

# SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2024

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## 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](http://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.

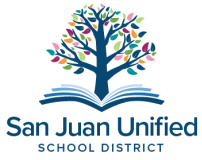
### F. Committee Business

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.

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## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

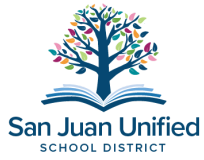
Marsha Hesch spoke about her son's teacher who is being recognized as a You Light The Way Recipient. Ms. Hesch shared that there should be more public recognition for special education teachers.

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.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2024

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