

SCUSD Community Advisory Committee

November 16, 2021 General Meeting

Meeting Notes

Meeting recording information:

- https://scusd.zoom.us/rec/share/GDDyn5ogp7T2W8SqXY5L2DOOokaPr61NMIk5DVHPJnG6zvnE_TWjCW1AxtfaZA7w.WFUNUlgciZlYpzdI
- Passcode: ML@Zb^03

2.1 Public Comment

- Rose: Disappointed that SELPA Director Geo is not here tonight, and that he was unable to provide an alternate. We gave him plenty of notice that we wanted to discuss the SDC consolidation issue. We will now have to wait another month to get this information. I will ask him if he can give us updates in writing if possible.
- Benita: For December, we do not have a topic – it is a special meeting. If anyone has any suggestions for this meeting, please let us know. If no topics come up, we may not have the meeting.
- Renee: Our meetings were calendared at the beginning of the year. The District is aware of our schedule. Yet, another event was scheduled on top of this meeting for COVID vaccinations. We've had this discussion with SELPA leaders in the past of making sure that the CAC is amplified and the community can participate. It feels like a misstep on the District or SELPA part to double book. In the past, Dyslexia workshops have been some of best attended.
- Bridget Claycomb: With Disability Rights California. Looks like District has put Compensatory Education Plan on Board agenda for this Thursday. Flag this in case you're interested.

3.1 & 3.2 A Conversation on Dyslexia

- Presentation (including shared slide deck) and Q&A available in the meeting recording
- Side discussion that stemmed from this presentation: Preparation for December 7 CAC Special Meeting. District ELA Director to present on the topic, extending the conversation started tonight. Director agreed to be there as long as needed.

4.1 SELPA Report

- No one at District able to present. Motion accepted to remove item from agenda and place on next meeting's agenda.

4.2 Follow-up questions about SDC Consolidation

- No one at District able to present. Motion accepted to remove item from agenda and place on next meeting's agenda.

5.1 SCTA Report

- Nikki Milevsky: Great presentation. We've been advocating for MTSS. We have been pushing for training for our members, and for meaningful assessments for students. Agree with analogy in presentation of alarm bells going off; our teachers are using fire extinguishers but there is no other intervention that our kids need to disrupt the path of a bad school experience. Disappointed that the District is no longer even trying to get intervention teachers with the COVID money. We need that intervention and progress monitoring. Also wanted to share about virtual academies. Still hoping the District will seek a waiver if possible and provide a better learning environment for students who cannot learn in person at the moment. Frustrated with District's lack of education for SWD in the remote environment. You may be aware of legal finding recently that AB 130 needs to apply equally to SpEd as for regular students; we hope this will spur a talk with the District. Disappointed that (in bargaining last week, after that ruling), District was not interested in discussing that. SpEd students not getting equal opportunity now.
- John: (responding to question from Kenya) If the District invites us to the visit to another school mentioned in Item 3, we will look into this. Unfortunate that we are just hearing about this initiative here rather than being proactively contacted by the District.
- Kenya: It would be great if the District and SCTA could come together and collaborate for our students. That they might both attend this other school (with CAC representation as well) would be amazing.

5.2 SEIU Report

- No report tonight.

6.1 CAC Budget

- Rose: CAC allocated budget of \$7,000 for the year. Usually use this for food and drinks for in-person meetings. Can also be used for guest speakers (nominal fees) and to send all of our members (executive and general) to conferences. In the past, we attended the TASH conference. This year it is the first week of December and is virtual – easier to attend. Looks like it's \$300 - \$600 per person this year. Geo was also to provide recommendations on other conferences, but Geo is not here tonight.

6.2 Special Education Conferences

- Kenya gave some background information on TASH.
- Rose: We will also look at other conferences.
- Renee: Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) Conference. <https://www.copaa.org/page/2022-virtual-conference-registration>. Hybrid: in person in Boston or virtual.

