

Capistrano Unified School District
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes
March 8, 2023
CAPO District Office Training Room

Meeting called to order at: 9:35 AM.

Attendance:

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland
Mina Carson
Beth Davis
Veronica Hoggatt
Nicole Lindstrom
Sonia Moser
Michele Ploessel-Campbell
Danielle Schmiesing
Kimber Smith
Steve Burke
Jillian Stewart

CAC members absent:

Whitney Zolna
Janelle R Stever
Malissa Watkins

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland called the meeting to order. Michele Ploessel-Campbell motioned to approve the agenda and start the meeting. Mina Carson seconded. The voting members approved the motions. January minutes were approved as written. All in attendance were notified the meeting was being recorded and would be available for future viewing on the CAC Facebook page.

Guest: Amy Varricchio

Ms. Varricchio presented on the Bronco Roundup 6th grade orientation event and its inclusivity and its positive impact on all the students at DJAMS. If interested in holding or creating a similar event at your school, please reach out to Ms. Varricchio or Mina Carson for more information.

Chairperson Report

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland, CAC Chairperson

- CAC committee and board positions for the 2023-2024 school were presented as follows:
 - Chairperson, Beth Davis
 - 1st Vice Chair, Mina Carson

- Vice Chair, Michele Ploessel-Campbell
- Vice-Chair, Rachel Sutherland
- Secretary/Treasurer, Whitney Zolna
- Dir of Communications & Social Media, Julie Cole
- Ability Awareness, Nicole Lindstrom
- Legislation/Parent Advocacy, Michele Ploessel-Campbell
- Sunshine Awards (Exceptional Educator event), Julie Cole
- Grade Level Transitions, Open Position
- Hospitality/ Events, Steve Burke
- Local Plan – Open position

Please send an email to capocac@gmail.com if interested in any open positions by March 15th.

- Grade Level transitions event was super successful. Most attendees ever in elementary to middle school zoom. All 4 zooms were recorded and posted on CAC website with the district. They are not posted on Facebook. Thank You Kimber for organizing this event, Also, thank you to all our presenters.
- CAC brochures are now finished in 3 languages (English, Spanish and Farci). Hope to have these handed out at all future IEP's .

Administrator Introductions/Discussion

Clint Collins, Asst. Superintendent, Special Education Services-

- Ms. Varricchio from DJAMS will present to other middle school principals like what she presented today.
- ESY Locations, dates and times are now confirmed and will be posted to the Special Ed website next week
- Transition IEP's will be starting over the next few weeks
- Steps will be part of RH Dana K-5 next year.
- ENF will be rebranded as an Early Childhood Center. All types of preschools will be located there, and the center will be used as a diagnostic center. This is similar to diagnostic centers other districts already have in place. This will help for better placement.
- Questions were asked by attendees and answered.

Jeana Dagley, Executive Director of Special Education Programs and Related Services, SELPA Dir.-

- Special education credentialing has changed recently, and bridge credentials will be available for already credentialed teachers. CAPO will be offering these to all our

teachers in phases, starting with preschool and elementary teachers. It consists of a 1 day training then teachers applying for the bridge credential.

- Early childhood credential –bridge covers TK and K which are not covered currently in their credentials.
- Mild-moderate and moderate -severe credentials- the bridge will broaden disabilities that they cover.
- Alternate pathway to a diploma was presented. Pathway is defined by the state and is available for those who are eligible to take the CAA. This will be available to CAPO students starting next year. IEP team needs to hold an IEP by end of Freshman year to confirm a decision of a pathway to an alternate diploma. Students choosing this path will still be eligible for ATP.

Officer and Committee Reports

Sonia Moser - Family Resource Center Liaison-

- Resource Fair for those transitioning out of ATP, however recommend for all ages, will be held March 9 from 5:30-7pm in the CUSD board room.
- There will be a Positive Parenting Workshop for elementary age families.
- Amy Neville will be holding a zoom presentation and an in person seminar at CAPO Valley High School .
- Gigi's Playhouse is now opened in Laguna Hills for people with Down Syndrome. Wonderful center and many activities for all ages are provided.

Veronica Hoggatt – Sunshine Awards-

Awards will be held on March 29th. Most ever honorees. Still need salads (green or potato) donated. All honorees have been notified.

Michele Ploessel-Campbell - Legislative Update-

State Senator Anthony Portantino has introduced bill SB691 that will mandate dyslexia screening annually for all students in K-2 unless parents opt their children out. For more information about this bill please see <https://sd25.senate.ca.gov/news/2023-02-16/senator-portantino-introduces-bill-mandate-screening-risk-dyslexia-california> Over the past few years, two other bills were introduced on this topic, unfortunately one died in committee and one was vetoed by the Governor. We need to be vocal in supporting this legislation. So, I am asking for you to contact our local state representatives asking them to support this bill. To contact them please use the following links:

Assembly District 71 - Kate Sanchez

- <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD71&inframe=N>

Assembly District 72 - Diane Dixon

- <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD72&inframe=N>

Assembly District 74 – Laurie

Davies <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD74&inframe=N>

Senate District 36 - Janet Nguyen

- <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=SD36&inframe=N>

Senate District 37 - Dave Min

- <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=SD37&inframe=N>

Senate District 38 - Catherine Blakespear

- <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=SD38&inframe=N>

The message to send is - "Please support SB691 Dyslexia Risk Screening and please sign on as a sponsor to this legislation. Early detection and intervention for our students with dyslexia is vital to help them develop the academic reading skills to be successful in life. I support this legislation."

The message does not need to be long, but simply put and straight to the point.

For additional reading on why Dyslexia Screening is important please

read <https://calmatters.org/education/2023/03/dyslexia-screening-2/>

The Arc of California is holding their 16th Annual California Disability Advocacy Conference: Discovering the Next Frontier - Charting Your Path Forward! April 25-27th. These are VIRTUAL with a minimal cost, but a great way to start learning more about disability advocacy. If you are interested in learning more please see <https://thearcca.org/conference/>

Reflections Committee – Mina Carson

- 2 students are moving on to state level. One of which is in special education category.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:42 AM.