



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 29, 2024

Public Participation Guidelines

Community Advisory Committee meetings are held in person in the Board Room at the San Juan Unified School District office, 3738 Walnut Ave, Carmichael, CA 95608. Public comment may be offered in person during the committee meeting or in advance via email. The business to be considered at this board meeting is on the agenda above.

How to Submit Public Comment

In Advance - Submit via email to vanessa.vazquez@sanjuan.edu. Comments submitted before 5 p.m. on the meeting day will be shared with committee members. Public comments are subject to a 2-minute limit of approximately 300 words for written comments submitted via e-mail.

In Person - Public "comment cards" are available at the sign-in table. In order to provide a public comment, you will need to complete a comment card on the agenda item you wish to speak on. The comment card needs to be submitted to staff. When the CAC Chair calls for public comment on an item during the meeting, those who have completed a card for that topic will be called upon to speak. You will be provided with up to two minutes to comment. Those who require translation or other assistance will be provided with additional time.

For translation or accessibility assistance, contact the Special Education office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Call: 916-971-7525 Department Contacts available at: www.sanjuan.edu/SpecialEd

Community Advisory Committee Agenda

May 29, 2024 @ 6 p.m.

- A. Call to Order Ryan Digman, CAC Chair
- B. Member Roll Call Ryan Digman, CAC Chair
- C. Board Remarks Ben Avey, School Board Member & CAC Liaison
- D. Visitor Comments Ryan Digman, CAC Chair
 All comments are subject to a 2-minute limit of approximately 300 words for written comments submitted via e-mail. This time is for general public comment (NOT related to agenda items)
- E. Discovery Club and Bridges After School - Overview of Programs (D)
 Lisa Teal, ECE Program Manager
 Debbie Middleton, Manager, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program
 - Public Comment (regarding Item E)
 - Member Discussion
- F. Committee Report Summary (R)
 Ryan Digman, CAC Chair
 - Public Comment (regarding Item E)
 - Member Discussion

(A) = Action Item (D) = Discussion Item (R) = Report



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 29, 2024

G. Committee Business

1. Approval of Minutes, March 20, 2024 (A) and April 24, 2024 (A)
Ryan Digman, CAC Chair
2. Subcommittee Report: You Light the Way (R)
Annual ceremony to honor the outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the district's special education programs. (Ryan Digman)
3. Subcommittee Report: IEP Workgroup (R)
Identify trends, make recommendations and look at best practices, tools and resources to help understand the IEP process. (Heather Taylor)
4. Subcommittee Report: Community Outreach (R)
Outreach to the community regarding involvement in the Community Advisory Committee
(Lisa Sotelo and Lacey Martinez)
5. Subcommittee Report: Legislative Action Day (R)
Annual event to bring regional teams to Sacramento to advocate state legislators for educational priorities.
(Kimber Rice)
 - Public Comment (regarding Item G)
 - Member Discussion

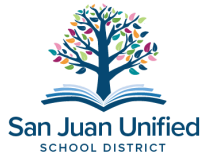
H. Events of Interest (D)

An opportunity for committee members or staff to share information on upcoming events that may be of interest to the committee or special education community.

I. Future Agenda (D)

Requested Items:

J. Adjournment



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2024

Community Advisory Committee

March Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

Ryan Digman, CAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

B. Member Roll Call

Members Present: Kaylin Boyce, Lisa Sotelo, Nicole Harrigan, Ryan Digman, Luc Taylor, Heather Taylor, Emily Getz, Daniel Hicks, Lacey Martinez, Kimber Rice, Tina Cooper, Azadeh Turki, David Martasian

Members Absent: Katherine Morash, Olivia O'Neil, Veronica Guzman, Heather Harper

Staff Liaisons Present: Dr. Debra Calvin, Dominic Covello, Trent Allen

School Board Member Liaison Present: Tanya Kravchuk

C. Board Remarks

Tanya Kravchuk, School Board Member & CAC Alternate Liaison shared appreciation for CAC and was able to learn more about special education while visiting sites recently.

D. Visitor Comments

None.

