

SCUSD Community Advisory Committee
9/26/2021 Executive Meeting

Notes

Meeting Recording:

<https://scusd.zoom.us/rec/share/eoPM0ltff6108XTXqIWCoXqY4OVA0fhIqDJEUE4AsNa31PODHxGHKVGVPahpOs9W.cJK9hZI5jl0nxi4J>

Attendance: Benita Shaw, Kenya Martinez, Taylor Kayatta, Dennis Mah, Colleen Toler, Tom Nelson, Stacey Willett, Julie Warren, Mirela Bere, Erica J, Amy, Lavinia Phillips, Leah Cockcroft, Rose McAuliffe

Item 1.2 Introductions

- Officers each introduced themselves
- Tom Nelson, 3rd District PTA
- Colleen, Child of parent with IEP. Today's his 12th Birthday.
- Stacey, SpEd teacher in the District
- Julie, parent of SpEd child in the District
- Mirela, parent of 6th grader with IEP

Item 2.1 CAC operational procedures and coordination with SCUSD

- Benita summarized sequence of events of missed meeting
- Benita: District new proposed protocol is new to me in all my time on CAC. Need to post to SCUSD website is new to me as well.
- Benita: It feels like intrusion on the CAC. Attempt to regulate us.
- Taylor gave additional background.
- Tom: Does Facebook page suffice for public notice?
- Benita: Years ago, Facebook and posting at Serna was sufficient for public notice. Not sure now.
- Benita: The District has been posting to the web without issue. What is new? Why is there a problem now?
- Rose: Echo Taylor and Benita's comments. We cannot be held hostage by the District to move forward with our operations. Want to give the District the benefit of the doubt, but two times is concerning. I believe that if we post at Serna and on our Facebook we are covered for the Brown Act. It will be great if the District will post to the web but not necessary.
- Dennis: Two years ago, addition to the Brown Act to have agendas posted to organizations' websites, if they have a website.
- Taylor: The question of necessity to get agenda on District website is not the real question. We want it on the website to get maximum engagement.
- Taylor: Geo proposed 48 hours before notice as deadline for getting the District notice. I think we should do this. It is reasonable. Even if the District wants that time to review our agendas, as long as Benita has final say per our bylaws the extra time is not the end of the world.
- Kenya: What Geo posted is not common in recent time and in other advisory committees.
- Kenya: Not comfortable giving 48 hours as a rule. They have the same amount of time to turn around agendas for District meetings. Why should they need more time for ours?
- Kenya: District employees have children to care for, but so do we. And our kids have special needs. The District gets paid to do this job.

- Stacey: I agree with Kenya.
- Tom: One difference I see is that after the agenda is given to the District, they need staff to post it. So extra 48 hours is time for their personnel to post.
- Dennis: Typically District board agenda is assembled by Superintendent's office a week in advance. I agree with Tom that we need to give the District time to put it up. We should have our agenda finalized 48 hours before the 72 hour requirement. That seems reasonable.
- Benita: Reminder that we have done our due diligence. We always give our agendas with advance notice – not just an hour before the posting requirement. We did not do anything wrong here. I say we just continue what we have been doing. The District already knows what's going on since we include the District in all of our emails among officers. If our current practice fails again like what happened here, I think we should just post on Facebook and in Serna.
- Lavinia Phillips: Glad that you are bringing this up. Lots of missteps that we need to work on at the District end. Time for the Board to hear about this. Call us on what we're not doing. I'm listening in and will share with the other Board members.
- Erica: Glad you're bringing this up. Can you give additional context about what happened? Was Geo just nonresponsive?
- Benita: We always include District on our emails. Lately District has been including Counsel Bozio. They know when we are planning our meetings. In this case, District had emails about our meeting and had been corresponding with us. Then, they just didn't post and stopped responding.
- Dennis: As we write procedure for how we will interact with the District, two questions. 1. Identifying content, 2. Posting. Maybe – a week before we submit for posting, the District has a chance to meet with Chair and/or Executive Committee to finalize agenda items. Then, 48 hours before posting provide final agenda.
- Taylor: Agree with Dennis's reasoning, but feel like 48 hours is sufficient. Ideally post more, but won't commit to any earlier of a deadline. I think we should commit to 48 hours.
- Dennis: Give all parties equal opportunity to contribute to the agenda. More time will help.
- Taylor: District can discuss this with CAC at any time. They don't need to wait for us to send the first agenda draft. Just email Chair Benita.
- Benita: I disagree with a lot of what is being said. We are offering a lot of things to a District that is not being compliant with us. I'm cool with 48 hours, but not with getting approval. I've already been doing my part, but now the District is changing procedure for some unknown reason.
- Benita: Who's paying for counsel? Why is he looking at our agendas? Why is he attending our meetings? That money could be spent on our kids.
- Dennis: Are you okay, Benita, with written procedures for posting agenda? Then everyone knows the steps.
- Taylor: Confirming: attempt to get general meetings 48 hours in advance. District can suggest topics at any time – they don't need to wait for our first agenda draft. Document in email, propose to make formal in bylaws update.

