SAN DIEGO SOUTH COUNTY
SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA
680 L Street, Ste. E, Chula Vista CA 91911

**South County SELPA**

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**
February 17, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION:

800 National City Blvd. National City, CA 91950

**Meeting Minutes**

**CAC Members in Attendance**

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|---|---|
| CVESD | Jade Bautista |
| CVESD | Stephanie Kenyon |
| CVESD | Raquel Lopez |
| CVESD | Rosemary Lowry |
| CVESD | Shiku (Virginia) Ngigi |
| CVESD | Jennifer Price |
| CUSD | Erika Lowery |
| NSD | Marjam Lopez |
| SYSD | Jacqueline Chan |
| SYSD | Maricela Cali |
| SBUSD | Melissa Dolo |
| SUHSD | Sally Sachrison |

1.0. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1. Call to Order - CAC Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:40am

1.2. Attendance and Verification of Quorum - CAC Chairperson explained that quorum is when 3 member districts are in attendance. CAC Chairperson confirmed that quorum has been met.

1.3. Review Minutes - CAC reviewed previous meeting minutes from November 2025, May 2025, and March 2025.

1.3.1. May 2025 Minutes were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

**M/S/C:** Rosemary/Dolo/Majority

1.3.2. November 2025 Minutes and March 2025 Minutes were reviewed and approved.

**M/S/C:** Rosemary/Erika/Majority

1.4. Purpose and Agenda Review - CAC Chairperson addressed the purpose of today's meeting as a regular CAC business meeting to address items as outlined in agenda.

2.0. CAC BUSINESS INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

2.1. SELPA Presentation and overview

2.1.1. Oscar Madera, SELPA Program Administrator, led the presentation by providing a brief overview of what the SELPA is (Special Education support across a regional area) and what school districts are covered by South County SELPA (7 member districts).

2.1.2. Liliana Armenta and Laura Cervantes, SELPA Parent Liaisons, introduced themselves as bilingual neutral support for parents. Parent Liaisons have extensive professional training and personal experience that can be utilized by parents for free. They can review IEP documents, attend IEP meetings and answer any questions that parents have regarding special education.

2.1.3. Mayra, from the ADR team, was introduced and shared what the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process looks like. If conflict still arises after a parent liaison has been utilized, ADR team can support to build partnership and collaboration as a neutral resource.

2.1.4. All services can be requested by calling (619-470-5252), emailing (SCSELPA@sdcoe.net) or submitting your information on the SELPA website: https://www.sdcoe.net/special-populations/selpas/scselpa

2.1.5. Several opportunities shared for family engagement & parent workshops include: Coffee with the Principal, Coffee & Conversations, Resource Fair, SELPA Annual Art Exhibition, SELPA Newsletter, Parent IEP Academy.

2.1.6. Professional Learning with Partner Districts include: Principals Academy, Service Support Academy and Tailored Professional Learning.

2.1.7. The SELPA Art and Award show is coming up and is a great opportunity to showcase our kid's talent.

2.1.8. Quick reference guides, resources and upcoming workshop dates were reviewed and can be found on the website.

2.1.9. Questions from the CAC included:

2.1.9.1. Previously there were parent workshops hosted by SELPA, will those parent workshops be coming back? Oscar responded that topics are currently being collected to help drive the topics, as advised by the parent education committee, and SELPA will plan for them.

2.1.9.1. You mentioned professional development opportunities, where can staff find out about those? Oscar responded that professional development opportunities are being finalized and those would be shared with each special education department to share with their staff.

2.1.10. Russell Coronado, SELPA Executive Director, dropped in and shared a few updates.

2.1.10.1 Opening of a new school in July, South County Academy, which will be offered to kids who have behaviors that are unable to be addressed at the district-level. SELPA is still working on leasing; however, the principal was introduced to the CAC and they are already recruiting staff.

