

Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

Ryan Digman, CAC Chair, called the September 2024 meeting to order at 6pm.

B. CAC Welcome

C. Member Roll Call & Member/Staff Introductions Ryan Digman, CAC Chair

Members Present: Daniel Hicks, David Martasian, Heather Taylor, Kasey Crooks, Kaylin Boyce, Kimber Rice, Lacey Martinez, Lisa Sotelo, Luc Taylor, Makenzie Guye, Ryan Digman, Sean Owens

Members Absent: Emily Getz, La Reina Pakeman, Nicole Harrigan, Olivia O'Neil

Staff Liaisons Present: Sandy Butorac, Rebecca Foster, Amy Slavensky

Board Member Liaison Present: Tanya Kravchuk

D. School Board Remarks

Tanya Kravchuk, School Board Member, shared appreciation for parents and family members who show up to support the CAC and their students. Ms. Kravchuk spoke about the families who showed up at the school board meeting to advocate for what is important to them and encouraged parents to continue to show up, participate, and share their voice.

E. Visitor Comments

Michelle, parent of a student who attends Pasteur, shared her experience about her son's bus and route. Michelle shared her frustration and concern that her son is missing education due to being let out of school early.

Caroline Digman, parent of a student at Mariemont, shared information about screening for reading difficulties and screening for risk of dyslexia. Caroline has been working with literacy advocates around the county and state and encourages the committee to start asking questions on how the district is preparing teachers to screen for reading literacy.

Parent of a student at Earl LeGette, shared her positive experience with the CAC and the community that has been built at Earl LeGette.

Parent of a student who attends Dewey, shared her positive experience with the support at Dewey and expressed gratitude for the staff and her family's experience in San Juan Unified.

F. CAC & SPED 2024/2025 Goal and Priority Setting

Ryan Digman, CAC Chairperson, led the conversation about goal setting for the Special Education Department. Mr. Digman shared about the school board report made on May 14th, 2024, including the recommendations and feedback from parents in collaboration with the CAC (Community Advisory Committee). Recommendations provided were that the district needs to adopt a vision that can be shared publicly and proudly through the strategic plan, CDE inclusive practices including data from CAC/ Special Education department to implement in practices, IEP process, dispute resolution process, and mandatory training on inclusion practices.

2024/2025 SPED Goal Setting and Priority Discussion, SPED Directors

Rebecca Foster, Special Education Director II, shared ongoing efforts to engage at school sites with staff and parents to identify barriers and processes that need to be addressed. Sandy Butorac, Special Education Director I, shared the experience in participating in IEPs and how the team is starting to work together to create change within the department.

Member Discussion: CAC members discussed following goals and priorities to be made

- Updated Documents on the website
- Staff visibility
- Improve IEP Process and create IEP Best Practices
- Family education/resources + staff communication
- Collaborate with the Equity Department

Makenzie Guye shared the experience in an IEP meeting could be discouraging and should be factual and helpful.

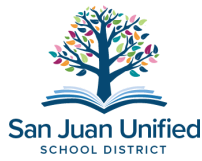
Lisa Sotelo shared she would like to collaborate on IEP best practice information. Ms. Sotelo noted resources should be shared with parents on how an IEP meeting should be organized and what parents should be asking of their IEP team.

Daniel Hicks shared the importance of advocating for their students. Mr. Hicks shared it would be helpful for parents on how to navigate an IEP.

Heather Taylor shared there is a lack of the mindset of the student and how to deliver the information that is necessary. Ms. Taylor shared options for best practice and how we can better include the student in the IEP.

Kimber Rice shared her past experiences in the IEP process and how different the process has been from elementary school to the secondary level. Ms. Rice shared the discussions in the IEP meetings have been less collaborative in secondary. Ms. Rice shared there needs to be change between district and families.

Sean Owens shared his experience in IEP meetings and agrees to have a goal to have an IEP process in place for teachers and parents.



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 25, 2024

- Visitor Comment:

Michelle, parent of a student at Pasteur, shared there is no inclusion of the student and student input in the IEP process. Michelle stressed the importance of student voice in and IEP.

Amy, parent of a student at Ralph Richardson, agrees with Kimber in the fact that the experience of the IEP process at a high school level is vastly different and the expectations dwindle for students. Amy also stated that teachers are not properly trained on SEIS which is causing a lot of issues.

Jim, parent, shared to the committee that there should be an IEP goal to support a more efficient and family friendly process. Jim also noted there should be expert teachers to help implement this goal.

Alexis, parent of student at Mesa Verde, shared her past experience in the CAC and shared appreciation of the CAC group and what the committee envisions for better support for students and families.

Marsha, parent of two students, echoed the experience with her students fighting their thoughts of self harm and being denied services. Marsha stated the district needs to consider the data and tracking of data. Marsha also stated Special Education needs to look at the data of the complaint and dispute process.

Kirsten, parent, detailed her recent experience in an IEP meeting and noted this IEP meeting was better than she had experienced before. Kirsten expressed she still had concerns but is hopeful the next meeting will be better. She also wanted to state that students should be seen as individuals and not invisible.

Jennifer, parent, expressed the importance of partnership with outside agencies, companies, groups and programs that stay connected to the disability community.

Raymond Hamson, former CAC Member and CAC Chair, expressed the importance of acceptance, training and resources for parents. Mr. Hanson shared there is an opportunity for more resources to be provided to parents and suggested starting the IEP meeting off with sharing information about their child and ensuring the IEP meeting is driven by parents and family.

G. Staff Report – Department Updates

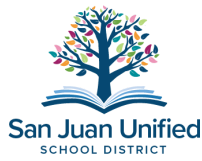
Amy Slavensky, Interim Deputy Superintendent, shared appreciation for the CAC and expressed gratitude for the committee implementing change in coordination with the bylaws. Ms. Slavensky noted there is work to be done increasing partnerships, training at all levels, and engaging family members in the IEP process. Ms. Slavensky shared special education is working to open up new classrooms where needed to address the increase of student enrollment.

- Visitor Comment

None.

- Member Discussion:

Makenzie Guye expressed the need for additional staffing opportunities due to caseload overages and balancing out teachers and providers' caseloads.



SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 25, 2024

E. Committee Business:

1. Approval of Minutes, May 29, 2024

It was moved by Sean Owens, seconded by Heather Taylor that the minutes of the May 29, 2024 meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. CAC Officer Call for 2024/2025 Office Nominations

1. Chair

2. Vice Chair

3. Membership Chair

4. Engagement Officer

(B) Elections to be held on October 30, 2024

3. Subcommittee Formation

It was moved by Lisa Sotelo, seconded by Heather Taylor that submitted formation be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

• EP Workgroup 2.0 Committee: Sean Owens, Mackenzie Guye, Sandy Butorac, Kimber Rice, Lacey Martinez, Ryan Digman, Lisa Sotelo

• You Light the Way 2025: Ryan Digman, Kaylin Boyce, Luc Taylor, Tanya Kravchuk, Kasey Crooks,

• Date Scheduled: April 2nd, 2025

• Legislative Day of Action: Kimber Rice, Heather Taylor, Nicole Harigan

• Community Outreach/Family Engagement Support: Kimber Rice, Lisa Sotelo, Kasey Crooks, Mackenzie Guye

• SPAC Representative: Heather Taylor

- Visitor Comment: None.
- Member Discussion: None.

F. Events of Interest:

- FACE October Events calendar on FACE Department Website. Hard copy available.

G. With there being no further business, the September CAC meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

