

Capistrano Unified School District

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes September 14, 2022 In Person & Facebook Live

Meeting called to order at: 9:37 am

Attendance:

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland
Steve Burke
Mina Carson
Beth Davis
Veronica Hoggatt
Michele Ploessel-Campbell
Danielle Schmiesing
Kimber Smith
Janelle R Stever
Jillian Stewart

CAC members absent:

Nicole Lindstrom
Malissa Watson

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland called the meeting to order. She asked attendees to please sign in. Mina Carson motioned to approve the agenda and start the meeting. Veronica Hoggatt seconded. No corrections to the April minutes. By raising of hands, the group approved the motions. All in attendance were notified the meeting was being recorded and would be available for future viewing on the CAC Facebook page, and that Spanish translation was available for those attending the meeting in-person.

Officer and Committee Reports

Sonia Moser - Family Resource Center Liaison – September 23, 2022 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm at the District Office, there will be a Family Resource Fair featuring nutrition and mental health agencies, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Start Well, and First 5. September 20, 2022, there will be a training to become an emotional support volunteer for the Families Connected Network. The training

will take place at the District Office from 10 am-12 pm. There will also be a Drug Awareness Workshop on October 3, 2022, at the Dana Point Community Center. The workshop will run from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm and is recommended for middle and high school students. As a reminder, topics discussed might be overwhelming for younger children. You can also visit the FRC's website online. There will also be an upcoming workshop in September focused on suicide, as September is suicide Awareness Month. Information to follow.

Mina Carson - PTA Reflections Award – Forty-three schools are participating in the PTA Reflections contest. The theme this year is, “Show Your Voice.” Acceptable entries include: literature, music, dance, art, photography and film. There are three division options for students with disabilities: special artist, at grade-level, or their choice of grade level, all of which are self-identified.

Michele Ploessel-Campbell - Legislative Update-A handout entitled, “How to be an Effective Advocate for Your Child,” was distributed with the minutes and reviewed by Michele Ploessel-Campbell. The Raise the Base campaign was discussed, and after the November election, focus will turn to continuing to Raise the Base campaign, as well as fully-funding IDEA. The PTA recommends a vote of “yes” on Prop 28 and Prop 31. Prop 28 funds art for Kindergarten through 12th grade, and does not raise taxes. Art supplies, as well as funds for theater, music, dance, and drama are included in Prop 28. Prop 31 puts into effect the ban on flavored tobacco products. Measure G applies only to families who live in Aliso Viejo. A vote of “yes” on Measure G would create a facilities bond to improve school campuses in Aliso Viejo only. Assembly Bill 181 provides reasonable accommodations for students with IEP's who need to complete Independent Study. A vote of “yes” on AB 181 would not only provide reasonable accommodations for Independent Study for students with an IEP, it would also require that “remote study” students with an IEP have reasonable accommodations, if independent study is not offered by the student's school district.

Chairperson Report

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland, CAC Chairperson

- Mina Carson motioned for approval of the CAC yearly calendar. The motion was seconded by Michele Ploessel-Campbell, and approved by the raising of hands. No one opposed the motion.
- Jillian Stewart motioned for approval of CAC's Executive Board changes. Michele Ploessel-Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion was

approved by a show of hands. No one opposed the motion. Mina Carson motioned for approval of combining the Secretary and Treasurer positions, and removing a Special Olympics Committee Chair from the bylaws. The motion was seconded by Michele Ploessel-Campbell, and approved by a show of hands. No one opposed the motion. A copy of the Board Positions and bylaws was distributed with the agenda.

- Open board positions include a Director of Communications for this school year, and a Sunshine Committee Chair and CAC Chairperson for next school year. Julie Cole, on Facebook Live, volunteered for Sunshine Chair for next year.
- SPED Reps may include more than one representative per school. Main expectations for a SPED Rep include: meeting with the school's AP or Principal to discuss needs, sending out a parent letter with contact information, reviewing the past CAC minutes to share at the next PTA meeting, and Ability Awareness Events. You can ask your school's PTA for a Special Education budget to help with an Ability Awareness Event, or purchase supplies to be used in SPED classrooms. Special Olympics, and programs like "Best Buddies," can also be used with PTA SPED funds.
- A special recognition was extended to Don Mahoney, Claudia Ginsberg-Brown and Tania Clutney for their years of service to Special Education and CAC in CUSD as they retire at the end of this month.

Administrator Introductions/Discussion

Heidi Crowley, Administration Special Assistant, Health, Safety, and Student Wellness

- Weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated employees, vendors, and volunteers is no longer required, and vaccine cards will no longer be collected.
- If a CUSD employee has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, the employee must wear a mask for 10 days, and test between days 3-5.
- If a school site has ten or more cases of COVID-19, parents will be notified.

Clint Collins, Asst. Superintendent, Special Education Services, SELPA Director

- A reminder to visit the FRC and encourage parents at your own school site to visit the FRC.
 - MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) has been rolled out for this school year. The behavioral plan involves early intervention for both

SPED and general education populations. To implement the Behavioral component of MTSS, the District will empower every school site team with the knowledge and skills to support the students they serve in both the general and special education environment. This will be accomplished by creating and supporting:

- Behavior Support Teams to define and support all three tiers of behavioral needs;
- Professional learning opportunities, including teaching and modeling experiences at sites, to ensure consistent practices and messaging
- District Behavior Support Team for consult and Tier 3 behavioral needs

6 Family Support Teams

- 1 Coordinator
 - 1 School Psychologist
 - 1 Intervention Specialist
 - 4 Floater Para V
 - Occupational Therapy Support - Addition of Sensory Rooms at school sites.
- The district would like to see a “sensory room” created at each elementary school as well.
 - PLA (Professional Learning Academy) took place over the summer. Paras started school a day before their students this year to receive training and instruction with their assigned students’ teachers.
 - SCIA(Special Instructional Assistance) is a standardized evaluation process being implemented by the district to determine a student’s need for individualized support.

Meg Ervais, Executive Director, 6-12, ATP, Curriculum and Instruction-

- Parents have identified a need to increase information regarding SPED students who are transitioning from elementary to middle school, or middle to high school. Orientations were held for CUSD’s moderate to severe students that were transitioning to a new school in secondary the week before school began.
- The district will be working on consistency in curriculum across SPED programs, and best practices between campuses.
- All secondary directed English teachers will be trained in Orton Gillingham.

Peggy Baerst, Executive Director, PK-5th, Curriculum and Instruction-absent.

Lauren Pattullo, Ed.D. Director of Early Childhood, General Education & Special Education Programs-absent.

Dr. Cary Johnson, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction-absent.

Dr. Greg Merwin, Assoc. Superintendent, Education and Support Services-

- Dr. Merwin informed the attendees that the talking points he will present at his monthly PTSA meeting with the PTSA Presidents will be included in a forthcoming email to Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland.
- Dr. Merwin expressed that he has received feedback that the opening week of school was successful.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:05 AM