



San Juan Unified School District – Department of Special Education

Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
San Juan Unified School District - Special Education Office
4825 Kenneth Avenue, Carmichael, 95608

CAC Minutes – October 19, 2022

CALLED TO ORDER (Agenda Item A)

The October 19, 2022 regular meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Daniel Hicks CAC Chairperson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Hicks, Kimber Rice, Ryan Digman, Tina Cooper, Heather Taylor, Javier Duran

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Martasian

STAFF LIAISONS PRESENT: Vanessa Adolphson, Robert Morgan, Deborah Calvin, Zima Creason

BOARD REMARKS (Agenda Item B)

School board Vice President and CAC board liaison Zima Creason shared that she is happy to serve as liaison to the CAC and is available to families and looks forward to hearing the needs of families.

VISITOR COMMENT (Agenda Item C)

SDC teacher at Arden Middle School shared that there is a severe support staff shortage and contracted people are not allowed to get training from teachers, not consistent and getting paid more than district IAs.

Parent shared a concern regarding training of administrative staff on campus. Difficulty with GE teachers and LEA representatives leaving meetings early, being dismissed without notice.

Parent at Mariemont shared she is grateful to attend and learn from CAC and very concerned about the shortage of resource specialists.

Parent of 3rd grader in school where resource teacher is only available part time, causing behaviors at school when teacher is not on site. Staff shortage is causing lack of consistency, lack of effective instruction, but after school programs are full and supports not available.

DIRECTORS REPORT (Agenda Item D)

Vanessa Adolphson, Director of Special Education shared that staff is wearing orange today for Unity Day, supporting inclusion and bullying prevention.

Sept. 14 "Positive Behavior Supports in Home Environment," parent workshop resources will be posted on the Special Education website. Next workshop is a continuation of behavior support and deescalation, November 3 Special Education hosted a table at the District College Night to share post-secondary resources with families. A staff member and their child with disabilities staffed the table as well and shared first-person experience with students.

Special Education Priority List for 2022-2023 School year was shared as well as LCAP goals that impact students with disabilities. Vanessa shared her team's vision around Least Restrictive Environment and reaching state mandated targets, as well as progress monitoring of the priority list. Staffing, hiring, and retention efforts were also shared.

A review of the SELPA's Local Plan was shared, in addition to where to find it and what is included in the document. Section B is up for review and a committee is needed to support revision and approval.

Intent for a Section C is moving through approval with California Department of Education (CDE) to include Family Engagement. CAC will also review the Budget at the end of the school year. Section D covers the current services provided in the district through individual student IEPs.

MEMBER COMMENTS (D)

Tina Cooper shared that Section B was not included in the printed packet available at the meeting tonight. Section B is available on the website. And would like to know comparison of pay between districts for IAs.

Ryan Digman appreciated seeing deliverables on the Director's report and shared with families that this is why CAC is a great place to provide input. Ryan asked if students and families could be included in the feedback loop on the use of Goalbook and perhaps a parent night to view the tools staff are using. Regarding communication, Ryan shared seeing a disconnect between district communication, policies and actions of administrators at school sites. Referencing EdCode in the CAC Handbook, he asked about participation of CAC members in SELPA and District trainings. Regarding afterschool programs, he feels lack of training leads to targeting students due to behavior and discriminatory actions against students with disabilities.

Javier Duran asked if there is a way to analyze the impact of programs and training on students and families, creating a feedback loop after piloting to know the long term impact and gain compared to cost.

Heather Taylor attended College Night and shared the positive impact it made on her student who could for the first time envision himself going to college. Heather emphasized the need for behavioral support for ALL students and the use of UDL to support every child in Social Emotional needs. The Special Education website is much more parent friendly and she sees the improvement in communication. Heather asked for clarification which sites co-teaching is available (Barrett & Del Campo) and description of Naviance for families who may be unfamiliar. Heather also asked for resources for families to support staff changes and behavior at school, especially when suspensions are occurring.

Kimber Rice asked for clarification about the outside agency for contracted staff and training. Training is available, work hours are for the full school day, and behavior training is required from their agency before arriving. Kimber also shared the impact of college night and resources for students with disabilities. Suggested that Naviance and 6 year planning include ILS classes. Kimber also asked for clarification on "calling parents to pick up" due to staffing, behavior, etc.

Daniel Hicks suggests an escalation framework to work through communication avenues to support feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (D)

Arden ASD teacher shared that contracted staff information has not been shared with school staff and has never heard of Naviance.

Parent from Del Campo shared appreciation for information about Naviance, but struggled to access Special Education website from the main district website. Also would like more information about UDL, having never heard of it before. The family's school site also did not know about CAC, or where to find information.

IA 3 with the school district was formerly a contracted staff and received minimum training as contracted staff. Would like to have an introductory planning meeting with teachers and classroom prior to working the first day. Shared a huge difference in compensation and community and wants to see that gap bridged.