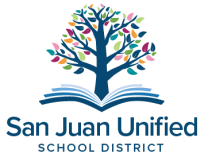
E. San Juan Unified Strategic Planning: Committee Feedback

Trent Allen, Chief of Staff, shared a presentation about Strategic Plan. This presentation examines the framework and draft work for the strategic plan. The strategic plan serves as the roadmap to prioritize efforts, align sources and guide the work of the district for the next five years. Feedback was gathered through listening sessions and Thought Exchanges done in February and March. Mr. Allen described key themes and findings from listening sessions and explained the next steps including gathering more feedback, refining the finalized strategic plan and plan adoption for the next few years.

www.sanjuan.edu/strategicplan

- Public Comment (regarding this agenda item):

(A) = Action Item (D) = Discussion Item (R) = Report



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2024

Marsha Hesch, parent of 2 sons in special education, shared feedback about the 8-Point educational justice system and the struggle of continuum of services and resources not being available.

- Member Discussion:

Kimber Rice asked if the high school group who gave feedback also included Laurel Ruff, La Vista, Ralph Richardson, and La Entrada.

Daniel Hicks asked if there are items that are needing additional services or products that are not already in place, will there be a budget set in place for the need if it arises. Trent Allen shared services and systems that will eventually need to be put in place will be identified and cost analyzed.

Ryan Digman shared the need for a strategic plan and goals for special education to align with the school district's 8-Point Commitment for Educational Justice Mr. Digman expressed the need for equity specific to special education.

Lisa Sotelo shared she would also like to see strategic plan reflect special education and ensure feedback that is gathered for developing the strategic plan includes those in special education. Trent Allen suggested involvement in thought exchanges and having voices heard through feedback given.

Dr. Debra Calvin shared there was a push for more feedback from parents and staff.

Ryan Digman shared there has been data and themes being repeated from the past and is looking for change for a more equitable district.

Tina Cooper asked if there has always been a strategic plan when the last strategic plan developed. Trent Allen shared the last strategic plan was from 2019. Ms. Cooper asked if there will be checks and balances regarding the strategic plan to reflect progress. Trent Allen shared there will be systems in place in the future after the strategic plan is developed. Ms. Cooper would also like to stress the importance of legacy information to carry beyond when there is a change in leadership.

David Martasian asked what the measurable objectives are in the strategic plan and how the district will be achieving goals and success. Mr. Allen shared the development of measures will be established and called out in the planning process.

Kimber Rice shared the previous strategic plan in 2011, where special education had its own strategic plan which did not include parents. Ms. Rice also noted there has been growth from the 2011 strategic plan.

Mr. Digman and Ms. Cooper would like to see accountability held across the district when the strategic plan is developed and implemented.

Azadeh Turki shared appreciation of community involvement and shared concern of the planning process not becoming silos of work but a collaborative process.

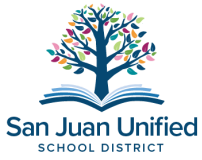
F. Committee Business

1. Approval of Minutes, February 28, 2024 (A)

Motion for approval of minutes moved by Daniel Hicks, seconded by Heather Taylor. Members all in favor. None opposed.

- Public Comment (regarding this agenda item): None.

(A) = Action Item (D) = Discussion Item (R) = Report



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2024

- Member Discussion: None.

2. Subcommittee Report: You Light the Way (R)

Annual ceremony to honor the outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the district's special education programs. (Ryan Digman)

Ryan Digman shared there are 6 individuals, and 1 group we are recognizing at You Light The Way. Winners are Carriage Drive Elementary Special Education team, Jennifer Morgan, Emily Graham, Paulette Bickel, Carrie Estberg, Charity Acosta, Matt Costa.

3. Subcommittee Report: IEP Workgroup (R)

Identify trends, make recommendations and look at best practices, tools and resources to help understand the IEP process. (Heather Taylor)

Heather Taylor shared the Listening Session taking place on the 17th at the Kenneth Ave Special Education Office.

4. Subcommittee Report: Community Outreach (R)

Outreach to the community regarding involvement in the Community Advisory Committee (Lisa Sotelo and Lacey Martinez)

Lisa Sotelo shared we added a new member, Olivia O'Neil, a Cambridge Heights parent. The committee is now filled.

