier and provide 60 days for the business to address the complaint before a formal suit can be filed. Disability advocates are opposed to this additional requirement. There is no similar pending legislation in the Senate, and there is no word how it will be met there.

- New budget language proposes removing \$12,000,000 in funding for the Special Olympics.

5. CAC Business Meeting – CAC Executive Board Members

- Michelle Wolfson presented Minutes from the January 17, 2018 CAC Meeting for the Membership's consideration. A motion is made to approve the Minutes with revision and seconded. Minutes were approved.
- Andrea Siler provided an update about the February 17 Recreational Resource Fair hosted by NCCSE and CAC. She thanked parent and student volunteers (Carmen, Lourdes, Michelle, Andrea, Terri, Danny and Katie) who helped make the event a big success. There were over 70 participants who met with the 20 agencies who were here to share resources and opportunities. She thanked Smart and Final and Winco for donating food and water for the event.
- Terri Stashack encouraged everyone to make sure to nominate deserving staff members for the upcoming Excellence in Special Education Awards to be celebrated on May 30, 2018. She detailed the 11 categories for recognition, and reminded everyone that all nominations are due on March 1!
- Michelle Wolfson provided an overview of the CAC Priorities process. Members were encouraged to review the 2017-18 Priorities report in advance of the next meeting and be thinking about which goals might need to be continued, discontinued, or amended for next year.
- Heidi Marshall reminded the membership that we will be taking nominations for the 2018-19 Executive Board and encouraged all interested to consider nominating themselves or being nominated by a peer. The commitment is one additional meeting each month,
- Julie Law-Cheeseman opened the meeting to Public Comments:
 - We welcome public comments – they can be acknowledgement of good practices, or questions or concerns about special education services that impact groups of children. You may give the comment yourself or ask a board member to read it. It can also be submitted without your name attached to it. A written version is also needed.
- There was one Public Comment read by Amy Flicker regarding a query about the school counselors' role in student transition activities. There was feedback from a staff member from Fallbrook High that counselors attend every IEP meeting in that district to ensure the student is on track to fulfill graduation or IEP requirements and to provide information about post-secondary options. There was a Public Comment made; however, audience member preferred to put it in writing outside of the meeting.
- Carmen Blum and Joanne Stress shared information about upcoming family workshops hosted by NCCSE.

- Michelle Wolfson invited everyone to attend the next meeting, March 21, 2018, at 6:30.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.