2.1.10.2. Friendship School will be transitioned from SDCOE to SELPA oversight.

2.1.10.3. New and exciting time for South County SELPA as we expand.

2.1.10.4. Huge thanks to the CAC for volunteering their time and appreciate all the support

2.2. CAC Open Seats Review and Introduction to new appointees
- 2.2.1. Welcome Jennifer Price - CVESD - Parent member
- 2.2.2. Welcome Raquel Lopez - CVESD - Special Education Teacher
- 2.2.3. Welcome Shiku Nigi - CVESD - Parent member

2.3. South County District Highlights
- 2.3.1. Coronado Unified School District (CUSD)
  - 2.3.1.1. District is changing cell-phone policy
  - 2.3.1.2. Cybersecurity class to bring awareness to online risks
  - 2.3.1.3. Coronado Adult Education will be offering an RBT certification course with the opportunity to be an RBT with CUSD upon completion
- 2.3.2. National School District (NSD)
  - 2.3.2.1. Social/Emotional Learning gearing up or CA Healthy Kids
  - 2.3.2.2. All schools in their district have achieved purple star schools
- 2.3.3. San Ysidro School District (SYSD)
  - 2.3.3.1. San Diego County District Presentation on Consumer Fraud and Online Safety
  - 2.3.3.2. Ocean View Hills School recognized as 2025 Honor Roll School
- 2.3.4. South Bay Unified School District (SBUSD)
  - 2.3.4.1. Reached tentative agreement on labor negotiations for teachers
  - 2.3.4.2. Consolidation of schools due to low enrollment
  - 2.3.4.3. CAC teacher representative has resigned and need to reappoint
  - 2.3.4.4. We, as parents, need to push for enrollment across all districts as they impact funding for schools, including special education
- 2.3.5. Sweetwater Unified School District (SUHSD)
  - 2.3.5.1. Team is working on filling open seats
  - 2.3.5.2. Seeking district recognition for buddy programs
  - 2.3.5.3. SUHSD is providing an overview/update at upcoming CAC meeting
  - 2.3.5.4. Lots of opportunities for collaboration and learning
  - 2.3.5.5. Inclusive sports through Unified Sports
- 2.3.6. Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD)
  - 2.3.6.1. Inclusive practice professional development
  - 2.3.6.2. Opened sensory room at Sotomayor
  - 2.3.6.3. Position updates
    - 2.3.6.3.1. Discontinuing staff positions or transitioning to SELPA
    - 2.3.6.3.2. SPED director is retiring
  - 2.3.6.4. Complete your LCAP survey - Parents need to provide input because the district will do what's requested
  - 2.3.6.5. You, Me & Your Student's IEP opportunities have been successful (SBUSD may do something similar in the Spring)
  - 2.3.6.6. Free workshops with Brain Balance, including tips for managing sensory processing

2.4. Subcommittee Updates and Review
- 2.4.1. CAC Chairperson explained how the subcommittees are split up with no more than two member districts in a subcommittee to be in compliance with Brown Act

2.4.2. Staff & Parent Education - Jade Bautista

2.4.2.1. Jade, subcommittee lead, will reach out to new CVESD committee members to welcome them

2.4.2.2. A brief overview of the committee's journey was shared: a survey was distributed last year and we had over 400 responses from parents to tell us what they would want in a handbook.

2.4.2.3. The following outline was agreed to last year and the team has been working to draft each section:

- SELPA Overview
- Resources for families
- Special education processes
- Parent Rights
- FAQs and Contacts

2.4.2.4. Timeline of next steps:

- February - Handbook to be reviewed by CAC members with edit only access
- March - Consolidate feedback
- April - Collaborate with SELPA for design and format with publishable format, including Spanish translation
- June - Post final handbook online for public consumption

