

VCUSD
Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
Thursday, April 11, 2024 - 10:00a-11:30a
Virtual: google meet: <https://meet.google.com/kup-gppx-gnh>

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order: Hillary called the meeting to order 10:11am.

2.0 Roll Call and Introductions of members, guests, and staff included:

Hillary Baird - CAC Chair

Tara Angeles, parent of VCUSD student, 3rd grader, 10th grade student

Wendy Ahumada - parent of a student at Glen Cove, 3rd grader

Heydi Garcia, parent of Ramon at Hogan Middle School

Maria Rosales, parent of student

Jennifer, parent of a student at Jessie Bethel, 10th grade

Rachel Chang-SELPA Director of Special Education

Denny Fisher-Sullivan, On Our Own, Community Member, CAC

Monica Jacinto, Community Member

Emily Koehler, IDEA Specialists, North Bay Regional Center

David Poeschel-parent advisors with Matrix Parent Network

Sally Sweatfield- Assistant Director of Special Education

Spring Howereter, Program Manager, Preschool, Speech & Language

Sheri Jepperson, Program Manager @ Everest Program

Mackenzie Elmer, Program Manager

Lisa Silmon, Psychologist

Victoria Galbert, CCEIS

Mary Ruth Clewell, Consultant

Adria Angelo, Administrator

Jeanna Kelly, Mental Health Coordinator

Lourdes Miller, Director of Data Analysis

Brenda Johnson, Intern teacher at Jessie Bethel

Sylvia Coronoa, Career Transition Specialists

Monique Dickover, Employability, TPP Program

Rosimeiry Brown, Secretary Workability Program, Glen Cove student

Adriana Zaragoza, Secretary to Special Education Dept., Minute Taker

3.0 Consideration of Minutes

3.1 Minutes from [DRAFT 12/14/23 CAC Meeting Minutes](#)

3.2 Minutes from [DRAFT 2/8/24 CAC Meeting Minutes](#)

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Denny motioned to accept the minutes above. Monica and Denny accepted the minutes.

4.0 Announcements

4.1 Special Olympics, Friday, May 17, 2024 - Corbus Field

4.2 CAC Awards Ceremony, May 24, 2024

Angie Garcia, occupational therapist, in charge of Special Olympics. Will be part of Director's Report.

CAC Awards, catering complete, decorations completed. Room reserved for Thursday/Friday. Time TBA.

Nominations will be sent out soon for CAC Awards, categories for teacher, students and staff.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 None

6.0 New Business

6.1 New Voting Members. Hillary spoke on expanding voting members. If anyone is interested in becoming a voting member, please email the specialeducation@vcusd.org. CAC aligns special education priorities, parent input is important. Align parent vision to the Local Plan. Ms. Angeles asked about the board approval process to CAC.

7.0 Feature Presentation (20 Minutes)

7.1 Matrix Parent Network - Hillary introduced Matrix Parent Network and her personal experience with them and her children. Rachel talked about attending a state capital events and spoke on the Assembly Bill for Community Agencies to advocate for parents of students in Special Education like Matrix Parent Network. Rachel introduced David Poeschel.

David Poeschle spoke about the Matrix Parent Network, an organization that started in 1983, that gets funding from federal, state, and donations. Matrix provides parent trainings, has Education Centers, California Family Resource Center, and the counties served: Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano. Matrix attempted to present but there were technical issues and could not present, the presentation will be shared with the group. David Poeschle continued to expand on the services provided by Matrix Parent Network. Speak to parent to assist with special education programs. They can do a file review, (IEP, assessments etc.) Open from 9a-2p Monday - Thursday. Services are available in Spanish and English.

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Trainings available - helps parents analyze and understand what special education is. Can attend IEP meetings. The goal is to train parents and families to understand the special education process. Trainings are available: Assessments, Goals, and Behavior

Monthly newsletter will be sent, with training schedules, podcasts, behavior training support, and expert trainings on behavior. Website has links to national and local resources. Helping parents navigate North Bay Regional Center. Focus is to train parents and families to advocate for their students.

