

# Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education Minutes

## Extra meeting on FCMAT report

**Date:** 11/28/17

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** PUSD District Office  
15250 Avenue of Science San Diego, CA 92128

### **Board members present:**

1. Karen Harkins Slocomb, Chair
2. Michelle Perry, Vice-Chair
3. Doyan Howard, Special Ed director
4. Bernard Larsen
5. Sherri Miller
6. Tiffany King
7. Gina Zanolini
8. Shelia Kessler
9. Etis Fathy
10. David Choi
11. Melissa Lazaro
12. Carlos Bazan
13. Donna Twardy
14. Bertha Taylor
15. Frida Brunzell, secretary

**Absent:** Anna Quint, Eric Olmos, Cheryl Hernandez, Rosabel Aybayani (19 board members total)

**Public attendees:** Kate Clay, Diedra Dunn-Tu, Danielle Rowley, Chris Nguyen, Debra McDonald, Ryan Brewer, Barbara Towne

**I. Call to order** at 6:30 pm by presiding chair Karen Harkins Slocomb.

**II. Quorum:** Quorum was established.

**III. Reading and Approval of Minutes** Minutes approved with one correction.

### **IV. Public Input**

All attendees introduced themselves.

## V. Executive Director's Report

Doyan Howard started by replying to some of the questions that came up during the FCMAT meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>:

Special Education is funded by a mix of state and federal funds. Money comes from property taxes, income taxes, and categorical funding like the IDEA and ID602 funding.

SELPAs and districts are not funded at an equal rate. Funding is based on the number of total students in the district.

Multi-district SELPAs have more flexibility in how they spend money. The majority of a district's expenses are for personnel and facilities.

It is important to remember that every student is a general education student first.

Who makes the decision if a student should receive special education? The special education department makes that decision. An exception would be if a student, who receives a lot of support in special education, moves into the district. In this case, the school board can decide to approve an inter-SELPA placement.

How many due processes does the PUSD typically have in a year?

During the 2015-16 school year, PUSD had 39 cases, 2016-17 they had 34 cases, and so far this school year (2017-18) there are 17 new cases. The cases are counted when they settle. Most of these cases concerned FAPE. Doyan Howard will report the cost of this litigation at our next meeting in January.

The district has reduced the number of NPA (Non-Public Agency) personnel this year and hired speech pathologists etc. directly instead.

The cost of NPS (Non-Public School) placements is also lower this year; down from 70 last year to 67 this year.

## VI. Committee Reports

1. **Parent information night #1** – Will be the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Waiting for room to be reserved.
2. **Community Outreach** – Michelle shared the draft parent info brochure for review and requested feedback. The brochure will be available in both Spanish and English
3. **Newsletter** – Gina reported that they have collected some good topics and it was decided that the CAC newsletter should be sent out mid-January 2018.
4. **Parent Handbook** – Nothing to report. Bernard will send out first meeting notice.
5. **Parent Information night #2** – Nothing to report. A meeting notice will be sent out.
6. **Excellence in Special Education event** – Etis is going to send out an email to committee members and start planning the event.
7. **Membership** – Nothing to report yet.

## **VII. Ratification of Electronic Waiver**

Gina made a motion to approve the waiver. Bernard seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the waiver.

## **VIII. FCMAT Report**

We ended our discussion in chapter 5 at our last meeting.

Karen wanted to clarify if parents prefer a special day class at the home school versus a more specialized program at another school. Several parents replied that they would prefer a program tailored to their children specific needs even if it was not at their children's home school.

### **5. Program Delivery**

Will the district set up a strategic plan to address program delivery? Doyan replied, yes that will probably happen soon. The last plan was done in 2010.

### **6. Special Education Caseloads**

Doyan was asked if assessments were counted towards a resource teacher's caseload. She replied that it is not the case, only students with approved IEPs are counted.

David Choi is concerned about the uncertainty about the future that many parents of children with special needs experience. He said every year's IEP meeting can change everything for the student and it is stressful to not know what school he/she will attend the following year. Doyan replied that it is no longer possible to give parents any guarantees for the future, because students improve and it might be possible to mainstream some students in higher grades.

### **8. Paraeducator staffing**

Frida asked how it is possible that the district doesn't know how many aids are employed. Doyan replied that dozens of aids leave and are hired every day, so it is very difficult to follow.

Chapter 9 to 12. Doyan already addressed some of this under section V. above. There were no additional questions to the report.

Frida asked if there had been any changes made thanks to the FICMAT report. Doyan commented that she had thought that the process leading up to the FICMAT report was a rather scary, as she was a newly hired director of Special Ed last year. Fortunately, there were not many surprises in the report. She thinks that the district was aware of many of the problems reported.

## **IX. November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 closed FCMAT planning meeting.**

The committee has been named Special Education Advisory Committee.

The committee held its planning meeting. Karen reported that there was no specific outcome from this meeting. They talked about removing barriers to achieving a nonrestrictive environment for students in special education. They also talked about making good programs used in the district available to everyone.

Michelle asked Doyan the reason why this committee was started. Doyan said that it had to do with the criticism the district received at the beginning of the year when the district tried to cut the number of aids for ASD classes.

Michelle also asked how the district determined the stakeholders for the special education committee. Doyan said that they picked different stakeholders like the LSS, classified staff, unions, teachers, principals, special education teachers, etc.

## **X. Adjournment:**

Chair Karen Harkins Slocomb declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frida Brunzell, secretary