5. Subcommittee Report: Legislative Action Day (R)

Annual event to bring regional teams to Sacramento to advocate state legislators for educational priorities. (Kimber Rice)

Kimber Rice shared Legislative Day is May 1st. The group who will be in attendance is set. SELPA Association's priority list is not officially out yet but will be provided to the group once established. Sub-committee will send out their priority list and tools on how to engage with legislation day-of.

- Public Comment

Marsha Hesch spoke about her son's teacher who is being recognized as a You Light The Way Recipient. Ms. Hesch shared that there should be more public recognition for special education teachers.

Christina, a parent in San Juan Unified, shared the need for equity among all individuals to be called out.

Christina shared the appreciation of the CAC and the importance behind leveraging knowledge and collective minds within the CAC.

- Member Discussion

Luc Taylor, CAC Member, and student at Will Rogers, shared about his IEP experience. Mr. Taylor shared he had thoughts of self harm following his IEP meeting. Mr. Taylor would like his voice to be heard and also shared how frustrated he was about the IEP process.



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Heather Taylor, CAC Member, shared further the frustration parents and students face in IEP meetings and the need to be an emphasis on student's voice in IEP meetings.

G. Events of Interest (D)

An opportunity for committee members or staff to share information on upcoming events that may be of interest to the committee or special education community.

- April 4, 2024: Navigating the Special Education IEP (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at Arden Middle School Library)
- April 10, 2024: You Light the Way Awards (6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at San Juan High School)
- April 17, 2024: Special Education Listening Session for Families (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Kenneth Avenue - Special Education Office)

H. Future Agenda (D)

Requested Items:

- District before and after school programs
- Next year's priorities

I. Adjournment

With there being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:34pm

Community Advisory Committee

April Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

Ryan Digman, CAC Chairperson, called this meeting to order at 6:06pm.

B. Member Roll Call

Members Present: Emily Getz, Ryan Digman, Luc Taylor, Heather Taylor, Tina Cooper, Lacey Martinez, Kimber Rice, Nicole Harrigan, Kaylin Boyce, Lisa Sotelo, David Martasian, Daniel Hicks

Members Absent: Azadeh Turki, Katherine Morash, Olivia O'Neil, Veronica Guzman, Heather Harper

Staff Liaisons Present: Dominic Covello, Debra Calvin, Amy Slavensky

Board Member Liaison: Ben Avey

C. Board Remarks

Ben Avey, School Board Member & CAC Liaison, shared his appreciation for You Light The Way event. Mr. Avey shared the importance of giving feedback on Strategic Planning and Dress Code, a topic on the agenda tonight.

D. Visitor Comments

None.

E. Proposed District Policy: Dress Code - Committee Feedback (D)

Lori Vine, Program Specialist, Equity and Student Achievement and Holly Cybulski, Director, Elementary Education, shared a brief overview of the dress code update. Dress code policy changes have been in the works since 2019 and the committee has created a draft of the policy for viewing and comments. Public review of the policy ends May 17th.

[Sanjuan.edu/dresscode](https://sanjuan.edu/dresscode) - dresscode@sanjuan.edu

- Public Comment (regarding Item E)

Teacher shared that her 5th grade students took the survey and reviewed the updated policy. She shared there was a lot of positive feedback from her class.

- Member Discussion

Nicole Harrigan shared appreciation of the draft policy and its inclusivity.

Ben Avey shared the need for participation from the special education community when giving feedback on the policy.

Kimber Rice expressed appreciation of the dress code policy draft.

F. Staff Report - Department Updates (R)

Debra Calvin, Associate Superintendent, Education Services and Dominic Covello, Interim Director, Special Education, shared appreciation for events happening in the month of April. Mr. Covello shared updates for the special education department in leadership roles and teacher roles. Due to staffing standards, there will be additional RSP and SDC teachers added in the district as well as 12 Speech and Language Pathologists.

- Public Comment (regarding Item F)

None.

- Member Discussion



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2024

Tina Cooper asked about classified staff to support the updates and if the pay will increase for the staff. Dr. Calvin and Mr. Covello shared there will be an increase in classified staff support at the school sites and they pay for staff in negotiation with CSEA.

