

Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

CAC Chairperson, Ryan Digman and Kaylin Boyce, CAC Member, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

B. Member Roll Call

Members present: Ryan Digman, Kaylin Boyce, Lisa Sotelo, Kimber Rive, Heather Taylor, Tina Cooper, Nicole Harrigan, David Martasian, Emily Getz, Daniel Hicks

Members absent: Luc Taylor, Lacey Martinez, Azadeh Turki, Katherine Morash, Olivia O'Neil, Veronica Guzman, Heather Harper

Staff Liaisons present: Dominic Covello, Amy Slavensky

Board Member Liaison present: Ben Avey

C. Board Remarks

Ben Avey, School Board Member and CAC Liaison, gave thanks to the parents and students who attended the School Board meeting. Mr. Avey shared that the Strategic Plan was adopted at the 5/28/2024 School Board meeting and the next item on the Board's agenda is the dress code.

Amy Slavensky, interim Deputy Superintendent, shared appreciation for the CAC and updated the group on changes that are being put in place after hearing feedback from the CAC and other parent and student groups.

- New leadership changes: Sandy Butorac, Director I and Rebecca Foster, Director II/SELPA Director.
- Special Education responsibility shifts from Assistant Superintendent to Deputy Superintendent.
- New position created for a Program Administrator for Ralph Richardson Center.
- Investments in special education: MOU created to support SJTA and the individuals who work with students within special education. Ms. Slavensky shared there are also tentative agreements with SJPEC and CSEA.

D. Visitor Comments

Marsha Hesch, parent of two students, shared appreciation for the CAC and expressed gratitude for the work the CAC has done over the past year.

E. Discovery Club and Bridges After School - Overview of Programs

ECE Program Manager Lisa Teal and Manager, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Debbie Middleton gave a presentation on what opportunities there are for students before and after school. Both Ms. Teal and Ms. Middleton shared about the application process and what supports are available for students who are in the programs.

- Public Comment (regarding Item E)
Marsha Hesch shared she wishes her children would have been able to participate when they were younger but is happy students now and in the future have more access to these programs. Ms. Hesch suggested that program specialists have information about these expanded learning programs to give to parents in IEP meetings and at their sites.

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- Member Discussion

Lisa Sotelo shared her experience entering Discovery Club and her daughter's experience, Ms. Sotelo would like to see less barriers between the district administration and the Discovery Club program.

Heather Taylor asked about the application and how teachers will be made aware of the students who are entering the program that are needing additional support. Lisa Teal shared there are questions on the application that asks if the student has a 504, IEP or a health care plan and parents should be making the staff aware so the team can work together to best support the student.

Ryan Digman asked what the differences are in the credentials needed between ECE and the Bridges programs. Ms. Middleton shared that historically Discovery Club programs were developed within the early education program and ECE credentials are required for preschool and younger students whereas the Bridges program is all school age and the requirements are different.

Kimber Rice asked how the programs can better support all students including ILS students and students with various disabilities. Ms. Teal and Ms. Middleton shared that their programs are accessible for all students.

Heather Taylor shared her personal experience of her son Luc in the Bridges program. Ms. Taylor expressed the need for better support in the afterschool program as well as resources for families to navigate how to have their student enrolled in these programs.

- F. Committee Report Summary (R) Ryan Digman, CAC Chair,
Ryan Digman, CAC Chair, shared regarding the CAC Committee Report presented at the May 14th, 2024 Board Meeting. Mr. Digman provided an update on the work of the Community Advisory Committee and presented concerns on behalf of parents and community members of the Special Education program. Mr. Digman shared recommendations with School Board members and audience as well as discussed next steps the committee is taking to address the needs of students with disabilities.

- Public Comment (regarding Item E)
None.
- Member Discussion
None.

G. Committee Business

1. Approval of Minutes, March 20, 2024 (A) and April 24, 2024 (A) Ryan Digman, CAC Chair
It was moved by Kimber Rice, seconded by Heather Taylor, that the minutes of the March 20th meeting be approved. Ayes: all members; Opposed: none
It was moved by Nicole Harrigan. seconded by Daniel Hicks, that the minutes of April 24th be approved. Ayes: all members; Opposed: 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)
Mr. Digman shared there will be planning for the next You Light The Way Ceremony over the summer.
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)
Ryan Digman shared feedback from the IEP listening session that was used in the School Board



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Committee report and recommendations were provided to the School Board on how we can improve the IEP process.

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 that the Department of Rehabilitation would like to partner with the CAC and Special Education to speak about their services and offer additional training and resources for parents and teachers. Kimber Rice shared there has been an ongoing discussion to bring more resources and workshops through the FACE department and Special Education.

5. Subcommittee Report: Legislative Action Day (R)

Annual event to bring regional teams to Sacramento to advocate state legislators for educational priorities.

(Kimber Rice)

No new information regarding Legislative Day.

- Public Comment (regarding Item G)
None.
- Member Discussion
None.

G. Events of Interest (D)

No items were added to events of interest..

H. Future Agenda (D)

No items were added to the future agenda.

I. Adjournment

With there being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.