

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.

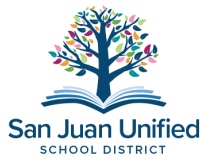
F. Staff Report - Department Updates (R)

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



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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.



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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.