Parent in the district shared challenge with staffing at Carmichael Elementary, parent being called to pick up student and staff reported “not enough staff to support.” How does the district handle staff being out sick? Student moved to three different schools due to “not enough staff to support.”

Parent shared communication still challenging between district and parent concerns and feels that lack of communication leads to feelings of discrimination and trust is broken with Special Education due to this.

Parent asked for information about Goalbook, clarification on IA support transferring school to school.

Parent shared communication and consistency lacking between school site staff (IAs, office, teachers, etc. and substitute/guest staff), as well as lack of response to emails and questions about child’s school day and IEP services.

Advertising of CAC (Agenda Item E)

Raj Rai, Communications Director and Trent Allen, Chief of Staff shared advertising efforts for CAC. Their department met with Director Adolphson, increased social media posts for committees, newsletter outreach and a communication survey shared district wide to help improve systems moving forward.

The Blackboard system sends emails, text and phone calls targeted for Special Education for CAC by drawing from the Student Information System (QGIS). Trent shared that concerns on greater levels are being heard and family/staff voice is much appreciated. The survey will help a great deal in updating our communication systems toolbox. Current tools may require training to ensure staff are using tools effectively.

MEMBER COMMENTS (E)

Ryan would like to see targeted communication for secondary and ECE as areas lacking based on community input. Also teachers clearly missing information and families that may not currently qualify for Special Education services, but still interested in information relevant for their students. Communications often are received last minute and may create barriers to participation. Ryan really appreciated all the new changes in communication from the district level.

Heather Taylor asked where to find the survey. Posted under “District New” on the main website, or any school website, as well as social media and Blackboard messaging.

Daniel Hicks shared concerns about site based communication and confusion/variations site to site. Survey will help schools with tools to streamline efforts.

Kimber Rice shared High School apps may not be up to date because they draw from websites that are also not updated and how that may be addressed, or sites supported. Also concerns around secondary communication for families of students with disabilities and barriers to communication for disabled and English Learners, as well as lack of communication from support staff.

Javier Duran suggested monthly meeting/announcements to share updates, topics of interest, etc.

Tina Cooper asked for the dissemination process. Special Education team updates website calendar that gets pushed to the main district website and pushes Blackboard messaging specific to Special Education families. Communication Department pushes information district wide through newsletters, Blackboard, social media and district website news.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (E)

Arcade ASD teacher shared difficulty in finding communication tools as a new teacher and no training or support in this area. Also struggles with language supports for families whose first language is not English.

Parent asked where to go when concerns and communication breaks down, rather than communication chains by each department, but where to go next.

Parent would like to communicate with IAs at school also who work directly with students.

CAC Meeting Times (Agenda Item F)

Proposed Meet the Teams 4:30 - 5:30 to make easier for families after school pickup.

Possible location changes, or alternating morning/evenings?

Longer meetings, less often? Bylaw update to increase public comment time, meetings less often vs “monthly”?

Brown Act laws now allow Zoom for special circumstances (childcare emergencies, illness, etc) CAC exploring bylaw updates.

Members proposed tabling the discussion in need of more information regarding Brown Act changes, Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (F)

None.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS (Agenda Item G)

Approval of September Minutes: Kimber Rice motioned to approve the September minutes. Ryan Second.

Unanimously approved.

Bylaw update discussion includes increase public comment time or language for accommodations, updated language to clarify processes.

New members, and increased outreach with communications support.

You Light the Way Awards date to be selected for March and support provided Ryan from previous years' file.

SPAC updates included District website feedback, enrollment, graduation requirements, dress code and needs of students in danger of not graduating on time. SPAC also provided families opportunity to share concerns, thoughts and ideas.

Tina Cooper offered to chair SELPA Plan committee.

Kimber Rice offered to chair Legislative Action Day committee.

Heather asked if staff could be incentivized for participation in committees. Conflict in interest?

PUBLIC COMMENTS (G)

Arcade ASD teacher shared that staff buy in may be increased with PLI hours offered.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Agenda Item H)

November - Data Review & LCAP Update

December - SELPA Plan Review

May - CAC Officer Elections

TBD - Inclusion, Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Superintendent vision/welcome, FACE, Communications follow up

VISITOR COMMENTS (Agenda Item I)

Arcade ASD teacher suggested updating the IA job description, which staff feel is outdated.

A district Instructional Assistant shared that they often don't know who to go to, who union reps are, how to get connected as new staff, etc.

Parent of Cameron Ranch commended the evolution of progress within the Special Education Department and high level conversations, but asked to keep the front line in mind with families and staff not getting information.

Would like to know more about impact and examples of UDL in action. Experience is that it is still not in effect beyond Special Education staff.

ADJOURN (Agenda Item J)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.