6.3 Approval of Attendees for TASH Conference

- Send up to 3 members: tentatively Crystal Strait (expressed interest), Danny Rolleri, one other. Approved.

- COPAA: Taylor interested, Benita interested. Rose moved to send up to 4 people. Second by Dennis. Approved. Parents interested: Kell F and Amy D; Adriana Marquez. Rose asked for interested parents to contact her.
- Taylor noted that Geo sent an email about a Transitions conference from March 7 – 9. To be discussed at a future meeting as Geo is not here to discuss it.

7.1 MTSS Subcommittee Purpose and Makeup

- Benita: Sarah Williams Kingsley said she was interested. Had to leave early.
- Renee: The idea is to form an ad hoc subcommittee whose purpose is to monitor the implementation of MTSS in the District. Standing ad hoc subcommittee. Relevant District staff would be a ready collaborator to provide information on MTSS. Single purpose subcommittee that would report back to the full membership periodically (every meeting or every other meeting, as appropriate).
- Crystal: Are these committees open to the public? Benita: Yes.
- Taylor: Anyone else interested? Crystal: I am.
- Dennis: How many people do you think should be on the committee, Renee? And what reporting timeline do you see? Renee: Standing committee to report back as frequently as appropriate. First report might be a sketch. Subsequent reports about whether District is meeting its targets. Size of committee would depend on what focus areas we look at. We can organize in various ways. Could be half a dozen if that many people are interested in running point.
- Dennis: Clarify that we want ad hoc, not standing. So no requirement to follow Brown Act. But still intent to publicize these meetings and make them open to the public. Renee: Agree. We have done it this way in the past. Now, we would prefer to convene via Zoom to encourage participation.
- Dennis: William, how could the District support this committee? William: Great segue, because I would like to volunteer to be a liaison. MTSS should be the educational model for Sac City. You should expect a lot of support from the District.
- Dennis: for SCTA, can Renee count on your support? Nikki: We would love to be a part of this. We are not in District's MTSS committee. Nikki to be point person. Kenya: No limit on who can participate. John: We can include MTSS updates in our regular CAC report.
- Kenya: Clarifying question. William to act as liaison. What happens when you stop subbing for Dr. Hedegard? We want continuous support for this process. William: I volunteer to stay beyond when Dr. Hedegard comes back.

7.2 Approval of 7.1

- Benita: Today, start subcommittee and appoint Renee. Flexible for her to add others. Sarah would be a part of it in the role she prefers. Dennis: Move to form, with chair or co-chair to organize it. Benita: Amend motion to give Renee title of "point person" until they decide actual roles. Cyd Jahory also interested. Nafeesah Young also interested.

- Renee: With everyone who expressed an interest in participating now, as point person can I find a time to set first meeting and at that meeting the group would finalize titles. Benita: Yes.
- Benita: In March, topic is MTSS. Have the subcommittee take the lead on this? Renee: Yes.
- Kenya: When we publicize these meetings, make a point to ask if anyone needs translation. Renee: Yes. Work with William on translation services? William: Yes.
- Verbal vote. All ayes.
- Benita on it also.

8.1 Identify 2021-22 Focus Areas and Outcomes for the CAC

- Dennis: Is there something we want to accomplish this year as a CAC? MTSS? Literacy?
- Dennis: Following up on presentation today. What can we do as a CAC to improve the District? For example, push to give more time to teachers to prepare for students. Or, work on dyslexia – dyslexia heroes in our community. Many kids feel like they do not belong and so drop off.
- Benita: Inclusion could be a focus.
- Kenya: Culture and climate of our district is that kids are counted out. Focus more for next year on this.
- William: If we were to focus on one thing, it would be changing our pronouns from “us” and “them” to “we” and “our” – that we all take responsibility for all of our kids, that we don’t see Special Ed kids as “them,” and that they are part of “us” or “we.” In many districts, if there’s an issue and the kid even has a scent of Special Ed, the issue becomes a Special Ed problem rather than a District problem. They are all our kids, whether they are disabled or not.