Item 2.2 Preparation for 2021-22: meeting dates and agenda topics

- Benita: September 21st was supposed to be meet and greet, was moved to September 28th.
- Benita: Brochure was supposed to be on District website. Has all the meeting dates and topics we discussed before.
- Tom: Confirm new brochure is not on District website yet.
- Kenya: Background on person for "supports and services" meeting. Will be Dr. Mackey, who was previously at SCUSD. Will be on October 19th.

- Dennis: Get ad hoc committee set up for MTSS. Future agenda item.
- Benita: Is just one person for Supports and Services okay? Kenya: Dr. Mackey will be open to an hour. Willing to add another if we want.
- Kenya: We need a bylaws subcommittee.
- Kenya: Add Independent Study agenda item to all meetings until future notice.
- Dennis: Do we still want to invite SCTA as a standing item? Benita: Absolutely. Dennis: I will be contact for that. SCTA and SEIU.
- Taylor: Clarify that we are not giving any one group any platform. Everyone is included in the CAC: parents, teachers, unions, District, etc.
- Benita: November general meeting: Renee will be gathering topics for dyslexia topic.
- Taylor: I didn't get brochure. Remind Geo to get on website and to mail to all IEP families.
- Benita: Brochure should have been sent to all parents of students with disabilities (with IEP). Understanding that it only seems to go out to SDC ones. [One other parent with SDC confirmed she got one.] [Other parents confirmed they did not get one, now or in previous years.]

Item 2.3 Independent study

- Kenya: Over 1600 students who signed up for independent study. Almost 600 approved for placement. AB 130 requires students with IEPs to have IEP team meet to determine if independent study placement is appropriate. For many IEP families, they have been lying in wait, and they aren't sending their kids to school in the meantime. Many families being told only option for IEP is to place kid into in-person learning. A few of us officers have talked to families who are frustrated, don't know what to do with their children. No formal response from District. And for those with kids in independent study, hearing that children are getting packets and limited instruction with teachers. It's just a mess. Still limited communication. On top of everything else, there is a teacher shortage. Only have the independent study teachers have been hired.
- Taylor: We have asked the District for their plan for distance learning for IEP kids since before AB 130 was signed – we didn't get a response essentially until the day before school started or at Board meetings. I am now hearing that parents are being told kids with IEPs can't get their services if they want to do independent study. This is unacceptable and probably illegal under IDEA (no FAPE). It makes my blood boil that the worst case scenario for our children seems to have come to pass, that IEP kids are being left behind. The District MADE us sign up for these services virtually last year, and now they are saying they can't offer them when parents are asking for it.
- Kenya: Encourage parents NOT to sign away IEP rights. That is NOT a FAPE. We need to stand united on this.
- Leah: I agree with Taylor. Blood boiling. Reaching out the District throughout August, but can't get a hold of anyone. At the end of last school year, assured there'd be something in place if pandemic were ongoing (despite AB 130). Kids with health conditions, safety concerns, would have an option at the beginning of the school year. All I ever got from the District were extensions on when they would get back to me. School my daughter goes to - they are trying. I understand social benefit. But my daughter was in hospital for 10 days in 2019. It's not safe. 10 days in the hospital is traumatic to kids, and has risk of pneumonia. We can't play around with this. Yet, nothing was left in place for my daughter for this year. I'm trying to do distance learning without any District support. No one being held accountable or responding back. Like Taylor said, no option for my daughter other than going back to school and she can't because she is 6 and can't get the vaccine. The packets are great, but no option for professional guidance