2.4.3. Special Education Student Inclusion - Erika Lowery

2.4.3.1. Reviewed results of survey - 135 responses

2.4.3.1.1. Parents gave their description of inclusion

2.4.3.1.2. Demographics of responses seem to align with demographics of SELPA jurisdiction

2.4.3.1.3. Nearly half of the respondents are not aware of inclusive events

2.4.3.1.4. Nearly half of the respondents do not feel they are inclusive

2.4.3.1.5. Most parents asked for all physical accommodations (including sensory space, quieter bathrooms)

2.4.3.2. What do we do with this information

2.4.3.2.1. Reinforce that parents can always request an IEP meeting when they are not aware of what’s available to support

2.4.3.2.2. Goal for this subcommittee is to create an atmosphere where all students are valued and treated equally

2.4.3.2.3. Share this information with each of the districts to discuss what changes can be made at the district-level

2.4.3.2.4. Subcommittee still needs to spend more time with the results and brainstorm more of what to do with this information

2.4.3.2.5. There seems to be a disconnect with consuming resources that are available and more outreach is needed to both parents and staff.

2.4.3.2.6. LCAP surveys are currently out and we should encourage families to put specific requests for inclusive practices and events within their districts and school sites.

2.4.3.2.7. Comment from the public

2.4.3.2.7.1. Parent of Autistic child and here to represent those who have not spoken. We know there are a lot of resources available. When we go to the district and superintendent to ask about these resources, nothing happens. These parents feel discriminated against. We have a lot of parents who are scared to speak out. We need this discrimination to stop.

2.4.3.2.7.2. CAC Chairperson acknowledges the member of the public and reinforced that, in following the Brown Act, she is not able to comment or respond directly to the public's comment. She did ask for the parent to provide her name and district so we can reach out to provide support.

2.4.3.2.8. Erika will be sending the full data with notes to Melissa so she can coordinate with Oscar to share the information to the member districts.

2.4.4. Parent and Staff Education - America Ellis - Agenda item was pulled and moved to next meeting when subcommittee lead is present
**M/S/C:** Rosemary/Jade/Majority

2.5. Workshop Topics

2.5.1. Several topics were shared on screen and discussed. The following topics were suggested by CAC as most interesting: AAC, Assistive Tech, ADHD, Navigating burnout, Supporting students with PDA, Caregiver burnout, Navigating 504 plans

2.5.2. CAC Member gave a suggest to go broad to support a larger audience and then go to more specific topics once workshops have an engaging audience

2.5.3. SELPA will share workshop lists and feedback with member districts

2.6. Art Show

2.6.1. SELPA Art and Awards show will be on April 22

2.6.2. SELPA is in need of volunteers to set up artwork beforehand and direct people during the event

2.6.3. Sign up sheet can be shared with CAC members to be sent out

2.6.4. Can have a section for CAC kiddos to bring artwork "Splash of Imagination"

2.6.5. Parents can drop off artwork at SELPA office

2.7. CAC 26/27 Officer Nominations

2.7.1. CAC Chairperson provided an overview of the officer positions: Chair, Co-chair, Secretary

2.7.2. Nominations were made among CAC members:

2.7.1.1. Chair

- Rosemary Lowry- nominated by Stephanie, accepts nomination
- Jackie Chan - nominated by Melissa, declines nomination
- Erika Lowery - nominated by Rosemary, declines nomination

2.7.1.2. Co-chair
- Erika Lowery - nominated by Melissa, accepts nomination
- Rosemary Lowry - nominated by Rosemary, accepts nomination
- Melissa Dolo - nominated by Sally, accepts nomination

2.7.1.3. Secretary
- Melissa Dolo - nominated by Rosemary, accepts nomination
- Raquel Lopez - nominated by Dolo, accepts nomination

2.7.3. Future nominations will be accepted as some CAC members will be moving districts

2.8. Other Announcements

2.8.1. CAC Co-chair shared information regarding an upcoming Autism Society Moms Group on Saturday, March 21, at Camp Surf YMCA in Imperial Beach.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS - *No public comment cards were submitted.*

4.0 ADJOURNMENT - CAC Chairperson adjourn the meeting at 11:32am