Spanish speaking programs in Sonoma County. Spanish support groups available. Sibling Workshops - peer support for siblings of special needs siblings. Youth TikTok - students can come together and interact with their peers, students of the same age group.

Parent, Wendy Ahumada - Are the trainings noted on the matrix website? Trainings are live, YouTube channel is available with other trainings.

Hilary asked if a parent needs help, call or email, and a parent advisor will get back to you.

Ana Acosta, Spanish-speaking parent advisor. Parent support group in Santa Rosa called Luna - Napa Solano. Meetings on the first Friday of the month. Everyone is welcome. Share information with any parent that may be interested. Matrix helps parents if they have questions with IEP or know what NBRC has to offer.

Hilary: Spoke about North Bay Regional Center experience and Matrix.

Emily Koehler spoke about North Bay Regional Center, IDEA Specialist - evolving positions to support service coordinators and families to better understand the special education system. A resource that partners with Matrix and school districts.

Hilary clarified - IDEA - federal law that set up special education laws. Not all special education students are NCRB clients, assessments are needed to become a NCRB client.

Ms. Angeles asked what specifically Emily Koehler does for NCRB. Emily explained that she can assist in clarifying questions about the special education process. The service coordinator can facilitate a meeting with Emily. Clarified that they are not advocates.

Neka: Parent of son who is going to be a teenager. Confused about how to access services at Matrix. David Poeschl added the Matrix number and email: 800-578-2592

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and email: helpline@matrixparents.org / NBRC Intake/Eligibility: 833-264-4335 or email: intake@nbrc.net.

Neka asked about an organization that may help navigate all options available to students of SpEd. Hilary offered her personal email account to connect with this parent: hmbaird06@gmail.com

Rachel spoke about how excited to have more parents on the call. Need parents to help in an advisory capacity for the SELPA - local plan.

Rachel introduced VCUSD Trustee Carlos Flores.

8.0 Director's Report

8.1 Anglie Garcia spoke on Special Olympics, Friday 5/17/24 at Corbus Field 9:30-Noon, 48th Special Olympics. The games start at 10:30. 50 yard dash, hurdles, and throw. Captain America and Batman will be there. Motorcycles. Golf course at Bluerock Springs will have a putting ground. Train available on the field. Parents welcomed.

Rachel asked: will the VHS Band and Cheerleaders be there? Working on this.

Neka: asked if Special Olympics are for students that are active in sports?

Angie: Spoke of all the schools participating in the Special Olympics. Students who participate in the Adaptive Physical Education program.

Carlos Flores asked about volunteer opportunities. Angie: Can use help setting up and clean up.

Ana Acosta from Matrix asked about a flyer for the Special Olympics. Angie will share the flyer with the special education department and will forward to the CAC.

Rachel announced the new Superintendent, Ruben Aurelio, who will start in July 2024. Mr. Flores clarified.

9.0 Liaison Reports

9.1 Discussions of Liaisons

Elementary classrooms doing great this year, Denny Fisher-Sullivan .

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High school cooking programs.

Monica spoke on the eclipse on Monday. NTY curriculum in elementary, showing NASA live, students were excited.

Monica found the curriculum, transitional high school to adulthood for sped students, food safety, and temperature safety. For home use, but also help with job opportunities. Bistro at Jessie Bethel - they have a host, a waitstaff, cooks, and servers. Lots of math is involved in cooking.

10.0 General Public Comment

Neka: questions about schools. Do charter schools have different rules compared to public schools? Vallejo Charter school is part of VCUSD SELPA and program.

Spanish-speaking parent, translation from Ms. Lopez: Son who goes to Hogan, put in a report but was not answered. What do I have to do to get my questions answered? Rachel - What kind of report? Son was being bullied. Rachel asked to email the special education email with her concern and will connect with the appropriate dept.

Denny Fisher-Sullivan - spoke of CVS pharmacy, employs Jessie Bethel students.

11.0 Adjournment

Denny motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m., Monica second.