

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education Minutes

Extra meeting on FCMAT report

Date: 4/24/18

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. Bertha Taylor, vice chair
3. Melissa Lazaro
4. Cheryl Hernandez
5. Bernard Larsen
6. Sherri Miller
7. Tiffany King
8. Gina Zanolini
9. Etis Fathy
10. Anna Quint
11. David Choi
12. Donna Twardy,
13. Rosabel Aybayan
14. Frida Brunzell, secretary

Absent: Doyan Howard, Shelia Kessling

Michelle Perry, Eric Olmos, and Carlos Bazan have resigned from the board. The CAC board now has 16 members.

Public attendees: Diedra Dunn-Tu, Ryan Brewer

I. Call to order at 6:40 pm by chair Karen Harkins Slocomb

II. Quorum: Quorum was established.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes from March 27th, 2018

Minutes were approved with no corrections.

IV. Public Input

All attendees introduced themselves.

V. Executive Director's Report

Doyan was absent, so Karen gave a summary of current events. Doyan and Frida will be going to legislative day in Sacramento next week. Our next meeting on May 22nd will be a public meeting where we review changes to the local plan, in this case, budgetary changes. CAC:s members should be present at the June school board meeting to present our suggestions for changes to the local plan. The parent information night that was supposed to have happened on April 5th had to be rescheduled because the connect Ed did not go out in time.

VI. The Excellence Event

The Excellence Event will take place on May 17 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Etis (chair of Excellence event committee) reported that eight award recipients have been selected. The spelling of names has been verified by the district and the information has been forwarded to Mark so that plaques can be engraved.

This year many aids were nominated. It was sometimes difficult for the committee to verify the identity of some of the staff that was nominated. An email will be sent back to the person nominating for clarification so that everyone nominated can be included.

There will be a fundraiser at Islands Burgers after the event. Some board members expressed concerns that it might be too late to go out for dinner after the event since this event often doesn't end until 8:30 pm or later.

There was a discussion about guidelines for choosing recipients. Should there be rules that nominee cannot be selected until a certain number of years have passed since they were last selected? Does there have to be a balance between different grades? Several board members thought that it should be up to the nominating committee to decide who gets selected, that there should not be any binding rules.

Etis asked if we should let students or parents speak at the event. The concern is that students do not want this attention and also that it might be hard to stay on time if we let parents or students talk. Instead, it will be a very scripted event, where everyone is required to submit their contributions in advance.

Melissa suggested that recipients and principals etc. will be seated in the front so that it is easier and faster for them to get up and receive the awards.

The awards will be given in alphabetical order (exceptions can be made for recipients with time constraints).

Karen will print the programs.

The event will be announced on connect Ed and a flyer will be posted on the district's website.

The board discussed giving the excellence award recipients flowers etc. We decided to give them cards signed by CAC board members. Karen offered to purchase the cards.

VII. Committee Reports

- 1. Community Outreach** – Nothing to report.
- 2. Newsletter** – Gina reported that the newsletter was sent out.
- 3. Parent Handbook** – Bernard reported that he has several suggested updates to the current handbook and they will be discussed at the committees next meeting in May. We discussed the different handbooks available on the website; the Procedural Handbook, the IEP process document etc. The original parent handbook is back up on the website in both English and Spanish. For more information see:

<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Special-Education/ProceduralHandbook>
<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Special-Education/Special-Education>

- 4. Parent Information night #2** – This event will take place on May 8th. Connect Ed will go out.
- 5. Excellence in Special Education event** – See above
- 6. Membership** – CAC application forms will be handed out at the parent information night and the excellence event. The selection is done in the fall. CAC bylaws says that our board should have about 15 members and we currently have 16, so we may not select more than one or two new members if all current board members continue.

Frida would like to distribute the CAC brochure at the upcoming events. She made a motion to approve the brochure with the corrections that we agreed on. Cheryl made a friendly amendment that we should recirculate the brochure among the board and do an email vote before the brochure is printed. This vote would have to be ratified at our next CAC board meeting. Bernard second the motion with the amendment. Motion carried.

Melissa will send out the CAC brochure to the board for review as soon as possible.

VIII. SEAC report

Cheryl Hernandez represented the CAC at the last SEAC meeting. The SEAC has not come up with the final report with suggestions yet, and when they do, any suggestions must be approved by the school board before going into effect.

Cheryl reported that SEAC will suggest that students in special education move back to their schools of residence and that they should be mainstreamed into general Ed classes when possible. The changes will be done slowly and gradually. High schools will no longer separate NSH (non-severely handicapped) students and those in resource. The goal for next year would be to have NSH high school students integrated.

For these changes to be successful, the staff needs to be trained.

There is lots of research that all students benefit from more inclusion. Also, one of the findings in the recent FCMAT report was that PUSD needs to increase inclusion of special education students to comply with the law.

IX. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Frida Brunzell, secretary