

**VCUSD**  
**Community Advisory Committee for Special Education**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025 - 11:00a-12:30a**  
**Virtual: google meet: <http://meet.google.com/rjd-gche-nst>**

**D R A F T - MINUTES**

1.0 **Call to Order:** Meeting started at 11:06 AM, led by Adriana Zaragoza and seconded by Sheri Jepperson.

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

Kristen Hardy  
Sheri Jepperson  
Angela Hernandez  
Joycelyn Evans  
Adria Angelo, SpEd Administrator  
Mary Ruth Clewell, Consultant  
Hillary Baird - interim CAC Chair  
Victoria Galbert,  
Sally Sweatfield  
Cassie Gossett  
Penelope Wilson, Foster Parent  
Denny Fisher-Sullivan, On Our Own, Community Member, CAC  
Monica Jacinto, Community Member  
Spring Howereter, Program Manager, Preschool, Speech & Language  
Sheri Jepperson, Program Manager @ Everest Program  
Mackenzie Elmer, Program Manager  
Victoria Galbert, CCEIS  
Mary Ruth Clewell, Consultant  
Adria Angelo, Administrator  
Adriana Zaragoza, Special Education / SELPA Technician, Minute Taker

Members present included district staff, program managers, community members, parents, and foster care advocates.

3.0 **Consideration of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes from [4/11/2024 DRAFT CAC Meeting Minutes](#)

**4/11/2024 draft minutes** approved (motioned by Denny, seconded by Hilary).

4.0 **Announcements**

4.1 Special Olympics, Friday, May 2, 2025 - Corbus Field

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**5.0 Old Business**

- 5.1 Denny thanked everyone for attending the CAC award ceremony in June 2024.

**6.0 New Business**

- 6.1 A parent raised a concern regarding a foster student receiving only two hours of daily instruction. Sheri Jepperson will follow up directly.

**7.0 Feature Presentation (20 Minutes)**

- 7.1 LCAP Survey (Cassie Gosset to present)

Cassie provided an overview of the **Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)**, including funding priorities and support for English Learners, foster youth, and low-income students. She shared the presentation link and a QR code for survey participation.

Key Discussion Points:

- **Parent Concerns:** Limited instructional time for foster students, lack of communication with aides, and transition challenges for students changing schools.
- **Equity Issues:** Reduced field trips for Special Day classes, fewer volunteer opportunities, and a need for better support for non-college career pathways (e.g., EMT, nursing).
- **Communication Gaps:** Need for improved outreach on parent involvement and clearer pathways to volunteer.
- **School Transitions:** Requests for better support when Special Education students are moved between schools; parents suggested student tours and transition IEP meetings.
- **Middle School Placement:** Specific concern raised about Hogan Middle School being the only option in the area.
- **Parent Engagement:** Mixed feedback on meeting formats—some prefer virtual, others support hybrid or in-person formats.

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**8.0 Director's Report**

8.1 Kristen Hardy

Kristen shared her professional background and emphasized VCUSD's commitment to inclusive, student-centered planning. She acknowledged the contributions of Cassie Gossett, Heather, and Trustee Flores and encouraged continued parent involvement.

**9.0 Liaison Reports**

9.1 Discussions of Liaisons

No formal reports were presented

**10.0 General Public Comment**

- Community members inquired about CAC membership roles and volunteering.
- Kenya Martinez (State Council on Developmental Disabilities) encouraged parent engagement and shared resources.
- Trustee Carlos Flores emphasized the importance of equity, language access, and participation across all community groups.
- Parents requested more accessible Spanish-language support and connections to other families navigating school transitions.

**11.0 Adjournment**

Denny motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:37p.m., Monica second.