Nicole Harrigan asked if there have been any discussions behind co-taught classes and teaching students in inclusive settings. Ms. Harrigan shared there is research and data supporting success in inclusive classrooms. Dr. Calvin shared the district and SPED team is committed to inclusion. Dr. Calvin also shared the district is currently working on inclusive practices expanding to more sites.

Ryan Digman shared he would like to see an org chart of the changes in leadership and the need for partnership in decision making. Mr. Digman also expressed appreciation for the new teachers that will be added in the district and advocated for better training and development.

Lisa Sotelo shared the need for mandatory training for general education teachers.

Kimber Rice expressed gratitude for the full-time admin position at Ralph Richardson and shared there is a need for inclusion at all sites with all teachers.

G. Committee Business

1. Approval of Minutes, March 20, 2024 (A)
Tabled for May 29, 2024 meeting.

2. Subcommittee Report: You Light the Way (R)

Ryan Digman shared a recap of You Light The Way awards. Mr. Digman expressed gratitude for support of the committee members, staff and students who assisted in the event as well as Arnold Klapheck and students who created the video of the award recipients.

3. Subcommittee Report: IEP Workgroup (R)

Heather Taylor shared she has been working with her site principal on the IEP process at Will Rogers. Ryan Digman shared about the IEP Listening Session held on April 17. Parents and community members were able to give feedback and share their experiences on the IEP process. Students were also able to share their stories about the trauma of the IEP process and their struggles with mental health during the listening session.

Lisa Sotelo shared that the listening session group had discussed best practices for IEP meetings and creating ground rules and expectations for IEP meetings.

Ryan Digman commented on a few of the themes that were heard during the listening session including inconsistency and denial of services between school sites. Mr. Digman shared there will be more information and feedback from the IEP listening session provided during the May 29 meeting.

Amy Slavensky shared she feels the sense of urgency from the committee. Ms. Slavensky shared she is interested in diving deep into the information that is provided from the listening session and working together to resolve problems as a team and find actions to follow-through with.

4. Subcommittee Report: Community Outreach (R)

Lisa Sotelo shared there are no updates regarding community outreach and did ask if there has been contact with the member who has not been in attendance. Mr. Covello shared the Board Member who appoints the committee member will be the person to contact them. Lisa Sotelo and Ryan Digman shared the group has been implementing meet and greets for new members and have been working to have members attend meetings.



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2024

5. Subcommittee Report: Legislative Action Day (R)

Kimber Rice shared information regarding Legislative Action Day. Ms. Rice shared SELPA Association handout regarding Legislative Day and cited a few of the bills and legislative actions moving forward.

- Public Comment:

Marsha Hesch, parent, shared appreciation for You Light The Way and IEP Listening Session. Ms. Hesch expressed the urgency for change in the district

Kathleen Demant, parent, shared her frustration and commented about staffing and the need for support in the district.

Dina Gray and Eduardo Lago, parents, shared appreciation of the CAC and continued support from both members and parents . Ms. Gray gave insight about their IEP experience at Kingswood earlier in the day and how appreciative she was of the staff who participated. Sharon Boyce, parent, shared her experience at Discovery Club and lack of support for the program.

Casey Brooks, former student and parent, shared his experience in the special education program and lack of information and resources provided to parents and students. Mr. Brooks shared the need for resources in high school and continuing into adulthood. He would like to see

Kierstyn Fanning, parent, shared about the lack of support at school for her son and other students.

- Member Discussion:

Kaylin Boyce asked about the difference between a diploma and a certificate in high school. Nicole Harrigan commented about her experience with her student's IA and expressed the need for better pay for classified staff.

Luc Taylor shared when his teacher is out, IAs are the one who teaches the class.

Daniel Hicks asked about Discovery Club and other after-school programs not having enough resources available for students with special needs.

H. Events of Interest (D)

An opportunity for committee members or staff to share information on upcoming events that may be of interest to the committee or special education community.

- May 1, Legislative Sharing Day (Downtown Sacramento)

I. Future Agenda (D)

Requested Items:

Before and After School Programs

Local Plan - section D and E

Hybrid meetings for more participation

J. Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.