for IEP issues. NO District communication. Had to reach out to daughter's teacher from last year to even find out where she was assigned this year.

- Stacey: SCTA teachers' representatives started asking the District around 9 months ago to start on a plan for this. Work groups with teachers, District, parents. Every time, District responded that they had it under control. District rejected the idea to have teams review IEPs. SCTA was not listened to. To serve special education kids (in particular SDC kids) they need someone there who can manage what is in the IEP – accommodations, modifications. For teachers that teach SDCs, we can't in good conscience sign off on independent study if there is no support there. I'm a high school SDC teacher. Only thing I can think of is demand that the District hire special education teachers so they can provide the legally mandated services. As it is, they're breaking the law. Teachers at Cap City don't have access to the programs that SpEd teachers use at school sites like iReady.
- Leah: Am I on the right track? Is home health hospital going to get my daughter the best 1st Grade option, since independent study is not working?
 - Stacey: That program is generally only 5 hours a week.
 - Leah: At this point, that's better than no hours.
 - Benita: Reach out to Disability Rights of California.
- Benita: IT's unacceptable that students aren't getting their services. That is breaking the law. The District needs to hear that kids aren't getting their services. Go to the Board meetings. The buck stops with you as the parent during the IEP meeting. Keep doing what you're doing. We hear you. Wish we could provide you answers, but we don't have them either. The District has frequently failed its IEP kids. It's exhausting.
- Amy: Wants to add this as an agenda item. Got zero to 120 RSP each week as far as I know. Your committee should ask for a matrix to be added to SpEd dashboard on District website.
- Taylor: How does everyone feel about saying that kids can keep their IEP team even if they move to Cap City for IS?
 - Stacey: Keep in mind that IEP team can mean any single teacher (for high school that's all grades), plus speech therapist, nurse, etc. Words do matter with out school district.
 - Benita: I think of the current therapist, aide, general teacher as the IEP team. Current team that you had before going into IS.
 - Benita: Can it be, current IEP team as last listed?
 - Stacey: That may not work. Have to word it carefully.
 - Kenya: I have two high schoolers in gen ed classrooms. I think of the team as the service providers, social worker. At team meetings, we generally exclude gen ed from IEP meetings.

2.4 CAC report to the School Board

- Taylor to give CAC comment to the Board.
- Dennis: Speak about parents' frustration. Question to Board: why did you not ask for IEP parent feedback about what to do if COVID continues, like it did?
 - Kenya: If you look at April 2021 board meeting, parents said they wanted to go back to in-person. But no effort made for understanding what parents who did not want that option, wanted. No one consulted with these other parents, those with kids with compromised immune systems, etc. Some teachers with compromised immune systems also wanted to continue distance learning but were not given that option.
- Taylor: Reminder to parents: Do not sign away hard fought IEP rights just to get independent study.

- Taylor: Request that parents be able to keep service providers from school site in IEP teams if kids move to Cap City for IS.
- Kenya: We have asked, as CAC, for plan for independent study. We never got it. Where is that plan now?
- Benita: Kids with IEPs are not receiving their services.
- Kenya: Superintendent and administrative staff work for us.
 - Tom: Avenue to pursue is with school board representatives.
 - Taylor: Shift focus to District not providing legally required services.
- Lavinia Phillips: We as a Board need to hear the fire I heard tonight. I wish your statement could just be to play back this meeting. Bring the fire to your Board statement.